

Change Doesn't Change the Changeless

By Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Isn't it Ironic that the very nature of change makes it consistent and therefore change is one thing that stays the same?

But as far as change goes, Times have changed. This isn't the "Brady Bunch" world of our Mothers, nor the "Leave it To Beaver" world of our Grandmother's, nor the "Walton's" of our Great-Grandmother's, nor is it the "Little House on the Prairie" of our Great-Great-Grandmother's. No doubt about it times have changed.

Technology has changed, from smoke signals, to Morris code, to the telegraph, to the telephone, to the cell phone, to the internet, technology has definitely changed.

Sholomo Ha Melek (King Solomon) argued in his book call Ecclesiastes that there is nothing new under the sun, and it is true, what seems new is just a recycled or an improved upon idea.

So in essence even though the package may change, the core is virtually the same. Yet this illusion of change makes one believe that the changeless changes and therefore one excuses oneself from so called moral and religious entrapments.

I have found three things that never change:

1. God (Mal. 3:6, Titus 1:2)
2. The Human Condition
3. God's Torah

Just because times have changed and technology has changed doesn't mean that the three things mentioned above do. Changing times only causes the illusion in the spirit to rationalize that these 3 things change.

Since the downfall of our parents Adam and Chavah (Eve) we have inherited this predisposition to sin, and it will not change until we are in the World to Come. We fight and struggle between the choice of good and evil every day, in every aspect of our lives. Even after one is "saved" one still fights the old nature, Rav Sha'ul (Apostle Paul) did (Rom. 7:13-25) The Human Spirit changes not.

G-d said Himself that He does not lie, and He does not change (Mal. 3:6, Titus 1:2) Yet this is precisely what most Christians claim when they say the Torah is irrelevant, it has been done away with, or at best they try to divide the Torah up into subjects or special classifications and say, “Oh, the religious and ritual laws have been done away with the moral code is still in effect for us today.” The Scriptures says there is one Torah, not three (Ex. 12:49, Lev. 24:22, Num. 15:16,). G-d does not change and therefore His Word, His Torah does not change.

Some try to argue that the Torah, by necessity, has changed because of the changing times and the changing technology. NO, because the human spirit and God are a constant, this predetermines that His Torah does not change. As I have stated before, time and technology come in different packages yet the core of it is essentially the same.

Just look at G-d’s Word and we will see the times change, yet the message, the Torah remains a constant. You have the leadership or the governmental structure of Israel change, yet the Torah that guides them never changes. From the Patriarchs, to the Judges, to the Kings and to the Prophets, the message of absolute and resolute obedience to Torah changes not. Yet after the closing of the Scriptural cannon people claim that we are too far removed from those times, and that the Torah is outdated. And so the secular state of Israel runs without the Torah of their ancestors. One may also say, “Besides we are in the age of Grace right!?” We have always been in the age of Grace! And the Torah is and will never be outdated.

Let me attempt to put this in perspective. I stand firm in saying that the Torah is relevant and applicable for today and none of it has been “done away with” even after the advent of Messiah Yeshua. However, because times have changed doesn’t mean the Torah changes but that certain commandments are unfulfillable at this time in history.

For instance, because there is no Temple standing at this present time in Jerusalem, and because there are no working Levitical Priests in the Temple, the laws regarding the priesthood and the sacrificial and Temple service are temporarily put on hold, or suspended until the time of the building up of the 3rd Temple. But the Prophets tell of a time when the 3rd Temple will be rebuilt and the sacrifices will resume and at the time of Messiah’s reign no less!

We need to sift rabbinic decrees regarding Torah commands, Jewish literature, customs and traditions of Judaism in regards to the law and filter it through the words of Torah itself and the Words of Messiah who in Matthew chapter 5

proclaimed that He didn't come to do away with the Torah but to show us how to live it correctly. If the Rabbi's uphold Yeshua's words or we see that the fences the Rabbis have erected around the Torah are wise, needful and maybe necessary in some circumstances, we need to graciously and joyously abide by them. If they do not measure up, then we must not fear to toss them aside, despite what men may say.