



Unpicking the Ten Words

The Ten Commandments

PREFACE

Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible its contents. The contents of this instruction are based entirely on God's word the Bible, to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Irrespective of our current religious beliefs we can all agree that the Word of the God of Abraham is the medium by which all truth is defined and we must realise that, in its entirety, it is the ultimate source of authority. The information contained within these pages are primarily aimed at the three Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam but is not limited to these faiths. The word of Almighty God is for ALL nations and not one nation has the exclusive rights to its contents. (Genesis 22:18). If we take this attitude in our worship and are obedient to the creator of the universe we shall certainly be blessed. If we find in our studies that what we read in His word does not fit with what we believe then the error is with us and not God's word, if we truly love Almighty God we must be prepared to adjust our way of life in order to be approved by Him, just as His friend Abraham was.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His gift to us all... the Bible. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest for truth.

Numbers 6:24-26

INTRODUCTION

Those of us who are familiar with the Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam know that during the Exodus Almighty God YeHoVaH gave His instructions to the Hebrew nations at Mount Sinai, these became known as the Ten Words or Commandments. He also gave instructions in finer detail that focus on individual circumstances, laws that apply individually to Men, Women, Agriculture, Worship, Marriage, Sacrifice, Commerce and how we should conduct ourselves to be pleasing to our God and creator. There are 613 of these “mitzvot” which we are to observe detail the method of conduct that pleases our Father.

The Ten Words or Moral Laws, along with the 613 Mitzvot form what we recognize as the Torah (instructions) and refer to the first five books of the Tanakh (Hebrew scriptures or Old Testament). This little booklet aims to bring these Laws to the heart of the reader but I find the words “Law” and “Command” rather harsh a term, it implies oppression, reprisal and retribution. I prefer to use the term “Guide” for this is Fathers intention rather than beating of fists on the desk in a threatening display of supremacy and this is how I intend to present this information to you. In doing this I do not mean to lessen the consequences of the effects of ignoring the instructions, I am sure that, just by reading this guide you are reasonably serious about wanting to please Almighty God but you must also be aware of the consequences of disobeying His instructions as did our original parents did in Eden and we all know the disastrous consequences of their independent decision don’t we!

In this guide I will highlight the two choices that you can make that will certainly affect your future standing with the creator of the whole universe and dispel some of the myths regarding the torah that deny the fundamental principles of God’s instructions to us all. As you read this guide, I would ask you to be mindful that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is Almighty God, he does not change, His thoughts now are the thoughts He had in the beginning. Malachi 3:6; Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 102:25-27; Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:28; Psalm 90:2.

This little guide is by no means exhaustive, it presents to the reader some of the main points concerning the commandments but it is up to you, the reader, to test all things, to discern the truth and to discover from His word how He finds the way we worship Him acceptable, it may not be as you think.

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In this guide we will consider the following:

- What is the torah?
- Unpicking the commandments.
- Popular myths concerning God's Guide.

What is the Torah?

There can be no doubt that, those who have studied the Tanakh in any depth will realise that the first five books stand out as the most important works that יהוה (YeHoVaH) use to identify Himself with His human creation, if we were bereft of these five books it would be nigh on impossible for us to come to an understanding of the nature of our creator. The Tanakh is divided into three sections that give the TaNaKh it's Hebrew name, the Torah (law), Nevi'im (prophets) and Ketuvim (writings). These make up the body of the Hebrew scriptures, known commonly as the "Old" testament.

What makes any serious study of the Ten Commandments a little less than straight forward is the fact that there exist three versions depending on your religious persuasion. We will take the Hebrew (Jewish) version as our guide as it has been jealously guarded by God's chosen people since it was given to Moshe on Mt Sinai and, as such can be considered the most reliable, this also forms the basis of the account recorded in the Great Bible and all consequent bibles based on this version there is a minor textual difference with the word "murder" being replaced with "kill" which, although seemingly minor it has significant implications to the instruction concerning the punishment of capital crimes where a person takes the life of another without authority, in this case if a person is righteously judged as guilty the guilty party should be put to death, that is by divine council as instructed by Almighty God Himself. If the word "kill" were the operative word then it would be impossible for anyone to administer capital punishment to those found guilty of taking someone's life and prevent the administration of the pure justice of Almighty God Himself.

The third version of the ten commandments is the version that is observed by the Roman Catholic church. It is worthy of note that this does not apply to the Orthodox

1 - I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.

The Roman Catholic church removed the second commandment concerning images.

2 - You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

3 - Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

4 - Honour your father and your mother.

5 - You shall not kill.

6 - You shall not commit adultery.

7 - You shall not steal.

8 - You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

9 - You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.

10 - You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

*In order to maintain the correct number of commandments the Catholic church split the tenth commandment into two as shown. The original Hebrew 10th commandment reads: "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; **you shall not covet your neighbour's wife**, or his male slave, or his slave-girl, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything which belongs to your neighbour". They made the 9th commandment "**you shall not covet your neighbour's wife**".*

(Eastern) Catholic church. The reason for the change is quite obvious as both Western and Eastern Catholic churches rely heavily on icons and images in their theology and liturgy.

This is the condemning proof that the Roman catholic church took it upon themselves to change the inspired word of Almighty God in order to fit their idea of what the requirements of Almighty God should be. This along with changing the Sabbath day from its original 7th day to the 1st day is in direct violation of Deuteronomy 4:2 KJV: *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.* This highlights the gravity of changing the inspired words of Almighty God and is identified as sin as it is a transgression of the torah and that is the very definition of sin. 1John 3:4.

Most, if not all of the thousands of denominations and sects that comprise Christendom teach that the torah is a curse and that Christians are no longer obliged to keep the commandments of Almighty God as these were given to the Jews and not the “gentiles”. Unfortunately, this idea that the true followers of Yeshua do not have to keep the Written torah is a fallacy. Our master Yeshua was born into the house of David of the tribe of Judah, his twelve emissaries (Apostles) were from the tribes of Israel (Jacob) even the Apostle Sha’ul (Paul) identified himself as a “Hebrew of Hebrews from the tribe of Benjamin”. (Philippians 3:5).

Malachi 3:6-7 KJV For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. 7: Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

The Ten (*Moral*) Commandments that we see recorded in the Bible form the basis of all the 613 mitzvot (instructions) in the way we should conduct our lives if we truly desire to be acceptable to

Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we can be sure that all these instructions that were given to Moshe at Mt Sinai do not just apply to “Jews” as we in Christendom have been taught, they apply to ALL those who desire to follow Yeshua. No matter how Christendom tries to convince the laity that “Jesus” introduced a different manner of worship which is commonly called “replacement” theology as they tell us it replaced the old “Jewish” theology with a new theology that teaches that the followers of Yeshua do not have to keep the Written torah because he did it for us, this is untrue. To prove this for yourself may I suggest you read: Matthew 19:17; John 14: 15, 21. Yeshua kept the written torah perfectly John 15:10 and Yeshua’s commandments are his Fathers commandments as given in the torah. 1John 2:3-5; 1John 5:2,3; Revelation 12:17; 14:12. By reading these scriptures do they tell us, in all honesty that we as followers of Yeshua (Christians) are no longer required to keep the commandments? These are only a brief selection, there are many more scriptures that highlight the importance of keeping the instructions (Torah) of Almighty God and do not let anyone tell you otherwise as anyone who does is a liar and trying to keep you from the love of Almighty God as shown through His son Yeshua.

We can now see that the keeping of the Ten Commandments, along with the instructions in the torah is of utmost importance in our lives today. Can we keep all the torah? The answer to this is no, no one keeps all the torah, it is impossible for us as many of the commandments concern only priests whilst others pertain to women only and to farmers etc, as I am not a farmer a woman or a priest it is impossible for me to keep those

commandments that pertain only to them. But for those commands that do apply to us we are commanded to keep, things like the keeping of the set apart feast days and the keeping of the 7th day shabbat and to love Almighty God with all our heart, soul mind and strength. Mark 12:30. It is no use telling people that you love God, the Satan and his demons can do that! If you truly love God it will show in the fruit that you bare as you will keep His commandments.

Let us now dissect each of the commandments to draw the spiritual nutrition from their meaning, this is the beginning of drawing closer to our wonderful heavenly Father who wants us to get to know him.

As we discussed above, not even Yeshua himself kept ALL the commandments, it is impossible for a human being to keep all commandments as some are selective in their instructions for example, there are instructions for the priests (Levites) only so, if you are not a Levitical priest you cannot keep these laws, there are also instructions for women, farmers, financial professions etc, if you do not fall into any of these categories then you cannot keep the laws, I am not a farmer so the law's pertaining to farmers do not apply to me unless i become a farmer. Not ever Yeshua kept all the Torah but those pertaining to him he kept perfectly.

Commandment 1

Exodus 20:3: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

The essence of this commandment is highlighted in the scripture known as the "Shema" recorded at Deuteronomy 6:4: Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. The English word "Hear" is a translation of the Hebrew word שמע (Shema H8085) which means much more than just hear, in the Hebrew mindset it means "hear and obey". The shema ends with the English word "one", this is a translation of the Hebrew word אחד (Echad H259) which means that He is unique, there is no other like Him.

With the shema in mind we can clearly see what the rest of the first commandment means in context. When the Israelites were led out of Egyptian bondage they were well aware of the plethora of gods they encountered whilst in captivity, they were entering other lands where many false gods of wood and stone were being worshipped, this was not to be done by His people, they were instructed not to copy the worship of those pagan nations and try to worship Almighty God יהוה YeHoVaH in the way they did, this instruction is recorded in Deuteronomy 12:4. But, how is a god defined? It can be a false deity as the gentiles (pagans) worship but it can also be anything that a person holds in higher esteem than Almighty God such as wealth, science, immorality and nature, in fact your god can be anything that you want to create for yourself and that is the problem because it is this god that you start to worship and pay homage too, often without realising the fact as we become more and more desensitised.

It is most important that we get this clear in our limited minds that it is impossible to define Almighty God in terms of human understanding, there is not one person, irrespective of how many letters behind their name that can ever possess the knowledge that enabled this amazing universe to be spoken into existence, the Supreme Being that we call Almighty God is outside the space/time continuum, He told us His Personal name

“YeHoVaH” and He had no creator, he is the very essence of infinity which our puny minds can never comprehend.

What this first commandment is telling us is that we must not put ANYTHING above our desire to worship the Father who created us, when I say “anything” I mean anything in its fullest sense, it is complete devotion to Him for life, just as Yeshua had and still does. Almighty God takes precedence over anything in the universe, Parents, Wife, Children, relatives, ancestors, material items, wealth, social standing, popular theories and even yourself, that is what “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” truly means.

Commandment 2

Exodus 20:4-6 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; ⁶And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

This commandment is pretty much self-explanatory, the word “graven” (H6458; an idol: - carved [graven] image). No matter how we interpret this commandment the use of ANY likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth and is used in any way in worship is an abomination to Almighty God and carries a terrible curse for those who disobey this commandment. Unfortunately, Christendom is rife with such things as these. The word “image” can also be extended to the many icons that cover the walls of religious buildings all over the world, although they are obviously not “carved” images they are still in the context of carved images as they are venerated in a similar manner. Almighty God tells us in verse 5 that we should not bow down to them, nor serve them but even using them to worship Almighty God is an abomination, those who have truly come to know Almighty God do not need such visual stimulus to worship Almighty God YeHoVaH, they already focus on Him in their heart.



As we have discussed earlier, the Roman Catholic church took it upon themselves to edit the ten commandments in order to support their use of images and icons in their liturgy.

Ask yourself, is this right? Can humans alter the word of Almighty God to suit their interpretation and catechisms of their form of religious belief? Do you believe that Almighty God approves of their changes?



In order to understand how Almighty God feels about this issue we must turn to His word, something we should all do when we have a question concerning His word for in the Bible we have all that we require for arriving at an accurate understanding of the thoughts of our creator. So, what does the bible tell us? Lets examine some scriptures to ascertain how Almighty God YeHoVaH feels...

1. **Deuteronomy 4:2** You shall not add to the word that I speak to you, neither shall you take away from it: keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.
2. **Deuteronomy 12:32** What I command thee, that only do thou to the Lord: neither add anything, nor diminish.
3. **Proverbs 30:6** Add not any thing to his words, lest thou be reprov'd and found a liar:

These scriptures make known how Almighty God views the changing of His instructions, it is quite clear from these portions of scripture that Almighty God takes a very dim view on those who willfully take it upon themselves to edit His inspired word, there is no in history that has the authority to edit His word and there never will be any being except Almighty God Himself that has the authority to alter the commandments of Almighty God, this is heresy of the highest order.

The 3rd second commandment means EXACTLY what it says in the original form... “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth...” so as the worship them.

Commandment 3

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Simply put, Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain means that we should not use the highest name in the universe in a derogatory manner. Many people today do this regularly, most do not even know they are doing it because it becomes a figure of speech. We should not use His name in a curse or in a worthless verbal filler between sentences, this is frowned upon and carries a stern warning for the perpetrators.

The original Hebrew scrolls recorded the personal name of the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. יהוה Remember, Hebrew is written and read from right to left with the consonants Yod, Hey, Vav, Hey with the vowel pointers shma (e), cho'lam (o) and kamatz (a) rendering the pronunciation in English as YeHoVaH. During the development of rabbinic Judaism, the rabbis did not write the vowels and just used the consonants YHWH which is called the “tetragrammaton”, this prevented the pronunciation of the divine name just in case anyone accidentally use it in a worthless manner. During the Roman occupation even the tetragrammaton was removed from all Jewish literature and substituted with the words “Hashem”, “Adonai” or “Elohim”. In the ensuing translations such as the Bishops, Geneva and later the King James 1611 Authorised bibles the tetragrammaton was replaced by “the LORD”. It was the Romans that actually banned the pronunciation of the divine name and was punishable by death if it was used.

Is it the will of Almighty God YeHoVaH not to have His name used? Absolutely not, in fact it is imperative we use His Name in the way He approves. We all have a name that unequally identifies us to others, the same is true with our heavenly Father. It is right that we use His name when we pray, if we just use any of the synonyms, we could be praying to anyone. If we pray “god have mercy on me” which god are we praying to? By using His name we direct our prayers to the one true God YeHoVaH and, through His son Yeshua we can be sure He hears every word. In this way we are using His name in the proper manner in a way which He approves and it brings Him joy when we recognize Him and, in Hebrew YeHoVaH means “He who causes to be”.

Commandment 4

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

This is one of the most important commandments which was directly sanctified by YeHoVaH Himself in Genesis 2:3 “***And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made***”. There are seven days to the week, the day commonly identified as “Sunday” is day one. In modern times days run from midnight to midnight in advance. The Biblical day as indicated in the Genesis 1:5 “***And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day***”. Runs from sundown (evening) to sundown 24 hours later.

When we consider the divine importance of this set apart day it is imperative that we get the day right, the Genesis account categorically states that God blessed the seventh day which, according to the Bible commences at sundown on the sixth day to sundown on the seventh day which, in modern times would be sundown on Friday to Sundown on Saturday, this command by Almighty God Himself cannot be changed and is still in force today. It is worthy of note that it was not until the Council of Laodicea, in the 4th century AD, that the non-observance of the Sabbath was officially approved and replaced with Sunday, following Emperor Constantine's Blue Laws in 321CE. It was changed in reverence to the Sun god, this is another reason for the “halo’s” usually drawn on paintings and icons of “holy” people.

No matter what any man says is the reason for changing the sabbath day, the fact is that no one has the divine authority to edit ANY of the commandments that were given to all people of all nations ad infinitum. To celebrate the Shabbat (Sabbath) day on any other day other than the God ordained day is sacrilege and sin, you can be sure that it does not please the Father to disobey His commandments however worthy they might sound, there is only the right or wrong way.

Commandment 5

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

This commandment shows how YeHoVaH highly regards the family, what a loving heavenly Father we have who cares for us and wants us to be happy. It is He who introduced marriage between a man and woman, the purpose of which is to procreate and fill the world He created and care for it but unfortunately, we have fallen short of His expectations in this area, but that is another story. Let us look at the account at Genesis 1:27, 28 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth”.*

This is where our Father blessed the union between male and female, it is a commandment to “be fruitful”, to procreate, replenish the earth and subdue it together. The man and woman were to form the closest bond possible between two humans, only the bond between Almighty God and humankind was to be superior. The man and woman were to bond together and become one flesh with the blessing of Almighty God, the two were to be together for all time and raise children to fill the beautiful world He had created. This was the original plan.

There are four recognized definitions of the word Love which are grossly misunderstood in today’s society, the four are:

1. **Storge** – This is the love that we have for our family, our father and mother, children and close relatives. It is described as the most natural, emotive, and widely diffused of loves: It is natural in that it is present without coercion, emotive because it is the result of fondness due to familiarity, and most widely diffused because it pays the least attention to those characteristics deemed "valuable" or worthy of love and, as a result, is able to transcend most discriminating factors.
2. **Philia** – This can be identified as brotherly love or love for your neighbour, this is the type of love that Yeshua was talking about when he told us to love our neighbour as we do ourselves. It is the love that David and Sha’ul’s son Johnathan shared together.
3. **Eros** – This is the special love that is to be shared exclusively for man and wife, this is the most intimate love that bonds the man and woman together in procreation. It is this love that drives the man to leave his parents and cleave to his wife in Matthew 19:4-5 “...*Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5And said, for this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh...*” Erotic love is to be shared only between a human male and female, anything else is an abomination to the Father.

4. **Agape** – This is the love that is the most beautiful of all, it is unconditional love, the love that our heavenly Father shows to all mankind. We are created in His image which means that we are created to reflect His glory. It is described in the King James bible as “Charity”. This selfless love is seen as the greatest of the four loves and comes to us all when we have the Ruach ha’Kodesh, it is a beautiful gift from our Father. It is also the love that Sha’ul (Paul) talks of in 1Corinthians 13:1 – 8.

Children should exercise Storge love to their parents, this is the right way to honour their parents, this entails being obedient to both father and mother, showing them respect at all times, this works both ways too, parents should love their children, teaching them the torah of our Father for the parents are also children of YeHoVaH and should show Him the respect He deserves, just as Yeshua did. When we reflect these Godly attributes we can be sure that Father will be good to His word.

Commandment 6

Exodus 20:13 You shall not murder/kill.

Some translations render this commandment as “You shall not kill” whilst others read “You shall not murder”, which one is correct?

To contextually arrive at Fathers view when He gave Moshe this commandment we must first define the words “Kill” and “Murder”.

The “Merriam Webster” dictionary defines the word “**Kill**” as “To deprive of life” and “Cause the death of”.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) tells us the crime of **murder** is committed, where a person:

- Of sound mind and discretion (i.e., sane, compos mentis);
- unlawfully kills (i.e., not self-defence or other justified killing);
- any reasonable creature (human being);
- in being (born alive and breathing through its own lungs - *Rance v Mid-Downs Health Authority* (1991) 1 All ER 801 and AG Ref No 3 of 1994 (1997) 3 All ER 936;
- under the King's Peace (not in war-time);
- with intent to kill or cause grievous bodily harm (GBH).

From these two definitions we can clearly see that there is a difference between these two important words. The CPS definition of “Murder” in a nutshell is to UNLAWFULLY KILL another reasonable creature (a creature with the power of reason i.e., Human being) whilst the definition of “Kill” is to cause the death of or deprive of life of a living creature. Although both words have a similar meaning, we see that murder is the unlawful act of killing another human being.

In a contextual sense, we must consider the biblical law when we wish to receive our Fathers thoughts on this important matter. There are many punishments recorded in God’s inspired word that require that one found guilty of the unlawful killing of another person requires that guilty person to pay the ultimate price for their unlawful action they are to be put to death by legal means, this is a just retribution for blood has been spilt and the balance must be paid by the perpetrator of the crime.

There are other laws such as adultery, blasphemy, homicide, striking one's parents, kidnapping, cursing one's parents, witchcraft and divination, bestiality, worshiping other gods, violating the Sabbath, child sacrifice, incest, and male homosexual intercourse. (There is no biblical legal punishment for lesbians however the context is the biblical context is the same). These are all noted as worthy of capital punishment. To many in today’s society this seems overly harsh but the opposite is true in these instances, it shows the lovingkindness of Fathers justice system that comforts and favours the families of the victim(s) of the deceased person(s) with whom Father shows His favour. We must not confuse capital punishment as murder for it is God’s divine law.

From this information we can see that the most appropriate rendering of the 6th commandment would be “You shall not murder”.

Commandment 7

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Inclusion into the commandments shows how Father views this abominable practice. The first mention of the union of male and female is recorded in Genesis 2:24 *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”*. The act of adultery is defined as having extramarital sexual intercourse with another human being, usually but not limited to heterosexual relationship. Marriage is a covenant between three parties, the male, female and Almighty God Himself and lasts until the death of any of the persons of the covenant, therefore, in Fathers eyes the union is, by divine witness, is a union between the parties is to be for life. However, there were certain instances where this divine covenant could be broken and rendered null and void, as would be the case concerning either party committing adultery where the married person and the extra maternal party were to face capital punishment. (*See command 6 above*). In their hardheartedness the Israelite nation were given certain instances where a “letter of divorce” could be issued if either of the parties were to act in a manner that was fundamentally against the expectations of marital life but it must be remembered that Father HATES divorce. Malachi 2:16 ERV *The LORD, the God of Israel, says, "I hate divorce, and I hate the cruel things that men do. So protect your spiritual unity. Don't cheat on your wife."*

One of the most prolific examples of adultery is recorded in 2Samuel 11:1-27 where king David took and “lay” with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hitite. This was not just a “one-night-stand”, Bathsheba became “with child” by David which caused David to panic. At first, he tried to arrange for Uriah to return to Bathsheba so it would look to others that Bathsheba was carrying Uriah’s child, when this didn’t work out quite the way David had planned he sought the death of Uriah by sending a message to his army commander Joab to place Uriah in the most intense area of battle where he would surely be killed thereby releasing Bathsheba from her marriage vows to Uriah and allowing her to become the wife of David. Although David did not kill Uriah directly, he saw to it that Uriah’s chance for survival in battle became almost non-existent so David could be said to have been instrumental in Uriah’s death.

Did David escape retribution for this act of gross immorality? Absolutely not, the bible records that the first child of David and Bathsheba did not survive birth and, although David repented for his gross sin that is recorded in Psalm 51, he suffered for the rest of his life from the most disturbing family issues.

In today’s society, as in the biblical days, there is much promiscuity which is unfortunately becoming even more widespread. When we look at the historical record and compare it to today’s situation we soon find that society today is every bit the same if not worse than the situation that was prevalent in the cities of the plains that Father destroyed for their iniquity and that is the shocking truth. Gentiles (non-Israelite) are married on a whim and without full and accurate knowledge of the heavy responsibility that comes with marriage, they rely on the thought that, if I get unhappy with the one I married I can always get a divorce and marry someone else. This is a very dangerous mindset, as we learned above, marriage, in God’s eyes, is for life, we may get a divorce in a secular sense but, in God’s eyes we remain in the bond of marriage until either one dies. There is only one condition where Father will accept divorce is that of adultery.

Proverbs 6:32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

There is another act of adultery that is not so apparent that is recorded in the bible, not many gentiles are aware of the meaning of the events that occurred at Mt Sinai between Almighty God YeHoVaH and the people that followed Moshe out of Egypt (Mitzraim in the Hebrew Tanakh). The whole event that happened there at Sinai was much more than just the giving of the commandments of Almighty God to Moshe and the instructions on worship that was acceptable to Him as we shall now see.

What happened at Sinai with Almighty God and the people He led out of Egypt through the hands of Moshe? The truth of the matter is, when you study what happened at Sinai we soon come to realise that the sum of the events that happened at Sinai amounted to a marriage covenant between Almighty God and those who He led out of Egypt, the sons of Jacob (Israel) and all the non-Israelites that had seen the immeasurable power of YeHoVaH and joined themselves to the nation of Israel, they became “grafted in”

(Romans 11:11-24) just as those who join themselves to the master Yeshua (Jesus) are grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel today, ceasing to be gentiles (pagans) and returning to Almighty God and becoming obedient to Him.

Unfortunately, the Israelites broke this amazing marriage contract almost before the ink had dried by instruction Aaron to fashion a calf of gold for them to worship and therefore breaking the first and second commandments, the nation of Israel had committed adultery to Almighty God and, as a consequence He was going to destroy them all there and then if it had not been for Moshe stepping in and becoming the savior to the nation of Israel. Thus the idea of the Brit ha'Dashah (New or Renewed Covenant) came to be.

There is much more concerning this subject and it forms a good study into why we love our Father, Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Commandment 8

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Stealing and theft is covered in the moral law, in Fathers eyes it is sin to take anything belonging to a neighbour without permission, the desire to take something that doesn't legally belong to you is defined as stealing. Stealing is not limited to material goods or money, it also has spiritual connotations too for example, murder as discussed in commandment 6 when a person steals another person's life or breaking commandment 7 when a person commits adultery and steals another man's wife, would you say that this is stealing too? In the same context, would seeking your own glory be stealing from Almighty God? We will do good to remember that whilst we are on this earth there is not one individual either in the past, present or future that actually owns anything as all things belong to Almighty God and as we pass through life, we only borrow what we have, a sobering thought isn't it!

In our fallen state it is normal for us to desire all the good things in life, there are many things that we look at that those wealthier than us possess, it is normal because that is how we were designed, we are not supposed to suffer and be poor, our loving father designed a wonderful world where we could all benefit from it's riches in a manner that it was designed. When the first couple disobeyed Almighty God, it brought into the world something that the world did not have, that is sin and sin is defined as disobeying YeHoVaH's commandments as recorded in 1 John 3:4 "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law*". When I consider this it always makes me think of what the Master Yeshua told us in the parable of the man who stored up things for his future as recorded in Luke 12:16-21. Stealing is the result of our lust to own something that we want, the man in Yeshua's parable was a rich fool, he only saw material things in a material world but, as followers of Yeshua we are not spiritually in this world, we are a peculiar people, set apart from the politics and religions of the world of mankind and as such we recognize the meaning of Matthew 6:19, 20. Those who steal show that they do not possess the right heart condition, we may say we love Yeshua and his Father but when we do not possess the Ruach ha'Kodesh the fruitage of our heart is manifest irrespective of what we say we believe. Yeshua said "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*". When we desire

to store up treasures in heaven, we show that we have the right heart condition, having this spirit will prevent us from breaking this commandment. Yeshua is not teaching us that to have nice things in this world is not a sin just as being poor does not qualify the poor for special favour, it just warns all of us against avarice so we may avail ourselves of the promise.

When the opposer lied to Eve he opened the way for him to steal the prospect of eternal life in a paradise earth, his theft was accomplished when Adam broke Father's commandment by his disobedience thus signing the death warrant of all mankind.

Commandment 9

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

To bear false witness is one of the most insidious acts that anyone could do, usually it is practiced for material or monetary gain, the pharisees attempted to utilize this tactic many times in an effort to trap Yeshua so they could accuse him of a sin punishable by death. Satan (Hebrew for "accuser" or "adversary", and is derived from a verb meaning primarily "to obstruct, oppose") used this tactic in the first lie when he implied that our loving heavenly Father YeHoVaH lied to them.

Matthew 5:17-20 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20: For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Many people do not realise the depth and implications of the true definition of "bear false witness" really means, apart from the obvious we can also bare false witness when we deliberately mislead our neighbour into taking the wrong path in our worship of the God who created the whole universe, this situation is more accurately applied to those false teachers teach that Yeshua started a new religion, this is known as "Replacement Theology" where they separate the Tanakh (Old Testament) from the Brit ha'Dashah (New Covenant/Testament),

they teach that the sect known as "Christians" are no longer subjected to God's law, of which these commandments are part, this is tantamount to this warning of bearing false witness, they bear false witness when they teach that Yeshua or any of the Apostles taught that "Christians" are not "under the law (torah)", according to Matthew 5:17-20 Yeshua came to fulfill the law that is, to make it complete. In many instances he elevated the commandments such as the Adultery Matthew 5:27, 28 and hating our neighbour Matthew 5:21,22; 1John 3:15, these accounts certainly do not give the reader the impression that the followers of Yeshua do not have to keep the commandments of his Father after all, he himself kept them perfectly.

Commandment 10

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Coveting is appropriate for the last of the ten “words”. According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, the word “Covet” implies strong envious desire to own something that doesn’t belong to them. Although we see many things that we think would be nice to have, to covet them means to take this natural observation further until it becomes an obsession and could also mean breaking the first commandment. To desire something to the degree of coveting means replacing the worship of Almighty God with the thing that is the focus of one’s desire. As we previously discussed in the last commandment, it is just as Yeshua warned.

Covetousness is very similar to lust and desire, when it comes to fruition it bears sin in its wake. Usually, covetousness starts with a casual look at something that you find attractive, in this day and age it could be anything from the stylish living, large house, executive sports car etc... If we dwell on this, we start to plan how we could avail ourselves of such luxury items and then it becomes an obsession and this usually leads to committing a gross sin. Yeshua tells us how to avoid such situations, his description is pretty extreme but it is a metaphor to put across the seriousness of this condition.

Matthew 5:29-30 And if thy right eye offends thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Gehenna. ³⁰And if thy right hand offends thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Gehenna.

When all said and done, we are all humans and, as such we all sin, we do well to remember that there is not one human being that is good, no, not one! (Psalm 14:3; Romans 3:10). There are those who believe that it won’t happen to them, unfortunately this is a dangerous state as it lulls one into a false sense of security, as human hearts are treacherous and will mislead us into thinking the thoughts of men. Jeremiah 17:9. All of us, irrespective of our social standing, religious prowess or how “good” we consider ourselves to be, we are all subject to inherent sin and our inclination is to sin, we have all broken at least one of these commandments, those who think they haven’t broken any of the laws are deceiving themselves.

Those people that do not consider themselves sick will not seek a physician, this is the message of Yeshua.

The Commandments in Today's Society.

Looking back in history there will be no one who doubts that the world we live in today vastly differs from the world conditions at the time of Moshe. The psyche of the people at the time the Israelites left Egypt differs greatly from the “enlightened” social status of today’s world. Let us be absolutely clear, I can only speak for the Abrahamic based religions as all other religions that do not recognise the Almighty God who created the whole universe fall into the category of gentile (pagan) belief systems. Some may ask “what makes you believe that you have the correct religion?” The answer to this question is found in what a particular religious belief teaches, which effects the fruit it bears, most people are drawn to a particular religious system that best suits their concept of what they believe that is the truth when compared with their individual lifestyle.

The human need to be able to explain everything is quite overwhelming, let’s face it, most humans are “control freaks” that create their own individual realities, from this stem the misleading theories such as “Evolution”, “Big Bang”, “Immortal Soul” and many other theories. We must always remember that these are unproven theories that will always remain theories as they are unprovable, unlike creation that is proven in the fact that we exist. Which leads us to question whether there is a God that created everything.

In the human world all our thoughts and ideas are based on a finite mindset where everything that exists MUST have a beginning and an end, our minds are locked in a narrow sphere of existence where all things move in a cyclic motion, even the concept of time itself is locked into this perceived process. Many of those in science find it difficult, if not impossible to accept the idea that there might be something that exceeds outside our human perspective of what reality really is. It is beyond our capacity to understand an entity that falls outside the parameters that we consider the mechanism of the time/space continuum. This causes us to ask the question “Who created God?” that straight answer to this is “no one”. It is our understanding that, if God exists then God HAS to have a creator and this method of reasoning forms the basis for all our misunderstanding of who/what God is.

It is most difficult to attempt to explain the unexplainable in human terms, we must always bear in mind that Almighty God is outside the space/time continuum, He is not governed by what we would consider to be the “laws of nature” for what we identify as “the laws of nature” were defined by Almighty God Himself. It is He who gave the laws that made it possible for the universe to exist. It is a sobering thought that, when you consider that EVERYTHING we have today has been the direct result of scientific discovery, mankind has never actually made anything that has not existed in the universe, all our possessions are the result of our discovering what has always been here and its laws were God given, we cannot even define what life really is let alone what a woman or a man is.

No matter what you believe there is no escaping the fact that all things in the universe that exist are the result of an immeasurably supreme designer, by its very existence all that we perceive proves the existence of such a creator and designer we know as Almighty God YeHoVaH. (He who causes to be).

The human race live in fear of things that they feel out of their control, it is a human trait that, when we cannot explain something we usually make something up in the effort to explain the unexplainable, they wish to portray themselves as all-knowing and all powerful, they do not want to accept that there is a power in the universe that surpasses their understanding for, if they admit what is blatantly obvious and give the rightful glory to the one that actually brought the universe and all its laws into existence they become responsible to the one that created all things and that is something that the opposer and accuser cannot countenance.

These ten words are given to ALL the human race, they are not just for a certain section of the religious society, they are given to us all and they apply to us all in today's society just as much as they did when Almighty God gave them to Moshe, along with the 613 itemised instructions on Mt Sinai. To break any one of these commandments, however slight you think it may be is sin, and the wages sin pays is death. (Romans 6:23). God does not change, does not provide updates to His laws as you would expect a computer program, God's laws (torah) is perfect, you cannot improve on perfection, these are not the laws of mankind and no man has the authority to change the laws of Almighty God nor the context in which they are given.

Keeping the Laws

Matthew 19:17 "...If you would enter life, keep the commandments."

There are those that say that the commandments are outdated and its time for them to be brought into today's society in order to make them more relevant to our present biblical and theocratic understanding. We would do good to remember that it is not what we understand to be the truth, it is the giver of the commandments that decrees their importance and relevance.

It is a sad fact that, out of the three Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Islam and Christianity it is only the Christian denominations that pay little or no regard to the laws of Almighty God. They are under the misconception that Christians do not have to observe the laws of Almighty God that is the torah, this forms the basis of replacement theology, erroneously believing that Yeshua (Jesus) introduced a new religion with a new set of laws and it comes as a shock when they realise that Yeshua and all his disciples were of the Hebrew faith, Yeshua himself was from the tribe of Judah. Let me make this absolutely clear, Yeshua expressly **DID NOT** introduce a new religion, he came to redeem the lost sheep of Israel, there are no believing gentiles, this is a contradictory of terms, the word gentile means "one that does not accept the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" in other words a PAGAN! By definition, you cannot have a believing pagan.

There is only ONE true people of Almighty God, these are the people that desire to be obedient to the one true God, in God's eyes there are no Jews, Muslims or Christians, there is no need to be... those that truly desire to be obedient to the Almighty God that created all things and brought life to a dead universe are as one with each other as they are at one in the Mashiah and therefore at one with our wonderful loving Father, the sovereign king of the universe that He created. Those that accept the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and are baptised in the name of Yeshua are no longer Jewish, Muslim,

Christian or Pagan but become an integral part of the Israelite nation, we are the “lost sheep” of Israel that Yeshua came to redeem.

I put it to you that, there is nothing outdated with the instructions that Almighty God gave to Moshe at Mt Sinai, what is wrong is our progressive degeneration from the perfect laws that were given, the problem is not the law but that today’s lifestyle does not fit into the guidance that the law offers, it is not the law that needs changing but our lives need to change to become compliant with God’s eternal law. This forms the basis for the salvation of all humans but remember, God is not one to be mocked, His mercy, grace and lovingkindness has limits. No one is saved until their name is written indelibly into the lamb’s book of life. Matthew 24:13 “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”. 2 Corinthians 5:10. We must all eventually appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things **done** in his body, according to that **he hath done**, whether it be good or bad. Do not believe that it is through grace alone by faith alone that means salvation, as the scriptures clearly indicate, you will receive judgement by the precedence of God’s law.

KEEP ALL HIS LAWS that apply to you!

Anyone who teaches that the commandments of Almighty God are not legally binding today and that Yeshua kept all the torah perfectly so we do not have to is treading on very thin ice. It is also common knowledge in Christendom that the Apostle Sha’ul (Paul) taught that the followers of Yeshua, whether Jew or non-Jew, do not have to obey the commandments, nothing could be further from the truth and anyone that teaches that the torah is no longer legally valid is teaching lies, do not believe them. Yeshua warns against such teaching very clearly as recorded in Matthew 5:17-20. Let us quickly turn to Sha’ul, did this prolific “Apostle to the Gentiles” really teach against the torah? Let us examine the scriptures in order to find the truth as it is always best to rely on God’s word instead of our personal understanding. Firstly, what is often missed, either by error or design is that, in the early first century the Pharisees were following two torah’s, the written (as given to Moshe at Mt Sinai) and the “oral” torah that was developed whilst in captivity in Babylon by the Pharisaic sect of Judaism. It is of vital importance that we are aware of this fact and this is still the case in rabbinic Judaism today. It is this “oral” torah with all its extra (non-biblical) laws that Yeshua was so vehemently against and this is the underlying reason why these Pharisaic religious leaders were screaming for Yeshua’s death.

With this in mind let us now examine another Pharisaic leader and one who was earmarked for a position in the prestigious Sanhedrin council, I am talking of course about Sha’ul of Tarsus, an exceedingly knowledgeable Pharisaic Jew of the Yeshiva (torah school) of the renowned Gamaliel (who was the great grandson of the renowned Hillel). Let’s face it, in matters of the torah, if Sha’ul did not know it then it was probably not worth knowing anyway. Sha’ul describes himself so eloquently in Philippians 3:5. The Brit ha’Dashah records Sha’ul’s zeal for the Pharisaic law (oral torah) through his persecution of the Apostles and followers of Yeshua until his enlightenment on the road to Damascus which is also adequately recorded in the Brit ha’Dashah. In the account we read that Yeshua appeared to Sha’ul and physically blinded him and a man called Ananias was

instructed to find Sha'ul and restore his blindness. This “blindness” was not just physical but, even the great Sha'ul of Tarsus was spiritually blind at that time, just as the rabbinic Jews are today. It must be said that, although Sha'ul accepted Yeshua as the king and kohen Gadol (high priest) he himself followed so closely in Yeshua's footsteps, he remained an Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin all the days of his life and kept the (written) torah throughout his walk with Yeshua just as all the followers of the Master Rabbi Yeshua did. The writings of Sha'ul make up a good two thirds of the Brit ha'Dashah, this shows the importance of his work in spreading the good news far and wide. Like all the Apostles, Sha'ul was chosen by Yeshua himself although he had no special privileges over the other Apostles, he just did his job like the rest of the Apostles, with tenacity, love and humility. Sha'ul's knowledge of scripture and tradition made him the obvious choice to carry the “new” or, more accurately named “renewed” covenant to the Israelite nation that were scattered throughout the known world of the time and also to the ones outside God's covenant (gentiles/pagans) that heard the message for the first time and became torah obedient as they desired to follow Yeshua. (The New or Renewed covenant is recorded in Jeremiah 31:33 *“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people”*).

It is clear from the inspired words in the Brit ha'dashah that Sha'ul taught and encouraged all people that were baptised in the name of Yeshua to study and obey the commandments/instructions of Almighty God as he knew that this would prepare them to enter the kingdom of Almighty God. To learn the requirements of God's kingdom is not an unreasonable request, if we were to emigrate to a different country, we would be expected to know and obey the laws of that country we were moving too so as to show ourselves worthy of entry to that country and abide by its laws and statutes. It is also reasonable to assume that the same applies to entry into God's Kingdom, that is why we must learn His torah (laws and instructions) which would qualify us to become citizens of His kingdom. If we can keep His torah in this depraved world we live in today we can be sure that, when all things are made new, we will have the right mindset to follow His laws in His new kingdom.

Those that have been brought up in the Christian denominations have been spoon fed many erroneous teachings that are not found in God's word, one of the main errors is the teaching that Sha'ul (Paul) taught his own version of Yeshua's message, thereby starting a new religion... is this correct? **Absolutely NOT!!!** And there is confirmation of this in the Brit ha'Dashah by the pen of the Apostle Peter:

2 Peter 3:15-18 *“...even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; ¹⁶As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. ¹⁷Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. ¹⁸But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen”*.

In his second letter, Peter admonishes his “beloved” brother Sha’ul and brings out a most important prophesy concerning the understanding of Sha’ul’s writings. We must remember that Sha’ul was a highly educated man, he spoke several languages and was more than adequately aquatinted with religious traditions, he was also chosen by Yeshua himself to carry the gospel to both Jews and Pagans (gentiles) in distant lands. The message that Sha’ul carried was the same as the message Yeshua taught, in all his ministry Sha’ul never once deviated from the truth that he had been taught by Yeshua during his sojourn into Arabia after his encounter and enlightenment at Damascus. We can be absolutely sure that, by his zeal for Almighty God, Sha’ul applied the same burning zeal he once had for rabbinic Judaism when he transferred that zeal to the truth of the Gospel and we can be as equally sure that he did not teach anything different than what the master told him, as did all the other Apostles and followers of Yeshua. It should be noted that Sha’ul was not “converted” he remained a Jew for all his life, just as his and our Master Yeshua. The noun “Christian” did not exist at that time.

So, where did this gossip originate that teaches that Sha’ul introduces another religion contrary to the teachings of Yeshua? Before I answer that question, I would like to draw your attention to the cited scripture at 2Peter 3:15-18 and in particular the words shown in bold text. It doesn’t take a genius to realise that, whoever hatched this rumor was indeed ignorant of scripture, they obviously did not read the words of Sha’ul himself recorded in Galatians 1:8 when speaking of any teaching that did not teach the gospel of Yeshua, he included himself and the other Apostles when he said *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed”*. If Sha’ul preached another gospel his own words would surely condemn him.

As time passed the original Apostles started to fall asleep in death the sect of Judaism which was identified as “the Way” was gradually infiltrated by the followers that were originally gentiles (pagans), these are the “unlearned and unstable” that Peter mentioned in his second letter, they were mostly ignorant of the instructions that Almighty God gave to Moshe in Mt Sinai and they were also ignorant of the difference between the “oral” and “written” torah’s that the Pharisaic traditions observed. As was the case with Yeshua, the Apostles rejected the “traditions of men” as taught in the oral torah but the newly (self)appointed leaders were obviously unaware of the two torah’s and this added to the growing tension between rabbinic Judaism and the Way.

After the last Apostle John died the Apostolic era passed into history, the followers

Founder	Dates	Name of Movement	Type of Heresy
Simon Magus	1st century		Gnostic
Valentinus	2nd century		Gnostic
Marcion	c. 85-c. 160 A.D.		Gnostic
Montanus	c. 156 A.D.		Schismatic
Mani	216 - 276 A.D.	Manichaeism	Gnostic
Donatus	c. 314 A.D.		Schismatic
Arius	c. 250 - 336 A.D.	Arianism	Schismatic
Pelagius	died 418? A.D.	Pelagianism	Schismatic
Nestorius	died 440? A.D.	Nestorianism	

of Yeshua that were associated with “the Way” had become known as “Christian”, a derogatory term first used in Syrian Antioch that seemed to stick. The influx of ex-gentiles increased on a logarithmic scale which soon outnumbered the Jewish believers and these

brought with them much extra religious baggage such as Neo-Platonism and many other philosophies.

To these “Church Fathers” as they were called the newly evolving Christian church sought to distance itself from its Hebrew roots and this led the way to dispensationalism and replacement theology, in essence these ex-pagan church fathers hijacked the gospel and used their ignorance of Sha’ul to further their separation from its messianic Jewish beginnings and in the mid-4th century Christendom, as we know it today was born.

The 613 Mitzvot

The Ten Commandments as given to Moshe at Mt Sinai are the outline for the principle of the way we should live. Along with this outline YeHoVaH gave us 613 Mitzvot which detail the way we should keep these commandments as they split the commandments up into their constituent elements:

Sub Headings of the 613 Mitzvot

God	Property and Property Rights
Torah	Criminal Laws
Signs and Symbols	Punishment and Restitution
Prayer and Blessings	Prophecy
Love and Brotherhood	Idolatry, Idolaters and Idolatrous Practices
The Poor and Unfortunate	Agriculture and Animal Husbandry
Treatment of Gentiles	Clothing
Marriage, Divorce and Families	The Firstborn
Forbidden Relations	Kohanim and Levites
Times and Seasons	T'rumah, Tithes and Taxes
Dietary Laws	The Temple, the Sanctuary and Sacred Objects
Business Practices	Sacrifices and Offerings
Employees, Servants and Slaves	Ritual Purity and Impurity
Vows, Oaths and Swearing	Lepers and Leprosy
The Sabbatical and Jubilee Years	The King
The Court and Judicial Procedure	Nazarites
Injuries and Damages	Yeshua's Body and Blood
Wars	

These are the subheadings of the 613 Mitzvot which the ten commandments headline, they contain the necessary methods by which we observe the commandments in order to be accepted by Almighty God. As you can see by the list, our Father covers all the important areas of life.

Can we keep all the commandments? The answer to this question is of course not, there has never been anyone that has kept all the commandments, not even the master Yeshua himself. That might come as a shock as Yeshua kept all the commandments that were applicable to him however, there are some mitzvot that only pertain to women, priests, farmers etc. so it is impossible for a person to keep all the laws.

There are some mitigating circumstances that are applicable today, one of them is the absence of a temple where many of the rituals were performed. Tithing has now ceased to be required as this was in support of the Aaronic priesthood that served in the temple. The laws of atonement which required blood sacrifices has now been superseded since the sacrificial death of Yeshua. God's law states that, to atone for sins blood must be spilled. Prior to Yeshua the Hebraic law demanded that, once a year the whole nation of Jews gathered at the temple on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) where the nation could be redeemed from their sin and start afresh.

When Yeshua ha'Mashiach gave his perfect life, his precious blood replaced that of the blood of animals and perfectly balanced the scales of justice once and for all time for all the human race that will accept Yeshua as King and Kohen Gadol (High Priest). If animal sacrifices were to resume in a future temple it would show gross disrespect for the ultimate sacrifice of the son of Almighty God and would only serve to anger Him further.

A Question of Salvation

Those of us who have had a taste of Protestant Christendom will know the doctrine of salvation and grace by faith alone (Sola fide). This forms the basic theology of most, if not all the non-Catholic denominations. It is primarily based on the scripture recorded at Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast"*. However, like the text of many of Sha'ul's writings they misunderstand his meaning, the context of Sha'ul's writing is found in the very next verse... Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"*.

Let us examine some other scriptures in order to test this doctrine...

Romans 2:6 *Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

1 Peter 1:17 *And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*

Revelation 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

Psalms 62:12 *Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.*

Proverbs 24:12 *If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*

Colossians 3:25 *But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.*

Proverbs 11:31 *Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.*

1 Corinthians 3:8 *Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

Do the scriptures support or oppose the teaching of the Sola fide doctrine? Are you prepared to put your salvation on the line by the false assumption that all you have to do is accept Yeshua as the Mashiach? I will leave that to you to study the evidence for yourself.

The truth is that we are already in Almighty God's "grace", it is the time period that He set to enable all mankind to t'shuvah (repent) and return to Him in a manner in which He approves, that's what grace really means, it's a period of time, but that time is due to end soon. As we have already learned, by keeping His righteous standards in the torah we show that we are worthy to enter His coming Kingdom. Whilst keeping the torah itself does not bring salvation on its own it certainly plays a prominent part in our acceptance for citizenship of His Kingdom, that is what the scriptures are telling us, I'm sure you will agree.

The Importance of Obedience

It is of vital importance that we can identify sin in a manner in which YeHoVaH sees it, we can all have our own ideas concerning the definition of sin and each one of us will inevitably have differing definitions this is why we do not listen to anyone else for their theory on the definition of sin, as in all things it is best to consult the one who instigated the commandments, YeHoVaH Himself then we cannot go wrong.

Let us wind back time to the days of our first parents, Adam and Eve. The Bible does not specify the time period that elapsed before the fall, it could have been several thousand years, who knows, it was not recorded as death did not exist in that perfect garden therefore time was not important, time only becomes important when you don't have much of it.

I don't think we have to go into detail concerning the whole fall thing, we know that the adversary used a serpent to deceive Eve into taking of the "fruit" that Adam had told her not to eat and she offered some to Adam and instead of reprimanding her he also ate the "fruit" that God had told them not to eat. We must remember that it was not the "fruit" that was at fault, after all, God Himself had created it, the real problem was disobedience and rebellion, this is why all the offspring of Adam and Eve get sick, grow old and die, along with all the suffering and sorrow that follows people all the days of their life. It wasn't God's plan for this to happen but He knew what they would do because He warned them but He also gave them a quality called "free will", humans are not programmable robots, YeHoVaH loved them so much it was a gift He gave to them. The principle is that it is far better to be loved by others because they chose to love you rather than programming love into them, that is not real and true love. Those who chose to follow Yeshua follow him, not out of compulsion, but because, out their knowledge, they realise that Gid loved us first and they desire to reflect that agape love back to our wonderful Father.

So, from our studies we now realise that sin is to disobey the Father's commandments (Torah) however small we think the transgression is. It is a common idea that one may say that they have told some "little" lies that imply less severity than a "big" lie but, ask yourself "is there a table of lie severity?", of course not, a lie is a lie and this is the concept that is maintained throughout the Torah and this is

what Yeshua told us as in Matthew 5:27-28 *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”*. This indicates this principle so adequately; one only has to look at someone with lust in their heart and it is seen as adultery without any physical contact. Take a look at Matthew 5:21-22 *“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²²But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire”*. This pretty serious stuff that could damage your salvation.

The Curse of the Law

As we are aware, it is a teaching of Christendom that we are no longer under the law (Torah) as given to Moshe and that Christ “fulfilled” the law so we do not have to. This has been the stance of the Christian faith since the 2nd century of our common era. Once again this is a gross misunderstanding of the Apostle Sha’ul whether accidentally or

Ephesians 2:11-22 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world ¹³But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; ¹⁵**Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;** ¹⁶And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby ¹⁷And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord ²²In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

purposefully. This erroneous teaching finds its origin primarily on Ephesians 2:11-22 which is one of those sections of scripture that the Apostle Cephas (Peter) refers to in 2Peter 3:16. Those that translate Ephesians 2:11-22 as meaning Yeshua abolished the law of Moshe and replaced it with his own law are those that had little insight into the Hebrew mindset. Let us examine what Sha’ul is telling us in more detail and with a Hebrew mindset.

At the time when Sha’ul wrote his letter to the Ephesians the Pharisees, with their “oral” law, forbid Jews mixing with gentiles (Pagans), this was also apparent in some early Jewish believers, it was the same concept that caused Sha’ul to confront Peter and Barnabas as recorded in Galatians 2:11-14 and resolved in Acts 15. Those of the (fleshly) “circumcision”, including some disciples were separating themselves as to the law of the Pharisees which caused Sha’ul to

confront Peter and Barnabas. When Sha'ul says, in verse 15 *“Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace”* the law of commandments contained in ordinances he is referring to is the law of the ORAL torah, the torah that Yeshua himself was so opposed to and not the Torah as given to Moshe at Mt Sinai. Now this knowledge of the situation begins to unravel this centuries old belief that Yeshua abolished the written Torah of Moshe and we begin to see Matthew 5:17 in context.

So, is it possible that the Torah of Moshe could possibly be an actual curse? What is Sha'ul telling us in verse 10 of Galatians 3 that to keep the law of Moshe are placed under some kind of curse? Absolutely not! In order to place things into perspective we must always read scripture exegetically and in context with other scriptures to ascertain the truth, it is no good “cherry-picking” the odd verse here and there in an attempt to justify what we, as individuals believe to be truth. With this in mind it becomes obvious what Sha'ul is telling us is not that being obedient to the written Torah as given to Moshe is a curse but, to those that do not observe and obey the written Torah of Moshe it does become a curse for them. Those that truly love the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Father of our Mashiach Yeshua show that they truly love Him by their obedience to Him through His instructions in His Torah, you cannot say you “love God” and be disobedient to His word. 1 John 5:3 ***“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous”***.

Galatians 3:10-14 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, **Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.** ¹¹But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. ¹² And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. ¹³Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: ¹⁴That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Our master Yeshua kept the Torah of Moshe perfectly as we have already seen, he told his followers to “follow me” many times in the Brit ha'Dashah, this means that we must endeavor to live our lives according to how he lived his, if we fail to do this, we are not true followers by definition.

The observation of the Torah cannot bring us salvation, that is not the issue here, salvation can be granted if, at the end of days we stand before the ultimate Judge Yeshua examines how we conducted our lives whilst under the influence of the god of the air, he

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: **and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.** ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: **and they were judged every man according to their works.** ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

will use, as his guide, the laws and instructions as written in the Torah that YeHoVaH gave to Moshe on Mt Sinai. No one is “saved” until they pass this test and their name is written indelibly in the lamb’s book of life.

I hope and pray that this little booklet has been encouraging to you and that it has dispelled the many myths that are attached to this important topic. The most important thing in our walk with Yeshua is to prayerfully read the inspired word of Almighty God, petition Him through Yeshua our King and Kohen Gadol for the Ruach ha’Kodesh to guide you and strengthen you but, most importantly do not lean on your own understanding or what you have been told by other people, test all things by His word constantly and you will find what you are looking for, I can guarantee it. Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”*

Shalom.

GLOSSARY

YHVH [יהוה]	The personal Name of Almighty God. YeHoVaH.
Yehoshua (Yeshua)	The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Latin: Jesus).
Ruach Ha'Kodesh	Yehovah's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
Kohen Gadol	High Priest.
Shaúl	Saul (Paul).
Israel	The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
Gentile	Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
Tanakh	The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
B'rit HaDashah	The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
Torah	The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Yehovah to Moses.
Oral Torah	The additional instructions added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah and other Jewish religious books.
Gospel	Good News.
Christendom	All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
Apostolic Fathers	The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.
Eisegesis	Reading into scripture something that is out of context with the true meaning in order to fit a particular theory or doctrine.
Exegesis	Reading out of the scripture to arrive at the true meaning