

OPEN YOUR BIBLE • BIBLE STUDIES

Study Torah -

תּוֹרָה

From “law” to instruction, teaching, and the loving direction of Yehovah

A printable companion for the guided Hebrew word study at OpenYourBible.org.

READ • COMPARE • IDENTIFY • TRACE • RETURN

Then let context have the final word.

Name: _____

Date started: _____

Study completed: _____

Don't take my word for it - Open your Bible.

OpenYourBible.org/study-torah

Before You Study

Record the assumptions you are carrying into the word “Torah.”

When I hear the English word “law,” what ideas or feelings come to mind?

Before this study, how would I define Torah?

What have I been taught about Torah and the life of a believer?

What questions am I bringing to Psalm 1?

STUDY HABIT: Do not hunt for a definition that proves what you already believe. Record the evidence first.

A Strong’s number identifies a word. A lexicon gives possible meanings. The passage determines which meaning fits.

I. Begin With Psalm 1

Context comes before concordance.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Psalm 1:1-6

Read the passage before answering. Record what you see before checking commentary.

What two ways of life are contrasted in the psalm?

What influences does the righteous person reject?

What does the righteous person delight in?

How often does the person meditate?

What image describes the result of this way of life?

Before using any Hebrew tools, what does the surrounding context suggest “law” is doing in the life of the righteous person?

Do not define Torah yet. First understand the message of the whole psalm.

2. Compare Translations

Translation differences can reveal where one English word may not carry the whole picture.

Compare Psalm 1:2 in at least four translations. Record the wording used for Torah/law and any useful footnotes.

Translation	Wording in Psalm 1:2	Footnote / Observation
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What stays consistent across the translations?

What differences raise questions worth investigating?

What would be dangerous about deciding that one translation is “wrong” before examining the Hebrew word and context?

3. Identify the Hebrew Word

This step identifies the word. It does not interpret the verse for you.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Psalm 1:2

Use an interlinear or Bible-study tool to identify the Hebrew word behind “law.”

Record the evidence:

English word:

Hebrew word:

Transliteration:

Strong’s number:

Part of speech:

IDENTIFY FIRST. Do not choose your favorite definition yet.

The live study identifies Torah as H8451. Use the number to locate the same Hebrew word across Scripture, not as a secret definition hidden beneath the English Bible.

4. Lexicon + Root Work

Record the range. Then let usage and context narrow it.

תּוֹרָה Torah • H8451

From the full lexicon entry, list the major categories of meaning you find.

Possible categories in the live study include law, instruction, teaching, direction, and individual ruling/instruction.

יָרָה Yarah • H3384

What range of uses do you find for the related root yarah?

What can the root relationship help you notice?

What can the root relationship NOT prove by itself?

Roots may provide background. Actual usage carries greater weight.

5. Trace Torah Through Scripture

Follow H8451, not merely the English word “law.”

For each passage, record who gives the Torah, who receives it, its scope, and the purpose/effect emphasized in context.

Passage	Who gives / receives?	What kind of Torah?	Purpose / effect
Deut. 4:44			
Joshua 1:8			
Psalms 19:7			
Prov. 1:8			
Mal. 2:6-7			
Isaiah 2:3			

What themes repeat across these different uses?

What shared idea can you state without flattening every passage into the same meaning?

6. Return to Psalm 1

Research should bring you back to the passage - not farther away from it.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Psalm 1:1-3

Read it again now that you have examined Torah's lexical range and usage.

Which sense or combination of senses best fits Torah in Psalm 1?

What evidence from Psalm 1 supports your conclusion?

How do delight, meditation, the planted tree, fruit, and stability shape the meaning?

BEFORE THE WORD STUDY

What did "His delight is in the law of Yehovah" sound like to me before?

AFTER THE WORD STUDY

Write a fuller explanatory paraphrase that preserves law/authority while also expressing instruction/teaching/direction.

7. What Does the Evidence Prove?

Good study follows the evidence as far as it goes - and then stops.

WHAT THIS STUDY DOES SHOW

How is “law” accurate but potentially narrower to a modern reader?

How does context determine whether Torah refers to parental instruction, priestly teaching, a specific ruling, or covenant instruction?

What positive functions does Psalm 1 associate with Torah?

How did original-language tools send you back to Scripture with better questions?

WHAT THIS STUDY DOES NOT SHOW

Does this prove “law” is a mistranslation? Why not?

May “instruction” replace “law” in every verse? Why not?

Does the root yarah control every occurrence of Torah? Why not?

Does this one word study settle every debate about Torah observance? Why not?

8. Common Word-Study Mistakes

Use this page as an audit whenever Hebrew or Greek starts sounding impressive.

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- ☐ Choosing the definition I like best
 - ☐ Pouring every lexicon definition into one verse
 - ☐ Treating Strong's numbers like inspired definitions
 - ☐ Building meaning from the root alone
 - ☐ Assuming the oldest meaning must be the real meaning
 - ☐ Assuming one English word equals one Hebrew/Greek word
 - ☐ Treating an interlinear gloss like a complete translation
 - ☐ Ignoring grammar
 - ☐ Tracing occurrences without reading their contexts
 - ☐ Letting one word override the sentence/paragraph/book
 - ☐ Using original languages to sound unchallengeable
 - ☐ Starting with the conclusion

Which mistake am I most likely to make?

What practice will help me avoid it?

A lexicon gives possibilities. Context gives the meaning.

9. Safer Word-Study Checklist

Before accepting a conclusion, work through the checklist.

- ☐ I read the entire passage.
- ☐ I compared translations.
- ☐ I identified the correct original word.
- ☐ I read the full lexicon entry.
- ☐ I considered grammar where relevant.
- ☐ I examined several biblical uses.
- ☐ I allowed context to narrow the meaning.
- ☐ I avoided forcing the root into the passage.
- ☐ My conclusion fits the author's larger message.
- ☐ I am not claiming more than the evidence proves.

My conclusion in one sentence:

What evidence would make me revise this conclusion?

10. Guided Practice: “Meditates”

Now repeat the process with another word from Psalm 1.

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Psalm 1:1-6

Read the passage before answering. Record what you see before checking commentary.

What two ways of life are contrasted?

What does the righteous person reject?

What does the righteous person delight in?

How often does the person meditate?

Before opening a study tool, what does meditation appear to involve in this psalm?

COMPARE FOUR TRANSLATIONS OF PSALM 1:2

Translation	Wording used for “meditates”
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II. Identify + Examine Hagah

Do the investigating before checking the suggested findings.

English word:

Hebrew word:

Transliteration:

Strong's number:

Part of speech:

From the full lexicon entry, record the major meanings/uses.

Does the word always refer to quiet internal thought? What other kinds of activity can it describe?

Which meanings might fit Psalm 1, and which clearly depend on a different context?

Do not grab the most dramatic gloss. Trace the word before deciding.

12. Trace Hagah Through Scripture

Same Hebrew word. Different contexts. Look for the common thread.

Passage	English rendering	What is being described?
Joshua 1:8		
Psalm 1:2		
Psalm 2:1		
Psalm 63:6		
Psalm 77:12		
Psalm 143:5		

What common idea connects these uses without forcing them to mean exactly the same thing?

Which meaning best fits Psalm 1:2?

What evidence supports that conclusion?

How does this deepen your understanding of meditating on Torah day and night?

13. Write Your Conclusion + Check Your Work

Commit to your conclusion before comparing it with the study's suggested findings.

Complete the sentence:

In Psalm 1:2, the Hebrew word translated “meditates” communicates the idea of...

The righteous person does not merely read Torah occasionally. Instead...

SUGGESTED FINDINGS FROM THE LIVE STUDY

הָגָה **hagah • H1897**

Possible uses include meditate, muse, ponder, utter, murmur, speak, devise, or plot - depending on context.

In Psalm 1, the suggested conclusion is sustained reflection upon Yehovah's Torah: pondering it, rehearsing it, and allowing it to occupy the mind continually.

Where did my conclusion match the suggested findings?

Where did it differ, and what evidence should I recheck?

After the Study

Return to where you started and record what changed.

How would I define Torah now?

What changed in the way I hear the English word “law” in Psalm 1?

What became clearer about the relationship between lexicons, roots, usage, and context?

What did the guided hagah exercise teach me about doing a word study on my own?

What question about Torah do I still want to study next?

MY RULE FOR FUTURE WORD STUDIES

Write one sentence you want to remember the next time someone says, “The Hebrew/Greek really means...”

Don't take my word for it - Open your Bible.

Cross-references, questions, definitions, and anything you want to revisit.

[illegible]

Leave yourself room. Good Bible study tends to create more questions.

[illegible]