

Christian Witness

The simple diagrams below depict the three major Christian witnesses and the emphasis of their witness. Which of the three categories best represents your witness?

Christian Witness vs. Torah Witness

Is this depiction accurate?

The Christian Witness



Are Christians trampling on God's Law?

The answer is, yes!

1 Jn. 5:2-4

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

For whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, *even* our faith."

Deut. 6:5; 11:1

"And you shall love the LORD thy God with all you heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Therefore you shall love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always."

Just because Christians teach that the Torah has been done away with does not mean that they do not have laws that they adhere to. **Christians do have a law.** They claim that it is the **Law of Christ** found in the New Testament, and that law has only two commandments:

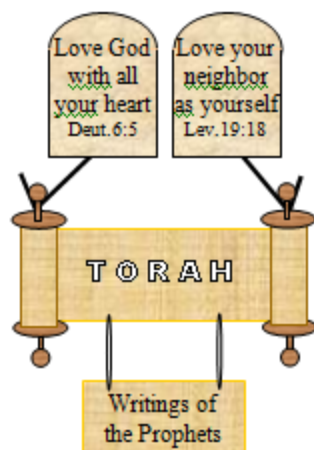
1. Love God with all your heart, and
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

"Through these two laws, the Torah has been superseded." – 1 Opinions 6:66 (Opinions of men)

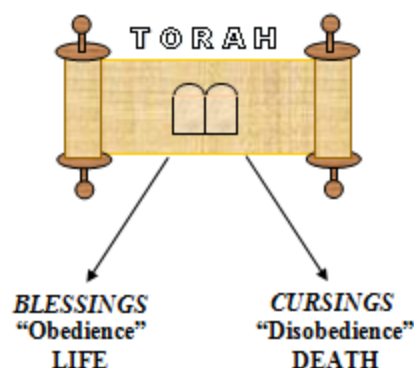
By stating that obedience to the Torah is legalism, Christians have negated the authority of the Old Testament as being relevant for non-Jews.

Since what we call the New Testament did not exist until the fourth century (when the Catholic church canonized the gospel accounts and first century letters), consider where the Christian commandments are found. They originate in the Torah – the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The Scriptural Witness



God's Law (Torah)



Matt. 22:37-40

"Jesus said unto him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all thy heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. [Deut. 6:5]

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' [Lev. 19:18]

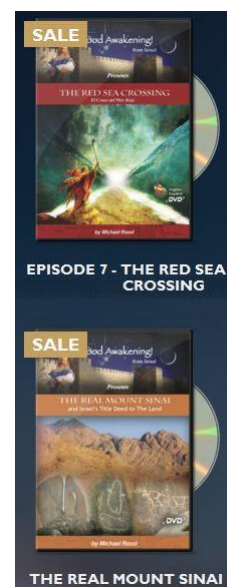
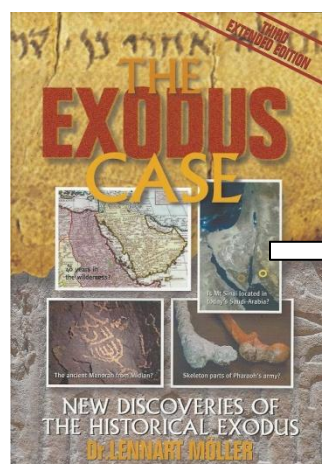
On these **two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**"

In the Hebrew language *Torah* means "instructions" not the English concept of "restrictions." Why is it so hard for Christians to obey the "instructions" God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai in Arabia?

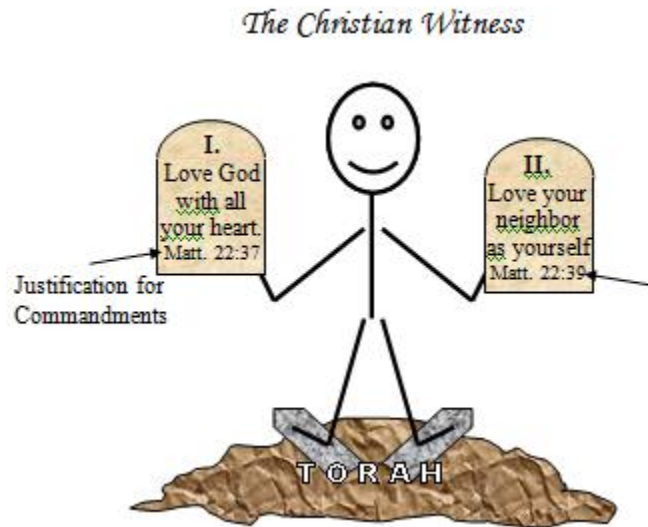
NOTE: For confirmation on the perpetual authority of the Torah of God, it is now known that the true crossing of the **Red Sea** and location of the real **Mt. Sinai** has been found.

See: [The Exodus Case](#), by Dr. Lennart Möller, Scandinavia Publishing House 2000; and

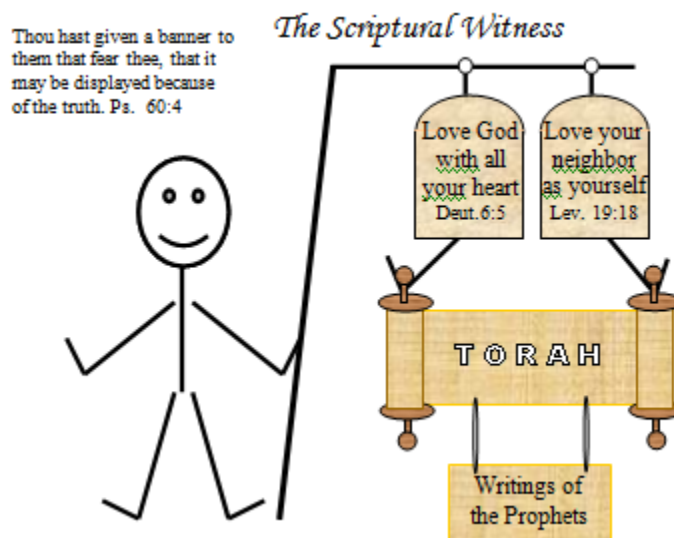
Michael Rood's [The Red Sea Crossing](#) and [The Real Mt. Sinai](#).



Christian Witness vs. Scriptural Witness



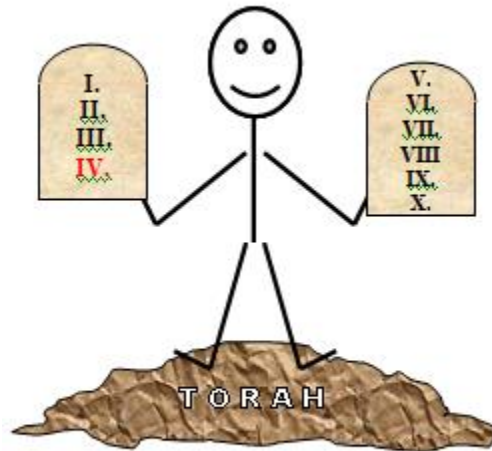
Here we must understand that the Torah is not merely a legal code and series of random ethical and moral laws. The Torah is the self-revelation of YHWH (God). Remember that from the beginning, man was created to be in the image of God (YHWH).



Adventist vs. Christian Witness vs. Scriptural Witness

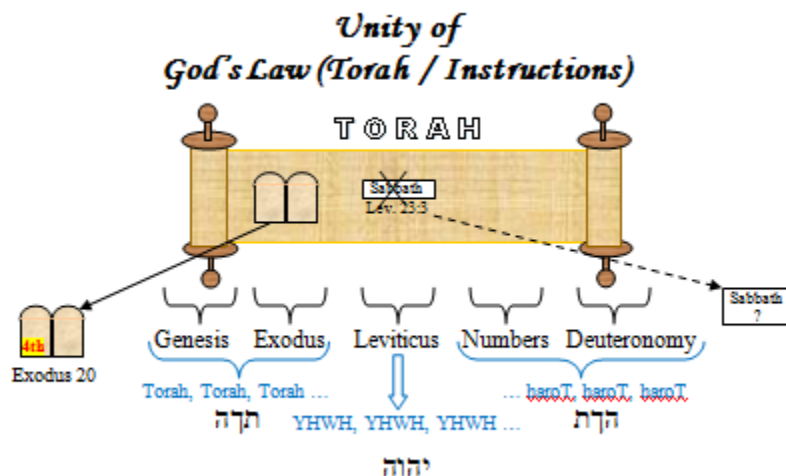
Consider also the witness of a Seventh-day Adventist. They claim to keep the "Law" of God. But do they?

The Adventist Witness



Is this depiction accurate?

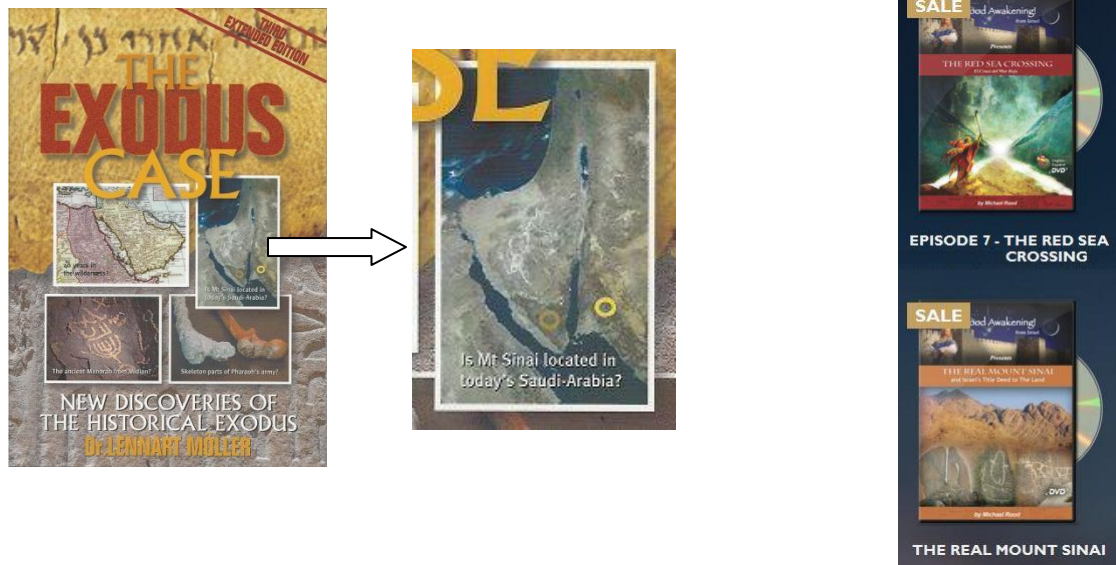
The answer is yes! Seventh-day Adventists have properly reinstated the authority of the 10-Commandments, but along with other Evangelical Christians have trampled on the Torah. What they have done is extract the 10-Commandments including the 4th commandment out of the Torah as still binding, but ignore the authority and significance of the Torah itself. SDA's do NOT support the Sabbath commandment from Leviticus 23 as shown in the following diagram. Why? – Because the Feasts of the Lord are also identified as “Sabbaths” not just the weekly Sabbath, and Christians have labeled them as “Jewish” and therefore they teach the seven Feast Sabbaths of Lev. 23 only apply to Jews.



For confirmation on the perpetual authority of the Torah of God, it is now known that the true crossing of the **Red Sea** and location of the real **Mt. Sinai** has been found.

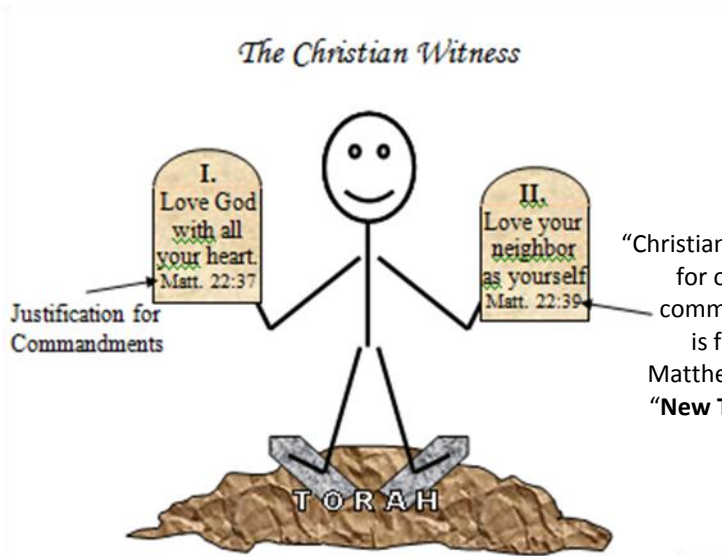
Since history and archeology continues to confirm the accuracy of the Bible, it becomes increasingly more serious to reject its authority.

See: [The Exodus Case](#), by Dr. Lennart Möller, Scandinavia Publishing House 2000; and Michael Rood's [The Red Sea Crossing](#) and [The Real Mt. Sinai](#).



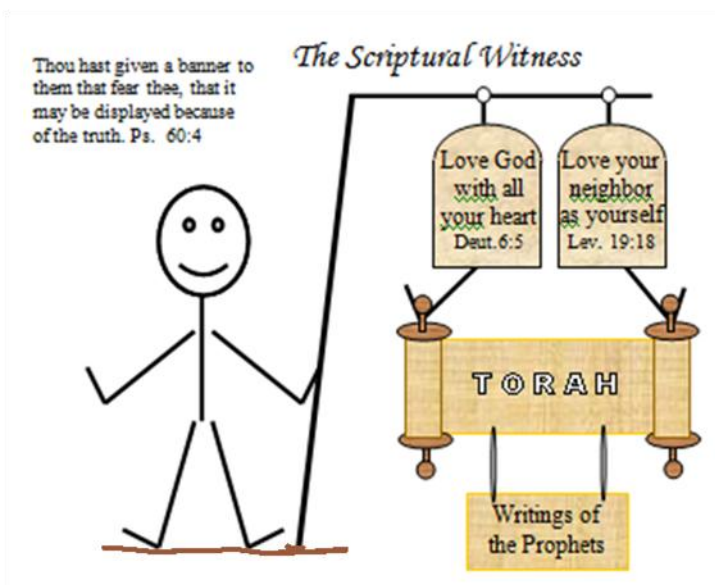
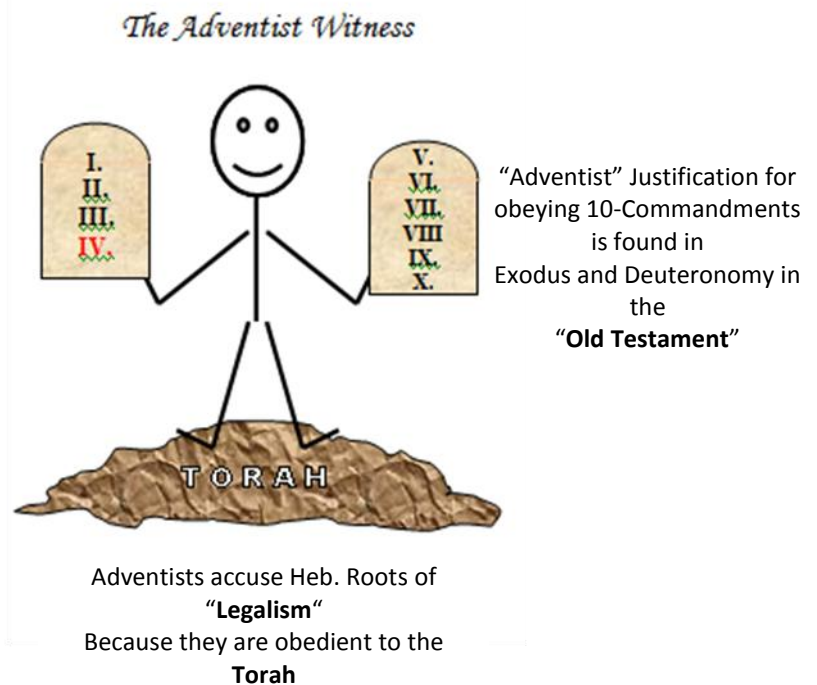
Consider the charge of “Legalism” in the following diagram. Adventists are now referring to Hebrew Roots believers as *Legalists* as the message of Restoration of all of God’s instructions gains momentum even within the ranks of Adventism.

Degrees of Criticism



Christians accuse Adventists of
“Legalism”
Because they are obedient to the
10-Commandments

And Jesus said:
“If you Love Me, keep
my Commandments ...”



Psa 119:165 Great peace have they that love thy Torah; And they have no occasion of stumbling.
I have hoped for thy salvation, O Jehovah,
And have done thy commandments.

...
Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

“Blessed are they that *wash their robes*, ...”
- ASV

Christians in general, and Seventh-day Adventists in particular, must Re-think their position on what constitutes the "Law of God."

Christians claim they are not under the "Law". but what Law are they not under? They are gladly obedient to the laws of the land in which they live, but claim they are not required to obey God's instructions. *Torah* in Hebrew means "*instructions*." This is a strange contradiction in their doctrinal beliefs. They like the Jews have created a religious system which has substituted man's laws for God's. Consider the implications of the following verses after substituting the correct word for "Law."

- **Isaiah** 8:20 – "To the *Torah* and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."
- **Malachi** 4:4 – "Remember the *Torah* of Moses ..."
- **Matthew** 5:17-22 – "Think not that I am come to destroy the *Torah*, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to *make full*. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the *Torah*, till all be fulfilled.

Very serious indeed! The warnings above apply to the majority of Jews and Christians.

Relevance of the Hebrew word for "Law"

Consider how serious the simple English word "Law" is, relative to the above scriptures. The problem with the English translation is that the language does not define the word "Law". The Greek word for law is *Nomos* and is also an abstract word not indicating what "law". Because both translated words are abstract, it is open to anyone's interpretation. However, Strong's Concordance gives the reference number as H8451 for both Isa. 8:20 and Mal. 4:4 which in the Hebrew and Chaldea Dictionary at the end of the concordance defines the word as "Torah."

Controversy Over God's Law

The following selection from the book *The Great Controversy* is a practical example for Seventh-day Adventists or anyone else for that matter who claim to be in obedience to *God's Law*. The words penned by Ellen White in 1888 could not be more profound in identifying the battle we face today. As you read, contemplate the battle between God and Satan in this world - a battle that each of us are a part of.

Long-standing Controversy concerning the Law of God
Chapter XXXVI. - The Impending Conflict--Its Causes.
(1911 Edition)

"From the very beginning of the great controversy in Heaven, it has been Satan's purpose to overthrow the law of God. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon his rebellion against the Creator; and though he was cast out of Heaven, he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God's law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued. Whether this be accomplished by casting aside the law altogether, or by rejecting one of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same. He that offends "in one point," manifests contempt for the whole law; his influence and example are on the side of transgression; he becomes "guilty of all." [JAMES 2:10.]

"In seeking to cast contempt upon the **divine statutes**, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus become incorporated into the faith of thousands who profess to believe the Scriptures. The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering,--a battle between the laws

of men and the **precepts of Jehovah**, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.

"The agencies which will unite against truth and righteousness in this contest are now actively at work. **God's holy Word**, which has been handed down to us at such a cost of suffering and blood, is but little valued. The Bible is within the reach of all, but there are few who really accept it as the guide of life [Torah means instructions]. Infidelity prevails to an alarming extent, not in the world merely, but in the church. Many have come to deny doctrines which are the very pillars of the Christian faith. The great facts of creation as presented by the inspired writers, the fall of man, the atonement, and the perpetuity of the **law of God**, are practically rejected, either wholly or in part, by a large share of the professedly Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it an evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil at the Scriptures, and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths. Many ministers are teaching their people, and many professors and teachers are instructing their students, that the **law of God** has been changed or abrogated; and those who regard its requirements as still valid, to be literally obeyed, are thought to be deserving only of ridicule or contempt.

"In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the **law of God**, they deny the authority of the Lawgiver. It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. By misrepresenting the attributes of God, Satan leads men to conceive of him in a false character. With many, a philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah; while the living God, as he is revealed in his Word, in Christ, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature, while they deny the God of nature. Though in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world today as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists,--the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions,--is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.

"No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that **God's law** is no longer binding upon men. Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; no government could exist without them; and can it be conceived that the Creator of the heavens and the earth has no law to govern the beings he has made? Suppose that prominent ministers were publicly to teach that the statutes which govern their land and protect the rights of its citizens were not obligatory,--that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed; how long would such men be tolerated in the pulpit? But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of States and nations than to trample upon those divine precepts which are the foundation of all government?

"It would be far more consistent for nations to abolish their statutes, and permit the people to do as they please, than for the Ruler of the universe to annul **his law**, and leave the world without a standard to condemn the guilty or justify the obedient. Would we know the result of making void the **law of God**? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruellest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power in the earth.

"Wherever the **divine precepts** are rejected, sin ceases to appear sinful, or righteousness desirable. Those who refuse to submit to the government of God are wholly unfitted to govern themselves. Through their pernicious teachings, the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of children and youth, who are naturally impatient of control; and a lawless, licentious state of society results. While scoffing at the credulity of those who obey the requirements of God, the multitudes eagerly accept the delusions of Satan. They give the rein to lust, and practice the sins which have called down judgments upon the heathen.

"Those who teach the people to lightly regard the commandments of God, sow disobedience, to reap disobedience. Let the restraint imposed by the **divine law** be wholly cast aside, and human laws would soon be disregarded." {GC88 582-585}

Replace Law with Torah

In order to obtain a correct understanding of the meaning and context of the Scriptures, a correct definition of individual words must be obtained. The understanding of a passage may change if the definition of only one word changes.

For a Seventh-day Adventist, the abstract word "*law*" in Isaiah 8:20 means the 10-Commandments. But what happens if you use the actual word to *Torah* as it is written in Hebrew? Would you still agree with the meaning of the passage?

Remember, "To the *law* and to the *testimony*: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." - Isaiah. 8:20 KJV

Now Substitute Strong's number H8451 "*Torah*" in place of *law* as it should be:

Isa. 8:20 - To the **TORAH** and to the *testimony*: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

The King James translators consistently used the abstract word *law*, but it is actually Strong's number H8451 which refers to the concrete word -*Torah*. An abstract word does not specify exactly what a word refers to. However, in this case, the concrete word *Torah* refers to the first five books of the Bible which were given to us by God through Moses at Mt. Sinai.

The second word in italics from Isa. 8:20 above is the word *testimony*. This refers to the *testimony* of the Prophets who must all agree with God's "Law" i.e. "Torah". If they do not, then they are labeled as False Prophets in Deuteronomy 13.

With that said, would a Seventh-day Adventist still agree with the Impending Conflict chapter 36 in the Great Controversy if the Hebrew word "*Torah*" was used in place of "*law*?"

Consider the same passage a this time from the 1888 edition of the Great Controversy with the actual Hebrew words inserted:

1888

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Chapter XXXVI. - The Impending Conflict--Its Causes.
(1888 Edition)

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Would a Seventh-day Adventist still agree with the modified version above? Do you agree or disagree with substituting the word "law" with "Torah" above? If not why not since the Strong's Concordance reference is H8451 (Torah)?

I believe a key reason for disagreement would be because Ellen White defined the word “Law” (Greek *nomos*) in James 2:8 and 10 as the 10-Commandments.

James 2:7-12

2:7 Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

2:8 If ye fulfil the **royal law** according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself [Lev. 19:18], ye do well:

2:9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the **law** [Torah] as transgressors.

2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole **law** [Torah], and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. [Deut. 27:26 - Heb Roots Translation]

2:11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law [Torah]. [Ex. 20:13-14; Deut. 5:17-18; 27:26]

2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the **law** [Torah] of liberty.

Question: Is James quoting the Torah in verse 11 above? Your answer to this question will determine your view on the authority of the Scriptures and therefore identify who or what you claim as the authority in your life. Look at the Authority diagram again to see what category you best fit in based on how you interpret the Scriptures.

Equidistant Letter Sequence

One point not explained in the Unity of God's Law diagram above, are the three words Torah, Torah, Torah followed by Torah spelled backwards three times, i.e. haroT, haroT, haroT.

Equidistant Letter Sequence is a fascinating feature found only in the Torah in Hebrew. In the "Unity of God's Law" diagram above, in the first two books (Genesis and Exodus) every 50th letter in the first two chapters spells TORAH. In the last two books (Numbers and Deuteronomy) every 50th letter in the first two chapters spells Torah backwards - haroT. In the middle book of Leviticus every 20th letter spells the name of God (YHWH - Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey). It is as if the first and last two books of the Torah are pointing to the author Himself. This is not found in any other language, and English versions of the Bible substitutes LORD for the tetragramiton YHWH. A proper name should never be translated. It should be transliterated - meaning similar letters in another language should be substituted. In place of LORD in many Bibles the name should read YHVH or YHWH (the W is the older form of the V or vav in Hebrew and pronounced with the Wa sound).

Conclusion

The three major denominations – Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons, and Seventh-day Adventists – which have their origin in the 1800’s all share similar non-biblical reasoning. Because of **Replacement Theology** and **Supersessionism**, the Christian church denies the authority of the Torah as given by God on Mt. Sinai, and have separated God's instructions from the very people the Torah and Prophets were given to. By doing this, the Christians have lost their scriptural authority and basis for morality. This error will be discussed, and its implications, elsewhere in this website.

See God's Church thru History .