Can You Take Torah Too Far?

Is it possible to take Torah too far? Before you pick up stones and start to circle me, think about it. What was YHVH’s intent and purpose to give Torah to Israel? He had just brought them out of slavery and bondage to a system of man...did He free them, only to put them back into bondage under another system? Did He intend for man to create an oppressive, burdensome and demanding system from His Word? Is there truly freedom in Torah...or not?

YHVH gave NO man permission or license to change, or alter His Word as He gave it to us. He told us to be careful to guard His Word and that we were NOT to add to it, or take away from it. How can man possibly improve on what YHVH gave to us? How presumptuous and arrogant for ANYONE to think that they can improve on what YHVH has given to us!

Deuteronomy 4:1-2
1 "And now, O Yisra’ĕl, listen to the laws and the right-rulings which I am teaching you to do, so that you live, and shall go in and possess the land which יהוה Elohim of your fathers is giving you. 2 "Do not add to the Word which I command you, and do not take away from it, so as to guard the commands of יהוה your Elohim which I am commanding you.

The nations around Israel were doing things that were detestable in YHVH’s sight. They had created their own mighty ones and they worshipped them with rituals they had created themselves...even human sacrifice. They were offering up their own children, to their mighty ones. They had created and established their own religious systems and were teaching them to their people.

Deuteronomy 12:32
32 “All the words I am commanding you, guard to do it – do not add to it nor take away from it.

It is clear that YHVH wanted His People to be different...to be set-apart from all of the other nations and peoples around them. He gave them His Torah to guide and regulate their lives...His Torah. It IS His Word by which we will be judged and it is by His Word that we will ALL be held accountable. Is His Word perfect and complete as He gave it to us...or not? Does YHVH need our help to redefine and refine His Word? When we alter His Word...we alter the meaning and intent. You can easily see that when you compare the different translations of His Word.

Torah is our guide...it is our teacher...it is where we start. Torah leads us to walk in The Way of YHVH. We are lead back to Him, through His Word. When we stray from
His Word as He gave it to us, then we begin to create a system of our own. No matter what the intent is, it DOES change what YHVH gave to us originally and it DOES add or take away from His Word. No matter how well intended, YHVH says do NOT do it! We are to guard His Word. That means to protect it and preserve it.

YHVH IS perfect in ALL of His Ways...why should we think that we can improve upon His Word by adding to it? How could we be so full of ourselves, so puffed up with knowledge and so prideful, to think that anything we could add to His Word will enhance it and better it?

Deuteronomy 32:3-4
3 "For I proclaim the Name of יהוה, Ascribe greatness to our Elohim. 4 "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are right-ruling, An Ėl of truth and without unrighteousness, Righteous and straight is He.

Why add more rituals, more regulations, more demands, more requirements and more words to what YHVH has already told us that He wants from us? There are many things that are done in His Name that are NOT to be found in His Word ANYWHERE! Why? Men want to be in control. Men want to tell people what they can and cannot do and then hold them accountable to a standard that they have created. It is men who create burdensome and wearisome systems from YHVH’s Word and then demand absolute loyalty and strict adherence, to their systems. It is men who love those systems, who spread them by teaching others to be loyal to the system.

Why is it that we cannot just accept His Word as it is and learn from it? YHVH freed His People from a manipulative, oppressive system that controlled their lives. He freed them through His Awesome Power and Might! He gave them His Torah to KEEP them free. If they obeyed His Word and did as He asked of them, He promised that He would provide for them, watch over them and protect them. When we add to or take away His Word, we are no longer obeying Him. We are following a different way, not The Way of YHVH.

As strange as it sounds, human beings are constantly looking for someone, or some thing to worship and idolize. We like to have something tangible in front of us...something that we can point to, identify with, look at, touch, feel and adore. It is a sign, a mark, a badge. It is a weakness in our flesh. Our need to worship takes many different forms, depending on the person and what they value in life.

Some people worship cars, some worship celebrities, some worship sports figures, some worship their home, some worship their job, some worship their social status or position and...the list goes on and on. Some even make their worship system, their religion, into an idol. How is that possible? How do you worship, a worship system?
People turn their worship system, with all of its rites and rituals, with all of its regulations and requirements, into an idol. They worship a system. They identify with the system and they get their sense of worth and self esteem from the system. They misplace their faith and trust...their love and adoration. They give their allegiance and loyalty to a system. They believe that by performing all of the rites and rituals, that they are pleasing their God. It harkens back to an earlier time, when ancient cultures and civilizations believed that bad things happened when the gods were angry and that by performing all of the rituals, their gods would be appeased. The Elohim of Israel wants ALL of our love and adoration. It is Elohim who is to be worshipped and NOT some religious system.

There is one thing that people fail to take into account when they begin to add to YHVH’s Word. It never ends...the more you add to Abba’s Word, the more complicated it becomes and the more regulations you have to add to define what is and what is not allowable according to His Word. Endless lists of do’s and don’ts to try and regulate, and control every thought, action and circumstance. Men become victims of their own actions. They build an overbearing, burdensome and oppressive system of regulation and ritual. They entrap and enslave themselves in a rigid system of worship and religion of their own making and then indoctrinate others into their system.

We MUST overcome that. The Torah of YHVH is NOT a weapon. It is NOT to be used to beat people into submission and obedience to a system made by and for men. Yeshua pointed out and exposed things that had been added to the Word of YHVH...He was hated for it...He was despised for it. Men love the systems they have built. They will desperately protect and defend them. They associate themselves with their system, it is their identity.

Matthew 15:1-2
1 Then there came to יהושע scribes and Pharisees from Yerushalayim, saying, 2 “Why do Your taught ones transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.”

Traditions in and of themselves are not bad. Dani’el prayed three times a day as it was his tradition, or custom to do so. It is when traditions are elevated to a level of importance above the Word of YHVH, that they become bad...

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

The identity of the People of YHVH is in Him. Those who belong to Him are called His People. They do NOT belong to a system. YHVH’s message to Pharaoh was let My People go! He does NOT want His People to be trapped and enslaved. We must
be free to follow Him! It is YHVH that we are to seek...it is His Name that we are to call upon. It is YHVH that we should always look to.

Isaiah 42:8-9
8 "I am יהוה, that is My Name, and My esteem I do not give to another, nor My praise to idols. 9 See, the former predictions have come, and new ones I am declaring; before they spring forth I let you hear them."

YHVH gave us His Word to guide us into a relationship with Him. It shows us where to start and how to be set-apart to Him. He uses the physical things to teach us about the spiritual things. That is where the real growth takes place. When we begin to see through spiritual eyes and think with spiritual minds, that is when we truly begin to understand. The physical is ONLY a starting point...a place to begin.

We begin our journey on this physical world, in a physical state. When we enter into the Kingdom of Elohim, it is in a spiritual state. If we become stuck and mired down in just the physical, we will never grow into the people that He truly wants us to be. How can a purely physical mind think on spiritual matters? Our flesh is such a hindrance and stumbling block to us. It is weak and it hinders us in so many ways.

Sha’ul tried to teach the importance of becoming the spiritual man, but he is constantly maligned and accused of being a lawbreaker and teaching against Torah. It IS difficult for people to get past their flesh and think in a spiritual way...very difficult.

Romans 7:4-6
4 So my brothers, you also were put to death to the Torah through the body of Messiah, for you to become another’s, the One who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to Elohim. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sins, through the Torah, were working in our members to bear fruit to death. 6 But now we have been released from the Torah, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in newness of Spirit and not in oldness of letter.

Does this mean that we are released from Torah? Of course not! It means Torah becomes a part of us. It is written on our hearts and in our minds so that obedience to the Word of YHVH is a natural occurrence. We are changed and transformed from who we were. Traditions, rituals, rites, systems, religion...the old man, the physical man MUST be put to death. We are to walk in newness of life as a spiritual man...a NEW creature, or creation. We are transformed and become one who is made over into the likeness of the spiritual man. One who sees and understands in a new way...The Way of YHVH.
When we add to and take away from the Word of YHVH, we lose sight of the spiritual man we are to become. We become even more of the physical man that we are to leave behind. The physical world is just a place to learn and grow, a stop on the way to the spiritual world and the Kingdom of Elohim. Do you want to just remain stuck in the physical world, or do you want to enter the Kingdom to dwell forever with YHVH? The physical CANNOT enter in there...

Why do men want to substitute a system of their own making, for what YHVH has already given to us? Why add to what YHVH has already given us to do? Will it make anyone more righteous? Will it guarantee anyone a place in the Kingdom of YHVH? Will it keep anyone from transgressing the Word of YHVH? Our works are nothing...our works get us nowhere. Abba tells us what He requires of us...we just need to obey Him and guard His Commands.

Deuteronomy 7:9
9 “And you shall know that יי your Elohim, He is Elohim, the trustworthy Ėl guarding covenant and kindness for a thousand generations with those who love Him, and those who guard His commands,

Abba already tells us what we must do and that we must be careful to do it and guard His Commands. We must hold them close, cherish them, protect them and watch over them. It is His Word that brings life...NOT a system of rituals. He tells us what is good through His Word.

Micah 6:8
8 He has declared to you, O man, what is good. And what does יהוה require of you but to do right, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your Elohim?

Stop adding rules and regulations, stop adding rites and rituals and stop adding to His Word and teaching others to observe things that Abba has NEVER required of His People. There is no reason, no purpose and there is NO excuse! Yeshua had a word for those who do those things...

Matthew 23:13-15
13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut up the reign of the heavens before men, for you do not go in, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you eat up widows’ houses, and for a show make long prayers. Because of this you shall receive greater judgment. 15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you go about the land and the sea to win one convert, and when he is won, you make him a son of Gehenna twofold more than yourselves.
If you have been deceived into following a system, maybe you should stop and think about what YHVH really requires of you. What is it that He really wants from you? Does He want you to be seeking perfection and salvation through a system of man, or does He want you to teshuvah (turn, repent) and look to Him for life? Dig into His Word and find out what He really wants from you. His commands are not burdensome. His Way is not tiresome.

If you make yourself subject to a system, then you are no longer following YHVH...you are following the system. Following The Way of YHVH is freedom from bondage and enslavement. Do NOT take Torah too far and to places that YHVH never intended for it to go...