

Shayla: Why do Adonaists not consider the Mishnah authoritative?

Meforshim:

While we agree that there are many lessons to be learned and wisdom to be gleaned from the Mishnah, Adonaists do not accept the Mishnah's authority because:

1. The Mishnah quotes many conflicting opinions.
2. The Mishnah doesn't go on to say in which opinion the truth lies. Rather, the Mishnah sometimes agrees with neither one nor the other, contradicting both.
3. They argue that the truth of the oral law given to Moses could only be in one opinion, not many opinions.
4. They question why the Mishnah does not solely speak in the name of Moses.
5. The Oral Law is not mentioned even once in the entire Tanakh.
6. When God told Moses to come up to Mount Sinai to receive the Torah He said:
 - **Exodus 24:12 HCSB** The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and stay there so that I may give you the stone tablets with the law and commands I have written for their instruction."

The text states the commands are written, and no mention is made of an Oral Law.

7. The Tanakh reports that the written Torah was both lost and completely forgotten for over 50 years and only rediscovered by the Temple priests.¹ It is inconceivable that an Oral Law could have been remembered when even the written Law was forgotten.
8. The words of the Mishnah and Talmud are clearly the words of men living in the 2nd-5th centuries AD, stating "Rabbi Eliezer says this... while Rabbi Akiva says that..." in contrast to the Torah which states "YHWH spoke to Moses saying, speak to the Children of Israel that I command them saying..."²
9. The Torah states:
 - **Deuteronomy 4:2 HCSB** You must not add anything to what I command you or take anything away from it, so that you may keep the commands of the LORD your God I am giving you.
It is forbidden to add an Oral Law to the Torah, since it is the opinions of rabbis, not commands from God.
10. Since Joshua read from the Torah scroll every commandment Moses had given, it implies that Moses had not commanded an Oral Law, since Joshua couldn't have read from the Torah all the laws of Moses, if there also existed an Oral Law which contained additional commandments that weren't written in the Torah.
 - **Joshua 8:34-35 HCSB** Afterwards, Joshua read aloud all the words of the law--the blessings as well as the curses--according to all that is written in the book of the law. (35) There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read before the entire assembly of Israel, including the women, little children, and foreigners who were with them.

As the book of Proverbs states, wisdom can be found in the streets, on the hilltops, in the city gates, in the marketplace, and the doorways. Wisdom can be found anywhere by those who are seeking her. However, Adonaists believe that only Hashem's revealed Word can hold ultimate authority in our lives. All other writings and inyanim must be judged by that ultimate standard.

¹ 2Kings 22:8; 2Chronicles 34:15

² i.e. Exodus 7:2; 31:13; Numbers 33:51 etc.