**Definition of Religion** [**noun**](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noun)re·​li·​gion | \ri-ˈli-jən  \

1. **a:** the state of a [religious](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/religious) , a nun in her 20th year of *religion*

**b: (1)**the service and worship of God or the supernatural

 **(2)**commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance

 **2:**a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices

**3:** *archaic* **:**scrupulous conformity **:**[CONSCIENTIOUSNESS](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conscientiousness)

**4:**a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith

(<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/religion>)

**NOTE:** The word religion comes from the Latin and while there are a few different translations, the most prevalent roots take you back to the Latin word “Re-Ligare”. “Ligare” means “to bind” or to “connect”. Adding the “re” before “ligare” causes the word to mean “Re-Bind” or “Re-Connect.”

 (https://www.gregtrimble.com/meaning-of-the-word-religion/)

By the definition above, the word religion carries a similar meaning to the Hebrew concept of Teshuva (repentance) in that it represents a “Re-turn” to the True Belief, and not just a turning away of something.

However, to re-turn to the True Belief, as it is taught in the Scripture, requires an absolute rejection of or turning away from the worldly or “religious” practices that are contrary to the True Belief as it is taught in the Scripture.

Here is the conundrum, the word “religion”, in its basic meaning, assumes that there is only one true belief, because anything contrary to that is what you are turning from to be “Re-connected” to.

Since every religion believes it is the one True Belief it becomes very difficult to discern the actual “religion” from all the imitators. Thus, you have The Religion and a whole lot of man-made religions.

The Hebrew Scriptures (Tanak) claim to be inspired by YHWH, the Creator of all things and that HE alone is the True Authority. Thus, the Tanak can be the only source of truth by which man can know and serve their Creator.

The Messianic Writings (New Testament) is a continuation of what was revealed in the Tanak and must be interpreted from the foundation of the Tanak, in both the language and culture.

Unfortunately, most of the “religions” that have sprouted up around the Scriptures have made fatal flaws in the way they have used the Scripture in their religious practices.

The only way to know for sure that the things you are believing in and practicing are the True Belief, is to compare it to what the Tanak strictly says about what the True Belief is.

The Scripture is very clear, there is only ONE Truth and it was revealed by YHWH Himself to man. YHWH intended to speak to each man directly, but when He spoke to Yisra’el from Mt. Sinai they were afraid and asked Him for a mediator. He granted their request in the man Moses (Mosheh).

The True Belief must be founded in what the Tanak says from the very first words given to us concerning the creation and built upon everything that it says from there. Anything else is a deviation from the Truth.

The Tanak represents the actions taken by the Creator to reveal Himself to man and what man must do to have a relationship with his Creator. It also explains the consequences for deviating from the path that the Creator laid down for us.

According to the Tanak, YHWH is the Creator of all things and all life comes from Him. If this is true then, by definition, everything that is contrary to Him and the things He says and does is death.

Since YHWH states clearly that He is eternal and never changes, then anything that anyone may say or do that is contrary to what He has said and done, regardless of when in time they do it, results in death to those people and to all those who would follow them.

This is, by definition, “False Religion” and includes any and all teachings that are contrary to the Tanak, regardless of the source.

In the Tanak, YHWH says repeatedly that the things He has said, are not to be added to or taken away from, for all that He has set forth is forever.

**Ecc 3:14**  I know that whatever Elohim does is **forever**. There is **no adding to it, and there is no taking from it**. Elohim does it, **that men should fear before Him**.

(See also: Deut 4:2; 12:32; Pro 30:6 and Rev 22:18-19)

He says that turning to the left or right of ANYTHING He has said, is to serve someone or something else (false religion).

**Deu 28:14**  “And do not turn aside from **any of the Words** which I am commanding you today, right or left, **to go after other mighty ones to serve them**.

He clearly tells us **not** to learn the ways of those who serve other elohim (mighty ones/gods) and do it unto Him.

**Deu 12:30**  guard yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire about their mighty ones, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their mighty ones? And let me do so too.

**Deu 12:31**  “Do not do so to יהוה your Elohim, for every abomination which יהוה hates they have done to their mighty ones, for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their mighty ones.

(See also: Deu 18:9; Lev 18:3; Jer 10:2; Eze 11:12; 20:32; Eph 4:17; and 1Pe 4:3)

He also clearly states that His Torah (Law) is life if we obey it and death if we do not.

**Deu 30:11**  “For this command which I am commanding you today, **it is not too hard for you**, nor is it far off.

**Deu 30:12**  “It is not in the heavens, to say, ‘Who shall ascend into the heavens for us, and bring it to us, and cause us to hear it, so that we do it?’

**Deu 30:13**  “Nor is it beyond the sea, to say, ‘Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it to us, and cause us to hear it, so that we do it?’

**Deu 30:14**  “**For the Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart – to do it.**

**Deu 30:15**  “See, I have set before you today **life and good, and death and evil**,

**Deu 30:16**  in that **I am commanding you today to love יהוה your Elohim, to walk in His ways, and to guard His commands, and His laws, and His right-rulings**. And you shall live and increase, and יהוה your Elohim shall bless you in the land which you go to possess.

**Deu 30:17**  “**But if your heart turns away, and you do not obey, and shall be drawn away, and shall bow down to other mighty ones and serve them**,

**Deu 30:18**  “I have declared to you today that **you shall certainly perish**, you shall not prolong your days in the land which you are passing over the Yarděn to enter and possess.

**Deu 30:19**  **“I have called the heavens and the earth as witnesses today against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.** Therefore, you shall **choose life**, so that you live, both you and your seed,

**Deu 30:20**  **to love יהוה your Elohim, to obey His voice, and to cling to Him – for He is your life and the length of your days** – to dwell in the land which יהוה swore to your fathers, to Aḇraham, to Yitsḥaq, and to Ya‛aqoḇ, to give them.”

The Messiah Himself stated that He did not come to diminish a single thing from the Tanak.

**Mat 5:17**  “**Do not think that I came to destroy** the Torah or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to complete**.

**Mat 5:18**  “For truly, I say to you, **till the heaven and the earth pass away, one yod or one tittle shall by no means pass from the Torah till all be done**.

**Mat 5:19**  “Whoever, then, breaks one of the least of these commands, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the reign of the heavens; but **whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the reign of the heavens**.

**Mat 5:20**  “For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the reign of the heavens.**

Now, of course, many men have misinterpreted this passage to mean something it doesn’t say but the language is quite clear, even in the English.

NOTHING from the Torah (Law) and the Prophets have been destroyed (diminished) by the work of Messiah, and neither will they be diminished for as long as the heaven and earth remain, until EVERYTHING they say has been fulfilled.

A lot of the things in the Tanak have been fulfilled but not everything it says, and the heaven and the earth are still around.

Also, He clearly says that those who DO the things written in the Torah and TEACHES others to DO them, shall be great in the Kingdom. So, Messiah DID NOT come to fulfill the Law so that you don’t have to, as some men teach today.

Interestingly, the Scribes and Pharisees were the “religious leaders” of the time and yet Messiah says that if we want to enter the Kingdom, we must be MORE righteous than them.

Why, what did they do that made them NOT righteous enough?

They had violated the command not to add or take away from the Word.

**Mat 15:1**  Then there came to יהושע scribes and Pharisees from Yerushalayim, saying,

**Mat 15:2**  “Why do Your taught ones transgress the **tradition of the elders**? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

**Mat 15:3**  But He answering, said to them, “**Why do you also transgress the command of Elohim because of your tradition**?

**Mat 15:4**  “For Elohim has commanded, saying, ‘Respect your father and your mother,’ ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’

**Mat 15:5**  “But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me has been dedicated,”

**Mat 15:6**  is certainly released from respecting his father or mother.’ **So you have nullified the command of Elohim by your tradition**.

**Mat 15:7**  “ Hypocrites! Yeshayahu rightly prophesied about you, saying,

**Mat 15:8**  ‘This people draw near to Me with their mouth, and respect Me with their lips, but **their heart is far from Me**.

**Mat 15:9**  ‘**But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commands of**

**men**.’”

(See also: Isa 29:13; Mar 7:1-13)

This practice of following the teachings of men instead of the commands of YHWH as He laid them down has been the bane of Yisra’el’s existence for millennia.

**2Ki 17:13**  And יהוה warned Yisra’ěl and Yehuḏah, through all of His prophets, and every seer, saying, “**Turn back from your evil ways, and guard My commands and My laws, according to all the Torah which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.**”

**2Ki 17:14**  But **they did not listen** and hardened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, **who did not put their trust in יהוה their Elohim**,

**2Ki 17:15**  and **rejected His laws and His covenant** that He had made with their fathers, **and His witnesses which He had witnessed against them**, and **went after worthlessness, and became worthless, and after the nations who were all around them, of whom יהוה had commanded them not to do like them.**

**2Ki 17:16**  And **they left all the commands of יהוה their Elohim**, and **made for themselves** a moulded image, two calves, and made an Ashěrah and bowed themselves to all the host of the heavens, and served Ba‛al,

**2Ki 17:17**  and caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, and **practised divination and sorcery, and sold themselves to do evil** in the eyes of יהוה, **to provoke Him.**

**2Ki 17:18**  So יהוה was very enraged with Yisra’ěl, **and removed them from His presence** – none was left but the tribe of Yehuḏah alone.

**2Ki 17:19**  Yehuḏah, also, **did not guard the commands of יהוה** their Elohim, **but walked in the laws of Yisra’ěl which they made.**

YWHW set down a clear and simple path by which His people were to please Him and yet they

found it easier to follow the teachings of men instead and they are still doing it today.

And what is even more disturbing is that the Christian church has fallen into this same trap of listening to men tell them what to believe, things like they no longer need to obey the Torah (Law), even though that teaching is contrary to everything the Tanak and the Messianic Writings declare.

The Torah has always applied to both the native born Yisra’eli (Jew) and the stranger who sojourned with them (Gentile), and it was a Law FOREVER, throughout the generations.

**Num 15:15**  **One law** is for **you of the assembly and for the stranger who sojourns with you** – **a law forever throughout your generations**. As you are, so is the stranger before יהוה.

**Num 15:16**  **One Torah** and **one right-ruling** is for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.’ ”

The phrase “As you are, so is the stranger before YHWH” is a reference to what the Messianic

Writings call the adoption.

**Lev 19:33**  ‘And when **a stranger sojourns with you** in your land, do not oppress him.

**Lev 19:34**  ‘**Let the stranger who dwells among you be to you as the native among you**, and you shall love him as yourself. For you were strangers in the land of Mitsrayim. I am יהוה your Elohim.

There is no distinction between the Native Born and the Stranger, the Jew and the Gentile, in the eyes of YHWH and there never has been. Everyone who claims YHWH as there Elohim is required to obey the Torah, A law FOREVER, THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS!!!

The Messianic Writings confirm this in Galatians.

**Gal 3:26**  For you are all sons of Elohim through belief in Messiah יהושע.

**Gal 3:27**  For as many of you as were immersed into Messiah have put on Messiah.

**Gal 3:28**  **There is not Yehuḏi nor Greek**, there is not slave nor free, there is not male and female, **for you are all one in Messiah יהושע**.

**Gal 3:29**  And if you are of Messiah, **then you are seed of Aḇraham, and heirs according to promise.**

Yes, believers are required to obey the Torah of YHWH just as it was given at Mt. Sinai, without additions or subtractions, HOWEVER, our TRUST is NEVER in our works!!!

Our TRUST and our HOPE are ALWAYS AND FOREVER in belief, that Yahushua is the Messiah, the Seed of the woman promised to Adam and Chawwah (Eve), and to Abraham, Yitschaq (Isaac) and Ya’aqob (Jacob).