

# Torah, Torah, Torah

by Steve Niedrauer

The 1970's movie version of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, *Tora, Tora, Tora*, had a significant impact on my brother as he was nearing the end of his high school days. He sat through the movie transfixed. When he saw the brave soldiers mounting the anti-aircraft guns and desperately fighting off the enemy planes, he said to himself, "That's what I want to do."

He literally ran down to the Navy recruiter and signed up. As he sat in the office and poured through the paperwork he finally found the section on career choice. He put a big mark next to "gunnery technician." He then signed his name, swore his oath and drove home excited at his prospects. He was ready to man the "big guns."

He should have asked a few more questions first. The term "gunnery technician" was not what it seemed at face value. Although my brother dreamed of skillfully blasting enemy aircraft out of the skies, he never did get to touch a gun during his Navy career. Instead, based upon his choice of "gunnery technician," he was dutifully sent off to electronics school after a little basic training. A few months later, our "gunnery technician" was assigned to his new career.

My brother had signed up to maintain nuclear bombs and missiles. And so he did. For four years.

We are an awful lot like an idealistic 18-year-old. As we take hold of our identity as believers, we usually check the box with the job title we like. The thing we don't often realize is that Hashem defines the job description. As a result, life may not turn out as we anticipated, especially if we have not asked the right questions and sought diligently for the answers. Like the idealistic 18-year-old, we often make our choices based on emotion, not upon reality. Sometimes

we need to ask more questions. Sometimes we need to seek deeper answers.

The Torah is full of answers for all of our questions. Often, we approach the Torah on a surface level, or an emotional level, and fail to grasp the entire scope of what the Torah is teaching. We understand the words according to our own presuppositions instead of according to Hashem's definitions. We are then set up for a big surprise sooner or later.

*"Trust in the Lord  
with all your heart,  
and do not lean  
on your own understanding.  
In all your ways  
acknowledge Him,  
and He will direct  
your paths."*

*Prov. 3:5, 6 NASB*

In order to understand the Torah's answers to our questions, we need to begin to define His words as He defines them. We need to understand His heart and not be endlessly focused on our own false perceptions. The problem is that this kind of understanding takes intense, diligent, and purposeful study. We need to look closely at the hidden things in Torah and put disciplined effort into understanding what it says.

And then do what we signed up to do.



## Recommended Resources for Torah Study

*If you have not yet submitted yourself to the discipline of Basic Training, check out some of these resources to get you on your way.*

### *Rabbi's Son Torah Commentaries*

This is an excellent email resource to use in gaining an understanding of God's heart in Torah. These commentaries include study questions on the Torah portion, Haftarah, and Brit Chadasha portion. To subscribe, send a request to: [wgblawfirm@earthlink.net](mailto:wgblawfirm@earthlink.net).

### *TorahResource.com*

Online classes, great articles, Torah commentary, and other Torah related material.

### *First Fruits of Zion Torah Club*

This is a Torah teaching program in five volumes:

1. *Torah Treasures*—Introduction to the Books of Moses.
2. *Yeshua in the Torah*—Discover Messiah in the Torah
3. *The Haftarah*—Gateway to the prophets of Israel.
4. *B'sorat HaMashiach* (Good News of Messiah)—Commentary on the Gospels and Acts.
5. *Simchat Torah* (Rejoicing in the Torah)—The commandments and their application.

The Torah Club program includes printed material as well as weekly CD teachings. For more information, visit First Fruits of Zion at [www.torahclub.org](http://www.torahclub.org).