TORAH BEFORE THE TABLES

God’s instruction before the commandments were written at Sinai

Central Question

Did Yehovah’s law begin at Sinai, or were His ways known earlier?

The Early Patriarchs

Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel; Noah; Abraham

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:3-5: offerings and differing responses

A Careful Distinction

Genesis 3:21 describes garments of skin, but does not state an animal sacrifice took place.

Faith Before Sinai

Hebrews 11:4 describes Abel’s offering as one made by faith.

Sin and Moral Accountability

Genesis 4:6-11: Cain is warned of sin and confronted over Abel’s death.

Marriage and Adultery

Genesis 2:24 and Genesis 20:3-6 precede the Mosaic covenant.

Noah and Sacrifice

Genesis 7:2-3 and Genesis 8:20: clean animals and offerings.

Human Life and Justice

Genesis 9:5-6 connects human life, God’s image, and responsibility.

Abraham’s Covenant

Genesis 17:9-14: circumcision as the sign of a pre-Sinai covenant.

Abraham and God’s Laws

Genesis 26:5 explicitly mentions commandments, statutes, and laws.

The Judge of All the Earth

Genesis 18:25: divine justice before Israel’s written national code.

Exodus 18 Before Exodus 20

Moses makes God’s statutes and laws known before Sinai’s tablets.

Verbal and Written Instruction

The speaker contrasts earlier revelation with national codification at Sinai.

Law and Covenant

Faithfulness to Yehovah and obedience to His instructions are closely related.

Land and Judicial Provisions

The Q&A separates universal moral concerns from laws tied to Israel’s territory and institutions.

The Ancient Paths

Jeremiah 6:16 and Genesis 18:19: the way of righteousness and justice.

Important Interpretive Caution

The complete later Torah code is not documented as a pre-Sinai text.

Key Scriptures to Revisit

Genesis 4; 7-9; 17; 18; 26; Exodus 18-20; Romans 5

Questions for Study

What is explicit? What is inferred? How does covenant context affect application?