

The TEN Commandments



"Remember the Law of Moses, My Servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."
Malachi 4:4-5

The Ten Commandments

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

I would like to dedicate this Book to the memory of the late Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong who was used by Jesus Christ as the promised Elijah of the end-time to restore the Ten Commandments, statutes, and judgments of God in this end-time (*Malachi 4:4-6; Matthew 17:10-11*), and he faithfully did.

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Following the teaching of Holy Scripture, we buy and sell not (*Proverbs 23:23*). This Book is not to be sold but to be given freely upon request.

An Overview of the Ten Commandments Book

Inside this book, the reader will discover the Ten Commandments in their fullness have been in force since creation. They were taught to Adam and Eve and their children. Both Enoch and Noah obeyed those laws or Scripture would not say they walked with God. In contrast the pre-Adamic-world was destroyed by a World-Wide Flood for thumbing their nose at God and His laws while living sinful corrupt lives.

During the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt – and their subsequent slavery, they had become enmeshed in a totally alien ungodly society and lost sight of God and knowledge of His laws.

Shortly after the beginning exodus of Israel being brought out of Egypt, the LORD God personally reiterated to Israel His Ten Commandments and codified them (*spiritual laws, Romans 7:14*) – so the whole nation would know the commandments had come directly from Him (*Exodus 20:11; 31:18; 32:16*).

And during His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ made known they had not been changed: *Matthew 5:17; 19:17-19*. The writings of the Apostle Paul reveal he did not change them: *Romans 3:31; 7:12, 14; I Corinthians 7:19*.

Jesus Christ made known he had not come to destroy those laws but to fulfill them by observing them. He not only upheld the spiritual laws of the Old Testament but expanded them to include intent of the mind and heart (*Matthew 5:17-48*).

Further, He said, **“If you love Me, keep My Commandments.” John 14:15**. Please know He was not referring to the abbreviated form of His Ten Commandments, as both the Protestant and the Catholic Churches have them, but to their complete fullness just as He reiterated them to Israel on Mount Horeb (*Exodus 20:1-17*).

Knowing mankind would degenerate into an extremely unlawful way of life in the end-time, very similar to the Pre-Flood world of Noah, the LORD God promised to send a man in the spirit and power of the Elijah to restore and preach His laws lest He would destroy this earth with utter destruction (*Malachi 4:4-6*).

Jesus Christ confirmed that promise (*Matthew 17:10-11*). At that time John the Baptizer also being in the spirit and power of the Elijah was already dead. Though he preached the laws of God, he did not restore anything.

In the last book of the New Testament, the Book of Revelation, those Scriptures make known only those who observe the Ten Commandments will be accounted worthy to be in the New Jerusalem by becoming born-again Spirit members of God’s family (*Revelation 21:8; 22:11, 14*).

This is just an overview of what is to be found in the following writings in this Book.

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The 10 Commandments

God is Spirit! And there is a Spirit world! Though it is invisible to mankind, it is a world far more real than this physical world of matter; a physical world in which we as human beings are blessed to have the experience of human life, and with it the potential of eternal life as members of God's Spirit Family.

Through His awesome creative powers, the Lord God instantly brought into existence the physical Universe, the heavens and the earth.

Scripture records this awesome miraculous event:

In the beginning God (*Hebrew: Elohim*) created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

“... All things were made through Him (*that is, through Jesus Christ by the Father*), and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:1).

“Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands” (Psalm 102:24).



Thus says the LORD, “The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, ... I have made the earth, and CREATED man on it. It was I — My hands that stretched out the heavens, and all their host I have commanded” (Isaiah 45:11-12).

Further, this Great Ever-living God tells mankind:

“I am the LORD (*Hebrew: YHWH*) and there is NO other, there is NO God (*Hebrew: Elohim*) besides Me” (Isaiah 45:5).

The **BIG BANG** Theory

Scientists of recent years have come to believe this physical universe of matter came into existence billions of years ago with *A BIG BANG*!

It would appear their beliefs are valid due to what can be seen from the following Scriptures:

“Let everyone in all the world – men, women and children – FEAR the LORD and stand in AWE of Him. For when HE BUT SPOKE, the world began! IT APPEARED AT HIS COMMAND” (Psalm 33:8-9, *The Living Bible*).

“... For He commanded and they were [*instantly*]created” (Psalm 148:5).

The material Universe instantly appeared from non-existence at His command.

But From Where Did Matter Come?

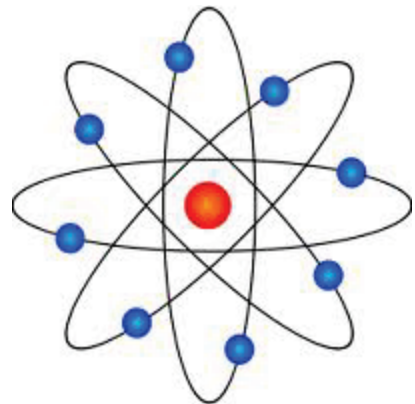
The answer to this question is given by God through the apostle Paul who makes known that all matter came into existence from Spirit essence:

“By faith we understand that the worlds were created, beautifully coordinated, and now exist, AT GOD’S COMMAND; so the things we SEE did NOT develop out of mere matter (*‘things that are visible’*, Hebrews 11:3, *Williams Translation*)

The Greek verb– ‘exist’: means to create and coordinate in symmetry – perfect – the result, they now exist.

Note: The worlds were created from invisible, intangible, non-physical essence – out of Spirit into atoms and molecules. An atom is a tiny universe of energy.

When considering the infinite, as well as the infinitesimal of God’s creative works, they speak volumes of the incredible greatness of the awesome limitless power of the eternal God, who has always existed, cannot be compared, and is beyond the limitations of mankind’s comprehension:



“To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Lift UP your eyes ON HIGH and see who has CREATED those things, who brings out their host (stars) by number; He calls them all by name by the GREATNESS of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing” (Isaiah 40:25).”

“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in” (Isaiah 40:22).

How Is The Physical Creation Held Together?

The question arises as to how this awesome universe retains its perfect order?

The simple answer: “the laws of God”. The universe is held together by and through the invisible and inexorable laws of the Creator God as made known by the apostle Paul:

“... upholding all things BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER ...(Hebrews 1:1-3).

“And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (*held together*, Colossians 1:17).

To stress the importance of law, please note the following comments from a very worthwhile book to read.

WHY WE BELIEVE IN CREATION AND NOT IN EVOLUTION, by Fred John Meldau, page 56 –

... “A writer in ‘Popular Science’ writes an article on Balancing the Heavens, in which he speaks of – ‘The apparently purposeful and deliberate movements of other heavenly bodies like the planets.’ ‘He explains that ‘the movements of the stars and comets and meteors, as well as of the planets and the satellites of the planets, result from the uniform workings of mechanical laws.’”

‘The billions of stars, planets and their satellites are all BALANCED between the force of ‘gravitation’ and the law of ‘inertia’ which states that matter will persist in a state of rest, but when once it is put in motion it tends to keep going at the same rate and in the same direction, unless acted upon by some external force.’ GRAVITATION pulls the stars toward their center or nucleus – and toward each other; INERTIA – after once the stars have been put in motion – keeps them in motion, and in a regular orbit determined by the pull of gravity.”



From one vast center, one tremendous nucleus, the Almighty controls the universe! While many modern scientists ignore God, they do at the expense

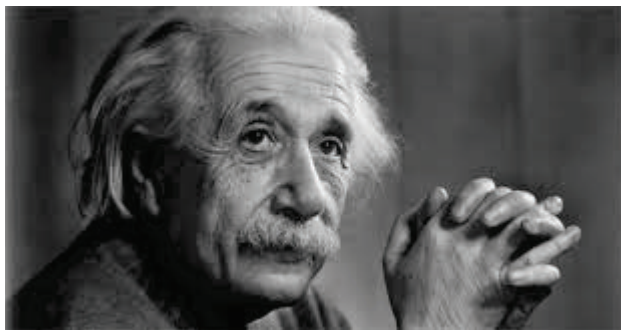
of true logic and sound reasoning. A system as vast and as intricate and as involved and as orderly as our UNIVERSE demands not only a Supreme Architect, but also an Almighty Creator and an Omnipotent Superintendent to keep it going.

We have spoken on the law of GRAVITATION and the law of INERTIA. There are scores of other ‘laws’ in the universe that are perfect and necessary to make up this vast universe. All students of astronomy are familiar with Kepler’s three laws of perpetual motion. There are laws of motion, laws of heat, laws of light, laws of sound – and all are PERFECT, never changing, never failing.

Rear Admiral D. V. Gallery (USN); writing in the Saturday Evening Post, said, “The stars ... in their orbits and velocities through the heavens faithfully follow a great code of LAW. Earth’s scientists can quote and explain this code in great detail – until you ask, “Whence came these laws?”

And scientists have FAITH in the laws of the universe. They predict the coming of comets into our solar system years before we see the comet – then they predict its return at some future date – and they do so unfailingly, because the laws of the Universe are unfailing! [*Halley’s Comet – every 65 years*]

Professor Einstein said in “The World As I See it”, Page 29:



“The scientists religious feeling takes the form of a rapturous amazement at the ‘Harmony of Natural Law’, which reveals an Intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and setting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.”

The Almighty and Ever-Living God

It is the Almighty God who created this material Universe! In so doing, He gave the tremendous powerful *PUSH* of it out into space by His spoken word:

***Our Wonder World*, Volume 1, The World and its People, Page 29, The Open Book of the Heavens:**

“The beginning of this world: If the planets were at rest, if they were not moving at all, they would have been drawn right into the sun by the force of gravitation (*the power of gravitation—that marvelous, invisible bond*

everywhere present, working through all space, which keeps the planets under the control of the sun, page 28). They are going at a tremendous speed. Even this earth of ours is rushing through space at a rate of nineteen miles a second . . . all the planets are moving, some three or four miles a second, and others even faster than we. Now it is one of the laws of this universe, which we cannot explain, but which we know, that any object which is moving will keep moving in a straight line unless something interferes with it.

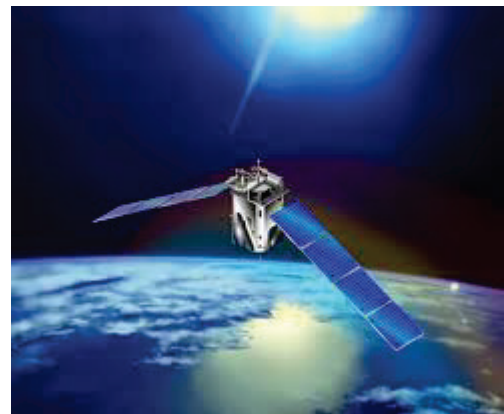
“ . . . at some remote age, this world, probably very different from what it is now, together with the other planets, was sent spinning off into space on its age-long journey. But the first force which started the worlds into space [God through the power of His Holy Spirit, His Spirit essence] followed this law of motion and gave them the impulse to go in a straight line.”

“In the beginning God made the world, and set it off by a first impulse (created and set in motion by God’s awesome power by His spoken word) *John 1:1-3, The Living Bible (also Colossians 1:16-17; Psalm 33:8-9).*

Manmade Satellites

In a similar manner by contrast the manmade satellites that are now out in space were given the push by rocket boosters to lift and send them to their pre-determined positions for their use by mankind.

With the passage of time, due to the law of the gravitational pull from the earth, the satellites will lose altitude and fall back to earth. Not so with the Universe for God’s laws will keep it functioning precisely in the manner in which He designed it. And it will continue to consist (*exist*) by the Word of His Power, *His laws*. Colossians 1:16-17.



It should be seen from both Scripture and from a scientific point of view, as the above quote made by Professor Einstein, the laws of God are at work within the Universe faithfully fulfilling the function and purpose of the giver of law, the Most High God of the Universe (*James 4:12*).

And it clearly reveals its Creator and Sustainer as the Almighty and Ever-living God whose never-changing laws are always in motion and in harmony with each other fulfilling His purpose within His physical creation!



In contrast, to violate just the law of gravity from a high distance can result in the death of a human being when violently meeting up with the law of inertia. As an example, numerous people have

committed suicide by jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California and in many other places.

Many others die from accidents due to being caught between the two laws of gravity and inertia in an unlawful manner.

Spiritual Laws

God also has *SPIRITUAL LAWS* in perpetual motion when violated will bring suffering in this life and eventual death in the **Lake of Fire!** *Romans 7:14*. However this can be avoided when there is real repentance, meaning: a genuine godly sorrow expressed to Him for having violated His holy righteous laws.

Godly repentance also has to be followed by a real and lasting concerted effort of a complete turnaround from going the wrong way and then walk within those living and unyielding laws of God.

This rather lengthy introduction leads into the very important broad-based Spiritual laws God has given to mankind to guide him in a way of life that will produce every good and worthwhile blessing.

The Ten Basic Spiritual Laws of God

The following chapters of this booklet will make known the Ten Basic Spiritual Laws that reflect God's perfect, flawless, and righteous holy Character.



They are all important for they form the basis for all of His laws that are designed to keep one in His way of life with purpose and goal. And to enable one to reach that goal, His laws point out the way that will in the future make possible the fulfilling and rewarding way of life:

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; . . . moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward”

(Psalm 19:7, 11; Romans 3:20).

With this introduction of the Creator God in the foregoing, and having His physical and spiritual laws in mind, thundered out from the top of Mount Horeb to the children of Israel, let us consider the very first and greatest of His Ten Commandments – the one that identifies the true God.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

And God (*Elohim, Family*) spoke all these words saying, “I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, You shall have NO other gods BEFORE Me.”

Exodus 20:1-3

This very first commandment has to do with identifying the Almighty God and His Son Jesus Christ. They are the only Ones worthy of worship for there are no other gods beside Them! Isaiah 45:5.

To worship anything or anyone else is to commit idolatry. God makes known He is a jealous God and will not accept or tolerate the worshipping of *gods that are no gods* (*Exodus 20:5*).

The Nation of Israel

To enable one to understand more fully what God said to mankind in the first commandment, it is necessary to review briefly the history of His chosen nation of Israel who was forced to leave their home country and go down into Egypt due to a severe famine (*Genesis 45:9-11; 46:1-7*). They remained there for many years (*Exodus 12:40-41*).

Over those years they multiplied so greatly the Pharaoh became afraid of them. He then dealt very harshly with them and enslaved them. He also gave the command that all of the male babies were to be killed upon birth (*Exodus 1:1-22*).

Because of the harsh bondage, and the pagan idolatrous nation that it was, Egypt became symbolized as sin; they worshiped many gods (*Exodus 12:12*).

The one and only true God (*Elohim*) revealed Himself to His chosen nation, Israel, and commanded their worship of Him, and Him, *only*!

And for them, and all others to do so, one must come out of spiritual Egypt and their false worship of pagan gods just as it is written in that first Commandment.



All other so-called gods are inanimate objects due to their being the creation of man, having no life, and no power to do anything. They are dumb objects (*Isaiah 44:6-20*)!

The age in which we live is a lawless age (*Matthew 24:12*)! It is one in which mankind as a whole refuses to acknowledge God as the Creator and the Supreme Ruler of the heavens and the earth. Instead they have gods of their own devising.



The Egyptians had many gods and so does most of mankind! And worship has to do with more than kneeling and worshipping an image! One's god can be whatever he, or she, places before the true God and consumes his or her time. It can be many things as seen in the House of Joseph. This has led them for the most part of rejecting their God and indulging themselves in licentiousness!

The leaders in high places in government in America (*Congress*) and Britain (*Parliament*), and the Commonwealth Nations, along with the lower levels of government, have turned their backs on God and have passed laws against all human decency.

And in so doing they have rejected the Constitution in America, and the British constitution that is contained in several documents ('magna carta', the 'Bill of Rights', etc), and is also contained in common law" (*internet*), and more importantly the Ten commandments. It is indeed a lawless age.

This rampant and pervasive evil can easily be seen as a form of a godless society in the House of Joseph worshipping themselves due to their acceptance, toleration, and reveling in their evil.

The Rejection of God and His Laws by Mankind

Following the strong vocal political will of a large segment of society, Congress has passed laws over recent years that paved the way for the breakdown of the moral laws in



America; and sadly the majority of the judiciary has upheld those laws! Instead of smiles on their faces, they should hide their heads in shame!

Further, they have made rulings that are in the progressive stage of removing any reminder of God from virtually all of the Federal and State buildings.

In a question and answer session on television, some few years ago, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia stated the Supreme Court was coming to be more political in their rulings and interpreting the constitution according to strong political opinion in contrast to its founders who were believers in God and His laws.

Supreme Court Justices debate Constitution

October 26, 2009 8:08 PM

BY HOWARD FISCHER, CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

"One of the most conservative justices on the U.S. Supreme Court said Monday his more liberal colleagues are trying to manufacture new constitutional rights that were never intended by the drafters.



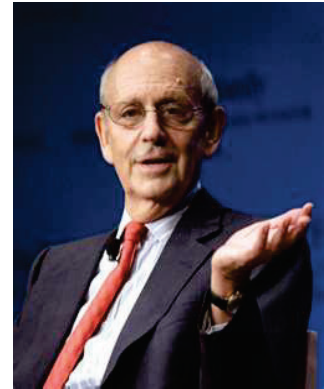
The fight is about the Supreme Court inventing new rights nobody ever thought existed," Justice Antonin Scalia said in an appearance at the University of Arizona College of Law.

"Right to abortion?" he asked. "Come on. Nobody thought it violated anything in the Constitution for 200 years. It was criminal."

The same, said Scalia, is true of homosexual sodomy. Yet the nation's high court has struck down state laws banning both.

"They may be bad ideas," Scalia said. "But don't tell me its unconstitutional."

But Justice Stephen Breyer, who shared the stage with Scalia, said his colleague was taking an overly literalistic approach to the 18th century document. He said that the changing nature of society, by necessity, requires more than looking at what Scalia called "originalism."



Political Rulings

The political rulings of the Judiciary all the way from the Supreme Court of the United States to the lower courts are against all decency, such as the legalization of the language of *filth*, openly displayed *pornography*, the rights of *sodomy* and the teaching of it on the same level as that of the natural use of sex within the school system – to the little children. And then last, but not least, the legal right to brutally **murder** *unborn* babies.

The internet makes known late term abortions, not only continually takes place, but some of the babies are birthed alive. Then the baby is painfully murdered in one or another gruesome manner as one recently came to be known in the News Media in Philadelphia, PA. And the Congress and the Supreme Court continues to legalize these murders!

These are the gods they worship – *themselves!* They have placed themselves above God! Further, they reflect society as a whole bowing to its demands.



The Judiciary of the United States can be compared to the judges in Nazi Germany during the reign of Hitler who *bowed* to his demands bringing severe judgment on those who tried to save their nation from this tool of Satan the devil.

As the result the children of Israel continue to wander farther and farther away into the demonic darkness of human reason that has now led them into more deviant and despicable sin as did Sodom and Gomorrah. And in the process the people of Israel are destroying themselves.

God's Indictment of Mankind

Notice God's indictment of all those who are guilty of their rejection of Him and His truth:

"For the wrath of God is REVEALED from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who *SUPPRESS THE TRUTH* in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world, HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES ARE CLEARLY SEEN BEING UNDERSTOOD BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE, EVEN HIS ETERNAL POWER AND GODHEAD so that they are without excuse, because, although they [*once*]

knew God, they did NOT glorify Him as God, NOR WERE THANKFUL, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed THE GLORY of the incorruptible God INTO AN IMAGE made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things. ... who exchanged the truth for the lie, and worshiped the creature instead of the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 1:18-25).

Those who do claim recognition of God (*in reality, Baal*) have their own version and interpretation of Him including religion of many choices. As the result we live in a nation and a world of sin.

Sin and Death

Sin is just a word without any real meaning to most people, yet God makes known the reality of its true definition as being connected with His laws:

“Whosoever commiteth SIN transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4, KJV).

And Scripture reveals the end result of sin is death:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

A World that has Rejected God’s Holy Righteous Laws

A highly skilled atheistic lawyer (*Alan Dershowitz*), who aided other lawyers in the trial of O. J. Simpson in his defense against murdering his wife and another man (*June 1994*), was asked a simple and short question some few years ago before a large group of people: *“What is right?”*

He struggled trying to come up with an answer but was unable to do so satisfactorily for there was no foundation on which to base his answer.

This is indeed a godless world having lost its way from the true God and taken captive by Satan the devil who has blinded them in his world of darkness (*Revelation 12:9*). As the result they live their lives by human reason that is leading them to destruction (*Proverbs 14:12; 16:25*).

The Constitution of the United States

The leaders of this nation and Judiciary by law are required to adhere to the **Constitution of the**



United States; for it is the Supreme Law of the United States of America (*Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*).

It is the framework for the organization of the United States Government and for the relationship of the federal government with the states, citizens, and all people within the United States.

However of recent years they have been rejecting the areas of the Constitution of which they do not agree while bowing to the vocal demands of those with political clout. So it also is with the Ten Commandments.

We live in a turbulent world due to man's own reasoning as to what is right and what is wrong. As the result society is not happy today! It is a day by day struggle with mankind with no real long range goal that would give them the elusive and evasive happiness and fulfillment they inwardly yearn for but do not have due to their rejection of God.

To try and compensate for their failures many in society uses hallucinatory drugs of one kind or another! These drugs create a mistaken impression of euphoric delusion that gives a false impression of happiness, contentment, and peace. The same is true with the excessive use of strong alcoholic drinks, but as God says, **"The way of peace they know not" (Isaiah 59:8)**. The way to great peace is to love God's laws (*Psalms 119:165*); this, they have rejected.

The way to abundant life and happiness is yet before them if they would only recognize the true God and begin to love Him more than they do the way of life they have chosen and now live (*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*).

"For this is the LOVE of God that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome" (I John 5:3).

The Greatest of the Commandments

This first commandment is the greatest one of the 10 commandments for it identifies the only true God, who is our Creator and sustainer of life. Without God there would be no law, no physical existence; no you, nor me!

God is LOVE (*I John 4:8, 16*), and He desires to share His love and good blessings with everyone (*John 3:27*). He yearns to give life and happiness to those who truly worship Him in Spirit and in truth (*John 4:24*).

Further, the desire of the Almighty God in heaven above is that all of mankind experience health and well-being both physically and spiritually (*III John 2*). This is why He has physical and spiritual laws designed for our well-being.

This is also why He created such a beautiful planet for the human family to enjoy by filling it with all of the necessary needs to sustain a life of enjoyable abundance. In return, He expects appreciation and heart-felt LOVE for Him.

In response to a test question from a lawyer, who asked:

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall LOVE the LORD your God with ALL of your heart, with ALL your soul, and with ALL your mind. This is the FIRST and GREAT commandment” (Matthew 22:35-38).

God must come to be recognized and worshiped since He is the only true God! However for now the House of Israel and the Gentile nations are in a state of denial and rebellion against Him, and against one another.

The Existence of Human Life

In the context of life, and the elusive pursuit of happiness that is now out of reach of the majority of mankind, it is sad that hardly anyone ever considers how he or she came to have human existence.

One should realize it is *inconceivable* that mankind could have evolved or been created out of matter by anyone other than God, or anything of lesser intelligence! *Psalm 14:1; 12:15.*

This alone should be enough to acknowledge our Creator God and lead to offering heartfelt appreciation to this wonderful loving God who has not only created human life but in so doing has made possible the lives of every human being.



The axiom: *“There is none so blind but those who refuse to see!”* This fits fully the majority of society in this end-time.

And because of their obstinacy and rebellion against the Most High God, the time is almost here when the wrath of God will be poured out on His chosen nation Israel and this world for their denial and rejection of Him.

A Plea for Repentance

It is not God’s desire to bring terrible punishment and death on anyone; for He takes no pleasure in the death of anyone. And because He wants to spare mankind from the horrors soon to come upon us, He pleads with rebellious mankind to repent! *Ezekiel 33:11.*

God also makes known all those who continue to stubbornly resist and deny Him will in the future come to finally acknowledge Him as the Creator God and will do so on bended knees seeking forgiveness for their rebellion against Him and for worshiping the gods of their own making and devising:

“Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is NO other. I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return (*unfulfilled*), that to Me EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW ... (Isaiah 46:22-23).



Mankind will indeed come to know and worship the true God and Jesus Christ while repenting of their worship of false gods. Sadly, this will not begin to take place until after experiencing the consequences of their sins in the prophesied time of the *Great Tribulation*.

It is very tragic that this will be the only way that mankind will come to realize the value of the First Commandment that identifies the one and only true God— the Creator of all existence, including mankind:

And God spoke all these words saying, “I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, You shall have NO other gods BEFORE Me”

Exodus 20:1-3

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

“You shall not make for yourself any carved 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; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

For I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Exodus 20:3-5

The Inherit Desire to Worship

God created an inherit desire within humankind to worship Him. And to satisfy this yearning desire man wants to be able to see and touch something that represents their concept of Him.

Satan has taken full advantage of this inherit desire. Having successfully influenced Eve, and by extension, Adam, to begin their worship of him, instead of their Creator God, he led Eve to believe her first-born son, Cain, was the promised Messiah and she worshiped him.

From there the false worship of gods that are no gods, spread to permeate the people of this world while captivating them with all of the necessary religious symbols to enshroud them in total **DECEPTIVE DARKNESS**; and so it is today.

The Garden of Eden

From that very early history of mankind, Satan led skilled men and women into developing a graven image of the likeness of himself, as the cherub angel, Lucifer, he formerly was!

This can be understood when Israel demanded Aaron make them a golden calf while Moses was on the mountain with God (*Exodus 32:1-8*).

Scripture reveals Lucifer's name was changed when he rebelled against his Creator God and became the Adversary; known in Scripture, as: **“. . . the great Dragon, that Serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan (Revelation 12:9)!**

Unger's Bible Dictionary, Page 670, Lucifer: ("Lucifer, Hebrew, *helel*, brightness). This designation, referred to Satan, is coupled with the epithet "son of the morning" and clearly signifies "bright star" (Isaiah 14:12-14), probably what we call the "morning star."
...

Lucifer was the greatest of the created Cherub Angels; he was the greatest of God's creation (*Ezekiel 28:12-17; Isaiah 14:12-15*). Each of the Cherubs had four faces: that of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (*Ezekiel 1:10; 10:14*). Lucifer also had wings (*Ezekiel 28:14; Exodus 37:6-9*).

It would appear that Satan can use any of those four faces when the need arises. He also MANIFESTS himself as an angel of light to the religious leaders he uses and causes them to be transformed into ministers of light (*II Corinthians 11:13-15*).

Cherubim Guarded the Tree of Life

After the LORD God had driven Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, He placed Cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way to guard the entrance to the garden and the Tree of Life (*Genesis 3:22-24*).

The cherubim remained there until the Flood swept the Garden of Eden away and with it the symbolic tree of life (*Genesis 7:17-24*).

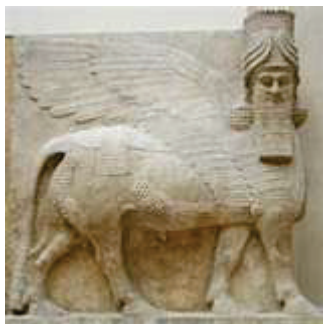
Ham and Japheth, sons of Noah, together with their wives, carried over the image of the Cherubim into the new world.

Satan then used Nimrod and Semiramis to develop the Mystery Babylon Religious system (*Genesis 10:8-11, Satan's Great Deception, Page 39, Dr. C. Paul Meredith*).

Within this system came to be the graven images of the Cherubim. They were worshiped by the Egyptians, Assyrians, and later by Israel (*Exodus 32:1-4*).



The International Standard Bible Dictionary, volume 1, page 603, Cherubim:



"In Genesis 3:24 the cherubim are placed by God, after the expulsion of Adam from the Garden of Eden, at the east thereof, together with the flaming sword 'to keep the tree of life.' In their function as guardians of

paradise, the cherubim bear an analogy to the winged bulls and lions of Babylonia and Assyria, colossal figures with human faces standing guard at the entrance of temples (and palaces), just as in Egypt the approaches to the sanctuaries are guarded by sphinxes . . .”

Egypt worshiped many gods and among them was a molded golden image of a winged calf (*Exodus 32:4*). It was a replica of Lucifer a Cherub who became Satan and was the chief pagan god worshiped by them.

The People of Israel

Later, Israel, having been in Egypt 210 years (*Soncino Commentary, Genesis 12:41; Josephus Book 2, chapter 15, 2. (318) page 107, Hebrews leaving Egypt: “They left Egypt in the month Xantichus, on the 15th day of the lunar month; four hundred and thirty years after our forefather Abraham came into Canaan, but two hundred and fifteen years only after Jacob removed into Egypt. . . .”*), and on their way to the Promised Land, pressured Aaron into making a mold for the golden calf; then they worshiped it by calling it by the LORD God’s name, **YHVH**:

“Even when they made a molded calf for themselves, and said, “This is your God (YHVH) that brought you up out of the land of Egypt and worked great provocations, yet in Your manifold mercies, You did not forsake them in the wilderness.” (Nehemiah 9:18; Psalm 106:19-20).

So has it been ever since, contrary to the command from God, Israel has continued using pagan practices learned from the Gentile nations to worship their concept of God (*Jeremiah 10:1-2*).

The Catholic Church

God’s true Church began on the Day of Pentecost in 31 A. D.; a little flock (*Luke 12:32*), worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth (*John 4:24*).

To try and destroy God’s true Church, Satan counteracted by developing his counterfeit church he would primarily use to deceive mankind in about 33 A. D. It would come to be known as the Catholic Church.

Great Cathedrals were built, the popes and priests dressed in royal robes with great ceremony and pomp, pictures, graven images, bells, candles, etc., all gave the very appearance needed to appeal and awe mankind; and they did.

All this seems so religious—while neglecting to read the Scripture that God is Spirit and He is to be worshiped only in Spirit and in Truth (*John 4:24; Exodus 20:3*).



Simon Magus was the man Satan used to begin his Church; he was exactly the kind of leader that Satan needed. He was deeply involved in the Mysteries of the Babylon Religious System; he was also a magician and attracted mankind with his illusions of magical arts (*Acts 8:9-24*). He is thought of as the Apostle Peter by the Catholic Church.



Satan influenced men with great skill to carve out images that supposedly represented Jesus Christ and His mother, Mary, as well as creating pictures of their concept of them.

And people bow down before them in their worship in disobedience to the Second Commandment.

What did Jesus Christ actually look like? Please note the following question and answer with needed edits:

ISRAEL TODAY

What Did Yeshua Look Like?

Monday, October 31, 2011 | Ludwig Schneider

“When I look at the portrayals of Christ which have been produced during the course of Church history, I presume that they are declarations of love because they present the Lord in romanticized physical beauty. He is depicted with cherry-red lips, delicate feminine skin tones, and in silk robes woven with gold thread.

“Yet what did the Messiah really look like? Today nobody knows because the oldest portrayal of Christ is from 375 AD and is thus not an eyewitness account.

“Although He is the Son of God, the Gospels suggest a more rustic figure of Yeshua (*Jesus*) in keeping with His revolutionary style, as He overturned the tables of the money changers in the Temple courts. His disciples followed a radical leader who said that He had not come to bring peace but a sword (*Matthew 10:34*) [*not literal*]; they were zealots and sons of thunder (*Mark 3:17*) [*Christ calmed them*]; and Peter was also known as Bar-Jonah (*Matthew 16:17*)—a rebel who reached for his sword when Jesus was arrested [*Matthew 26:51-54; only to fulfill prophecy*].

“It also fits in with the picture of a revolutionary that Jesus allowed John to baptize Him, the man who, clothed in camels’ hair, called on the people to repent and denounced publicly the infamous deeds of King Herod Antipas,

which cost him his head. Jesus also denounced Herod as a fox (*Luke 13:32*) and warned people prone to materialism that they could not serve God and mammon (*Matthew 6:24*). He even presents the people with an ultimatum, that in order to follow Him they have to— if necessary—hate [love-less] father and mother (*Luke 14:26*).

“Jesus put across anything but a soft, comfortable gospel. He was only gentle and mild when He stepped in for the outcasts and healed the sick; in all other situations He was a firebrand.

“The Romans tolerated prostitution and drugs, but not criticism of the state. Yet like Elijah, Jesus spoke out against the unrighteousness of the state and religious establishment. Jesus knew the cost in turbulent Jerusalem; He knew Pontius Pilate had sent thousands of Jews to crucifixion.

“Jesus was and is anything but a soft, pathetic Savior, for one day He will “rule the nations with a rod of iron” (*Revelation 2:27*).”

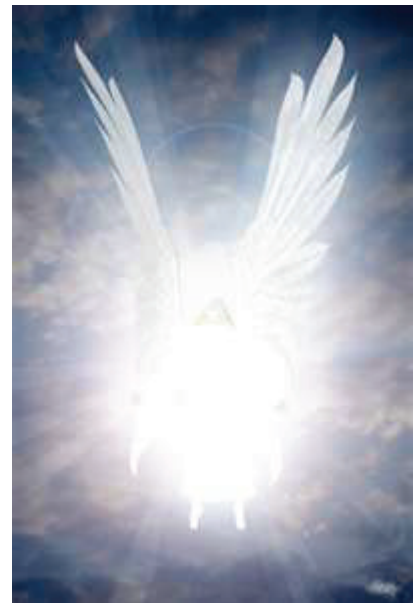
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Satan the Devil Appears as an Angel of Light

Appearing as an angel of light, Satan continues to use his ministers to cunningly bring mankind into his darkness of deception as he personally did with Eve (*Genesis 3:1-4; II Corinthians 11:3, 13-15*).

This he continues to do by taking full advantage of their inherent desire to worship God by using skilled people in speech and art to turn their worship from God to himself while using them to develop from their imagination beautiful religious pictures and skilled artisans to sculpture beautiful counterfeit-heavenly images. Yet God commands:

“You shall make for yourselves no idols, nor shall you ERECT a graven images, PILLAR or OBELISK, NOR shall you place ANY FIGURED STONE in your land to which or on which to BOW down; for I am the Lord your God ” (*Amplified Bible, Leviticus 26:1*).



The Roman Catholic Church

To circumvent the meaning of this Second Commandment from God, the Roman Catholic Church eliminated it altogether. They replaced the Second Commandment by splitting the 10th Commandment into TWO COMMANDMENTS. This enabled them to

still have the full Ten Commandments. (*See Clarke Commentary, volume 1, page 403, The Second Commandment, Exodus 20:4*).

This would enable their members to commit idolatry by worshiping these false images of God, Mary, etc., without any feelings of guilt.

The following is their version of the 10 Commandments:

Roman Catholic Ten Commandments

1. I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day. [*meaning Sunday worship*]
4. Honor 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 neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Please note the version of the 10 commandments of the daughters of the Roman Catholic Church who came out of her in protest and are called— **Protestants**:

Abbreviated Protestant Ten Commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make unto you any **graven images**
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. You shall remember the Sabbath and keep it holy
5. Honor your mother and father
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor

Comparing the two versions of the 10 Commandments between the Roman Catholic Church and her daughters one should be able to see there is very little difference.

This Second Commandment given by God has been violated by virtually all religions just as all of the others of His laws have been throughout the long history of Israel.

The National Level of Idolatry

Not only is this Second Commandment being violated by the world's religions, but it is also being violated on a national level in this country and by the other nations of Israel.

History reveals this form of pagan worship came from the Gentile countries; an area that few people even think about; the National Monument:

The National Monument in Washington, D. C.



The National Monument of America in Washington, D. C. is an obelisk and as such is also a violation of the Second Commandment as ancient history reveals its true symbolism to that of pagan sex gods.

Washington Monument From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia

“The **Washington Monument** is an obelisk near the west end of the [National Mall](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#), built to commemorate the first U.S. president, General [George Washington](#). The monument, made of [marble](#), [granite](#), and [bluestone gneiss](#),^[1] is both the world's tallest stone structure and the world's tallest obelisk, standing 555 feet 5⅞ inches (169.294 m).¹

“The actual construction of the monument began in 1848 but was not completed until 1884, almost 30 years after the architect's death. . .

“The obelisk symbolized the sun god Ra, and during the brief religious reformation of [Akhenaten](#) was said to be a petrified ray of the [Aten](#), the sundisk. It was also thought that the god existed within the structure.

“The city of Rome harbours the most **obelisks** in the world. There are eight ancient Egyptian and five ancient Roman **obelisks** in Rome, together with a number of more modern ... [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obelisks in Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obelisks_in_Rome).”

The Shape of the Obelisk

Anciently this sculptured obelisk was an object of worship to the sun-god Ra; however it is also in the image of the male phallus pointing up to God, as in figurative speech, saying: “I do not need you, God, for I can procreate without you!”

This act is an affront to the Almighty God as made known by a prophet of God:

Then He (*LORD God*) said to me, “Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a trivial thing to the house of Judah to commit this abomination which they commit here? For they have filled the land with violence; then they have returned to provoke Me to anger. Indeed they put the **branch to their nose (Ezekiel 8:16-17).**

The branch symbolized the Asherah cut into the shape of a male phallus. A striking and obscene act (*I Kings 15:13*).

Bullinger’s Companion Bible, Appendix 42, Pages 35-36. THE ASHERAH

“The word Asherah is from the root ‘dshar, to be straight, erect, or upright . . . The Asherah was so called because it was set *upright* or *erect* in the ground, and worshipped. . . .

All religions have become corrupt. So with the *Ashrah*. Originally a tree, symbolical of the ‘tree of life,’ [*Genesis 2:9*] it was an object of reverence and veneration. Then came the perversion of the earlier idea which simply honored the origin of life; and it was corrupted and debased into the origin of procreation, which was symbolized by the form and shape given to the *Asherah*. It was the Phallus image of Isaiah 57:8, and the image of the male’. Ezekiel 16:17. . . .

There can be no doubt about its being, in its essence, *Phallic* worship pure and simple, whatever may have been its origin. This abomination was common to all the ancient nations; and relics of it are found to-day in various forms, in India and elsewhere. The *memnhirs* of the Celtic religion are the descendants of the *Asherim*. . . .

They can be found in various cities throughout the House of Joseph.

This National Obelisk is a copy of the ones found in pagan Egypt and Rome, Italy.

***The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Volume 4, Page 2177, “Obelisk: A sacred stone . . .”**



***The Good News*, January, 1987, page 17, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – “What are the “groves” mentioned so many times in the Old Testament?**

[Answer] “. . . the impression most people usually get when reading about the groves is that they were clumps of trees on a hillside where pagans went to worship idols. Yet the Bible mentions in II Kings 23:6 (*KJV*) how King Josiah took a grove out of the house of

the LORD, burned it and stamped it into powder. How could he do this to a clump of trees?

“Notice II Kings 23:6 speaks of the grove in a singular sense. It was something Josiah could pick up. And he hated it so much that he burned it and ground it into bits.

“In every instance except for one, the Old Testament Hebrew word for “grove” is *asherah*. This word refers to an image or symbol dedicated to the ancient pagan goddess Astarte.

“. . . The groves were posts, pillars, images or denuded and stripped trees dedicated to the worship of this woman. . . .

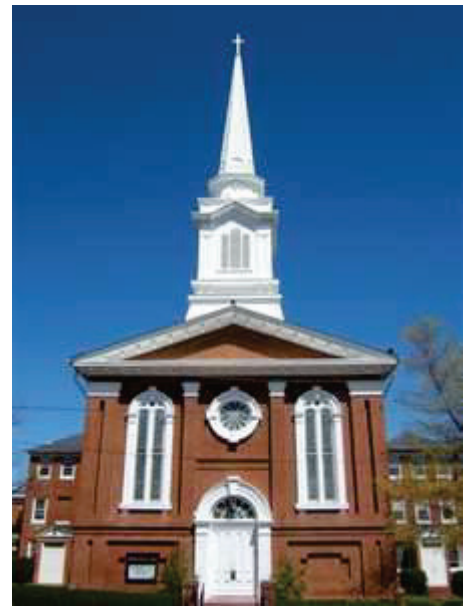
“To honor Astarte, men and women practiced prostitution, and roused themselves to spiritual frenzy through wild dances and self-mutilation. Not only did the people bow down to the symbols of the queen of fertility, but they carried on a spiritual orgy before these images.

“Astounding as it may seem, you may have many of these symbols or groves in your hometown. They have spread the world over, and stand in mute dedication to the “queen of heaven” – the great whore Astarte.

“They are simply obelisks, or upright towers, representing the male organ. . . . Today they are still used at places of worship in churches of the world, in the form of steeples perched on top of the church buildings themselves. . . .

“Sometimes at the very peak of the steeple a cross is attached, supposedly in commemoration of Jesus Christ’s death on the cross. However the truth is that the cross, too, represents the male phallus. . . .

“Think how deluded and deceived the world is! People enter ‘the church of their choice’ every week, believing they are worshiping God, when they are merely sitting in a ‘high place’ with an *asherah* or grove poised over their heads as the symbol of the “goddess of fertility.” They do not know what they are worshiping (*I John 4:22*).



“Satan is a clever deceiver and liar who has blinded the entire world (*II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9*). You have been shown the truth, and instead of worshiping a false god with symbols, steeples and groves, you can worship the true God in Spirit and in Truth (*John 4:23-24*).

“Satan is invisible to human eyes yet he receives worship through yielded human

instruments; and sometimes more directly when he actually possesses human leaders, both secular and religious.

“One should realize from Scripture itself that God is to be worshiped in Spirit and NOT through images, pictures, statues, or anything else. John 4:23-24.”

The Second Part of the Second Commandment

“ . . . For I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me . . .

Exodus 20:5

“Physical Sin”

Sometimes mankind wonders why they have diseases that can be traced back to earlier generations. If they were to consider this in view of the second commandment possibly they would have the answer.

One family in a Congregation I pastored was surprised when they found a younger daughter had come to be diabetic. The mother checked back and found it in an earlier generation.

From the Internet— a listing of inherited diseases:

Thesaurus Legend: Synonyms Related Words Antonyms

Noun 1. hereditary disease - a disease or disorder that is inherited genetically
congenital disease, genetic abnormality, genetic defect, genetic disease, genetic disorder, hereditary condition, inherited disease, inherited disorder disease - an impairment of health or a condition of abnormal functioning
monogenic disease, monogenic disorder - an inherited disease controlled by a single pair of genes

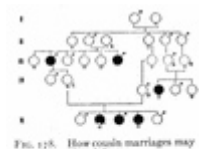
polygenic disease, polygenic disorder - an inherited disease controlled by several genes at once

achondroplasia, achondroplasty, chondrodystrophy, osteosclerosis congenita - an inherited skeletal disorder beginning before birth; cartilage is converted to bone resulting in dwarfism

abetalipoproteinemia - a rare inherited disorder of fat metabolism; characterized by severe deficiency of beta-lipoproteins and abnormal red blood cells (acanthocytes) and abnormally low cholesterol levels

inborn error of metabolism - any of a number of diseases in which an inherited defect (usually a missing or inadequate enzyme) results in an abnormality of metabolism

congenital megacolon, Hirschsprung's disease - congenital condition in which the colon does not have the normal network of nerves; there is little urge to defecate so the feces accumulate and cause megacolon



A pedigree of deaf-mutism. One of the original couple (generation I) would have carried the recessive gene for deaf-mutism, as would individual X, who comes in from another related family. A and B were first cousins; C and D were second cousins. In both cases the marriage produced deaf-mute children. (After Allbrecht.)

[mucopolysaccharidosis](#) - any of a group of genetic disorders involving a defect in the metabolism of mucopolysaccharides resulting in greater than normal levels of mucopolysaccharides in tissues

[hyperbetalipoproteinemia](#) - a genetic disorder characterized by high levels of beta-lipoproteins and cholesterol; can lead to atherosclerosis at an early age

[ichthyosis](#) - any of several congenital diseases in which the skin is dry and scaly like a fish

[branched chain ketoaciduria](#), [maple syrup urine disease](#) - an inherited disorder of metabolism in which the urine has a odor characteristic of maple syrup; if untreated it can lead to mental retardation and death in early childhood

[McArdle's disease](#) - an inherited disease in which abnormal amounts of glycogen accumulate in skeletal muscle; results in weakness and cramping

[dystrophy](#), [muscular dystrophy](#) - any of several hereditary diseases of the muscular system characterized by weakness and wasting of skeletal muscles

[oligodactyly](#) - congenital condition in which some fingers or toes are missing

[oligodontia](#) - congenital condition in which some of the teeth are missing

[otosclerosis](#) - hereditary disorder in which ossification of the labyrinth of the inner ear causes tinnitus and eventual deafness

[autosomal dominant disease](#), [autosomal dominant disorder](#) - a disease caused by a dominant mutant gene on an autosome

[autosomal recessive defect](#), [autosomal recessive disease](#) - a disease caused by the presence of two recessive mutant genes on an autosome

[congenital pancytopenia](#), [Fanconi's anaemia](#), [Fanconi's anemia](#) - a rare congenital anemia characterized by pancytopenia and hypoplasia of the bone marrow

[juvenile amaurotic idiocy](#), [Spielmeier-Vogt disease](#) - a congenital progressive disorder of lipid metabolism having an onset at age 5 and characterized by blindness and dementia and early death

[congenital afibrinogenemia](#) - a rare congenital disorder of blood coagulation in which no fibrinogen is found in the blood plasma

[Albers-Schonberg disease](#), [marble bones disease](#), [osteopetrosis](#) - an inherited disorder characterized by an increase in bone density; in severe forms the bone marrow cavity may be obliterated

[nevroid elephantiasis](#), [pachyderma](#) - thickening of the skin (usually unilateral on an extremity) caused by congenital enlargement of lymph vessel and lymph vessel obstruction

[dwarfism](#), [nanism](#) - a genetic abnormality resulting in short stature

[lactase deficiency](#), [lactose intolerance](#), [milk intolerance](#) - congenital disorder consisting of an inability to digest milk and milk products; absence or deficiency of lactase results in an inability to hydrolyze lactose

[porphyria](#) - a genetic abnormality of metabolism causing abdominal pains and mental confusion

[hepatolenticular degeneration](#), [Wilson's disease](#) - a rare inherited disorder of copper metabolism; copper accumulates in the liver and then in the red blood cells and brain

Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2008 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.

Related Searches

- [Huntington's Disease](#) Heredity
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- [Coronary Artery Disease](#) Heredity
- [Heart Disease](#) Heredity

The above listing should help one to understand what God tells us in the latter half of the Second Commandment – as physical sin.

A Distinction between Physical Sin and Spiritual Sin

Please note the distinction between these two sins:

Psalm 103:2-3 “Bless the LORD, O my soul; and forget NOT all His benefits: who FORGIVES all your iniquities (*spiritual sins by the shedding of Jesus Christ life’s **blood***), who HEALS all your diseases (*physical sins – as made known in Isaiah 53:4-5*).

Spiritual Sin:

God does NOT pass on the spiritual sins of the fathers to their offspring of future generations:

Ezekiel 18:19-20 “. . . the soul that sins shall die. The son shall NOT bear the guilt of the father nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”

In view of this Scripture, the latter half of the second commandment can only be understood to be physical sins inherited by the offspring of their fathers.

At the same time, not all diseases are inherited. Health problems also develop by not practicing God’s health laws.

Physical Sin:

After healing a man who had an infirmity for 38 years, Jesus Christ said to him:

John 5:5-14 . . . “See, you have been made well. Sin NO MORE lest a worse thing come upon you.” Also, *Mark 2:1-12; I Peter 2:23-25; James 5:14-15.*

The Last Part of the Second Commandment

“. . . but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Exodus 20:6

The LORD God has promised every good blessing to those who love and obey Him (*Leviticus 26:3-13; Deuteronomy 28:1-14*).

I John 3:22-23 “And WHATEVER we ask we receive from Him, because we KEEP His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment that we should believe on the NAME of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”

Mankind will come to appreciate this commandment in time to come, but sad to say not until Jesus Christ returns to this earth. And any carryover of engraved idols will be destroyed once they come to know with recognition and with great love for the one and only true God who is to be worshipped in Spirit and in Truth.

God commands these times of ignorance, worshipping gold, silver, stone shaped by art and man’s devising (*Acts 17:22-30*), are to be done no more as made clear by this wonderful enlightening commandment:

“You shall not make for yourself any carved 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; you shall not bow to them nor serve them.

For I the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me

but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Exodus 20:3-5

The Third Commandment

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.”

Exodus 20:7

To understand this Third Commandment with a greater depth of meaning, “. . . **not to take the Name of God in vain . . .**” of necessity there is the need of letting Scripture itself make known the identity of God before the giving of the Ten Commandments from Mount Horeb.

This took place after Moses came to Mount Horeb with the flock of Jetho on the Sinai desert and saw a flaming fire from the midst of a bush (*a miniature type of what would take place later with Moses leading the millions of the children of Israel at the very same location, and there God would then reveal Himself to Israel with huge flaming fire while making known His law to them*):

Exodus 3:2, 5 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him (Moses) in a flame of fire . . . Then He said to Moses, “Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. Moreover, He said, “I Am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”



Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God (ELOHIM), “Indeed when I return to the elders of Israel and they say to me, ‘What is His Name?’ What shall I say to them?” And God (ELOHIM) said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM (The Self-Existing One – the

Eternal). Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, “I AM has sent me to you.”

God’s Name – “ELOHIM”

ELOHIM is the first name by which the Word (*Spokesman, John 1:1-4*) makes Himself known to mankind as the Creator of the heavens and the earth (*Genesis 1:1-31; 2:1-4*). ELOHIM spoke with the plural verb because He was speaking on behalf of another God-Being (*John 12:49; 14:9*).

The Supreme Almighty God, the One who became known as the Father of Jesus Christ and His begotten Church, is introduced by speaking to His Spokesman, while using the same name, ELOHIM, in creating Adam, by saying:

Genesis 1:26 So God (*Father*) said, “Let Us make mankind in Our Image, after Our Likeness.”

God’s Divine Purpose is stated in this Scripture for the beginning of His Master Plan that would make possible, according to His Time Table, the salvation of all mankind. The loving caring God, that He is, has great desire to expand His Spirit Family.

To make this possible, this Supreme God Being has created within each human being the God-given potential to ultimately be born again at the time of their resurrection into His Spirit Family to then become His sons and daughters and fully in Their Image and Likeness as Spirit Beings (*John 3:3-8*).

The Creation of Adam and Eve

The Spokesman for Almighty God knelt and molded the first man, Adam, into a mortal flesh and blood human being (*fearfully and wonderfully made, Psalm 139:14*). He then breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (*the spirit of God imparting the power of intellect to the physical brain thus forming the human mind, to think, hear, see, etc., Job 32:8*), and man became a living being (*Genesis 2:7*).

Sometime later in the same day the LORD God, ELOHIM (*Genesis 1:27*), caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam. He then took one of his ribs from his body, and after closing up his flesh, He fashioned the rib that He had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man to become his help-mate (*Genesis 2:21-25, 18; I Corinthians 11:9*).

It was necessary for ELOHIM to use the plural in Our Image, after Our Likeness to make known there are TWO GOD-BEINGS (*John 1:1-4*); ELOHIM is a Family Name (*Matthew 3:17*).

The Supreme Almighty God

Adam and Eve, having been given the freedom of choice to eat of the Tree of Life, or the forbidden Tree of the knowledge of good and evil (*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*), Scripture implies the Supreme God-Being remained there to see what their choice would be.

Had they chosen to obey ELOHIM and eaten of the Tree of Life, the Supreme God Being would have at that time begotten them as His Children and become their Father by impregnating them with His Holy Spirit.

Upon seeing their wrong choice by eating of the forbidden Tree, Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden and Cherubim were placed there with a flaming sword

turning every way to guard the entrance of the garden and access to the Tree of Life (*Genesis 3:24*).

At the same time the Supreme God Being chose to close Himself off from mankind along with the Tree of Life (*symbolic of His Holy Spirit*). He then chose to use His Spokesman to fulfill His will and purpose to mankind throughout the Holy Bible

The Spokesman for the Supreme God Being

The world is blinded to the fact that Jesus Christ was the God spoken of in the Old Testament as numerous Scriptures make known (*Deuteronomy 7:9; I Corinthians 10:1-4*). They want to believe the God of the Old Testament was a harsh uncaring God; the day will soon come when they will come to know their error!

However Jesus Christ revealed His Father to His disciples (*John 14:6-15*), and to the Tribe of Judah during His earthly ministry while preaching the gospel:

John 8:42 Jesus said to them (Pharisees), “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.”

Further, Jesus Christ said to the Pharisees:

John 8:54-55 Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is my Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. YET YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN HIM, but I know Him . . .”

The time is coming when the spiritual blindness will have been removed from all of mankind’s eyes (*Revelation 12:9*). They will then have the opportunity to come to know God as their Father and Jesus Christ as their Savior (*Isaiah 11:9; 25:7*).

The Name of Jesus Christ

There are those of the Churches of God who believe other names for the Messiah should be used among themselves as the true names for Him. However, the Apostle Paul wrote they are in error:

Acts 4:10, 12 “. . . let it be made known to you all, and all the people of Israel that by the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole (healed) . . . Nor is there salvation in any other (NAME), for there is NO OTHER NAME under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (John 20:31; 6:44, 65).”

The Name of Jesus Christ, if used properly, lawfully, and with meaningful reverence, and respect, would result in miraculous interventions for their good (*James 5:16-18*).

Though the following Scripture is speaking of the One who came to be Jesus Christ, it also speaks of the reverent respect and fear one should have for Him as the LORD God in the Old Testament:

Deuteronomy 28:58 “If you do NOT carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this Book, that you may FEAR THIS GLORIOUS AND AWESOME NAME, THE LORD YOUR GOD, then I will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.”

Perjury and Profane Swearing

This Third Commandment is referred to as “The Law of Perjury” An unpardonable offense unless one deeply repents of it before God pleading for forgiveness.

Unger’s Bible Dictionary: Perjury – See Oath, 5 . . . Profane- To make common, to desecrate, to defile – the opposite of holiness.

Leviticus 19:12 “And you shall NOT swear by My Name falsely (*an oath*), NOR shall you PROFANE the Name of your God: I am the LORD.”

Profane connects with profanity! In a society that denies God and Jesus Christ as they truly are, yet, Their names are used almost all the time in profanity.

Mark 5:33-37 “. . . do NOT swear at all . . .”



Jesus Christ clearly made known that what is to be said should be a simple yes or no, without swearing in any way:

Matthew 5:33-37 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”

The Denial of Jesus Christ by Religion

Religion of today deny Jesus Christ in the same way as did those during His lifetime ministry as made known by His question of them:

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do NOT the things I say” (Luke 6:46; 7:21-23)

This Commandment also has the meaning of: “. . . **not taking His Name in vain**” Further, it has the meaning not to curse, use lightly, irreverently, frivolously or insincerely, profanity (*profane swearing, cursing*), the use of God’s name.

Ecclesiastes 5:2 “Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.”

Vows/Promises

There was no prohibition against ancient Israel from making vows; but there was a severe penalty for those who did and failed to follow through with those vows.

Deuteronomy 23:21-23 “That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform (*promises*), for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.”

Numbers 30:2 “If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall NOT break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”

It is needful to emphasize Scripture in the New Testament Church prohibits one from making vows:

James 5:12 “But above all, my brethren, do NOT swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your ‘yes,’ be ‘yes,’ and your ‘no,’ be ‘no,’ lest you fall into judgment.” Matthew 5:33-37.

A major reason why one is commanded not to vow is not always being able to control the circumstances concerning it and thereby breaking the vow. Whatever is to be said should be with forethought so as not to sin with whatever we might be inclined to say. The Apostle Paul was led by Jesus Christ to write of this need:

Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace seasoned with salt (*Ecclesiastes 10:12 wisdom*), that you may know how to answer each one.” Luke 4:22; Proverbs 10:32.

There are those who innocently say the Lord’s name or the Father’s over and over repeatedly without real reason for doing it. This is also wrong – using Their Name in vain without real purpose.

One should use this Third Commandment wisely in prayer, writing, or in speech, to prevent one from sinning—keeping in mind what it says to mankind:

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain.”

Exodus 20:7

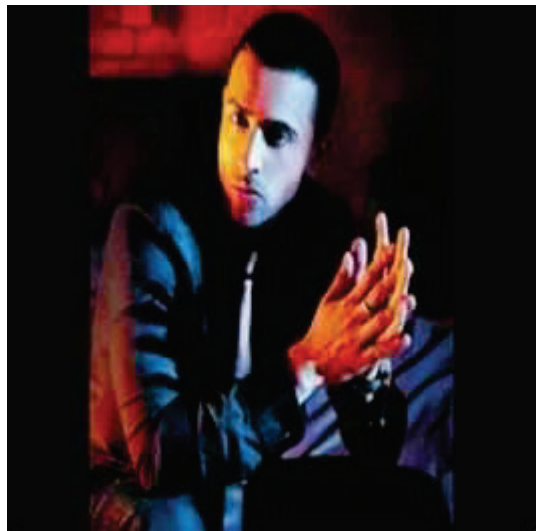
The Fourth Commandment

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days you [Magill’s Linear School Bible: “mayest”] shall labor and do all your work, but the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do NO work [no customary work, Leviticus 23:25; Exodus 16:5,23]; you, nor your son, your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and RESTED the Seventh Day. Therefore the LORD BLESSED the Sabbath day and HALLOWED it.”

Exodus 20:8-11

“REMEMBER” — has the meaning of bringing back to mind the Sabbath Day as already being in place and had been since Creation Week, as the following Scripture makes known:

Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished (*Genesis 1:31*). And on the Seventh Day God RESTED (*setting mankind an example*), and ended His work (*of the six days of creation*) which He had done. Then God BLESSED the Seventh Day and SANCTIFIED it (*set it apart from the previous six days for holy time and use*), because in it He RESTED from all His work which God had created and done.



God needed no REST for He is living energy—He is God, the eternal ever-living God. He rested only to set an example for all of mankind that they should also do the same on His Day.

Isaiah 40:28 “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. . . .”

The Sabbath was Made for Man

The Sabbath was created by God the following day after man had been created on the sixth day; and He set the Seventh Day apart for mankind’s use, as Jesus Christ said:

Mark 2:28-29 “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

The Sabbath Day is the Lord’s Day—not the first day of the week! Further, it was NOT made just for the Jews, but for all Israel and mankind. There were no Jews when the Sabbath was created—only Adam and Eve.

God’s Sabbath Day

The Sabbath is referred to by the religions of this world as – the ‘**Jewish Sabbath**’ – one reason why: they are the only major religion who continues to observe it. Since they are not Jews, this is another reason for justifying themselves for not observing it.

God makes known the Sabbath Day is ‘**MY Sabbath**’ not the Jews or anyone else – it is HIS Sabbath:

Exodus 20:8 “. . . but the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God . . .” (*Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 19:3, 30; 23:2, 3; 26:2*).

The Old Marriage Covenant

Chapters 19 through 24 of the Book of Exodus comprises the Marriage Covenant God had proposed to Israel and their acceptance of it as His wife and was ratified.

There are others who try and justify themselves for not recognizing and observing the Sabbath as saying it was part of the Old Covenant and has been replaced by the New Covenant.

It is true the Sabbath of necessity was part of the Old Covenant for the judgments and statutes, as outlined in chapters 19-24, were based on the Ten Commandments. However these judgments and statutes are nothing more than special applications of laws that had existed from creation.

Israel had been in Egypt for over 200 years and for the most part they knew little if anything regarding the laws of God.

Since God would be using Israel, after having become His wife, as the ‘center-piece’ of His Master Plan of Salvation for all of mankind, it was necessary to teach them His laws that has been in force since creation week; they had been taught by Him to both Adam and Eve before they sinned by choosing the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God’s plan was to use the nation of Israel to teach His laws to the Gentile nations that would point out to them the way to life, peace, and happiness (*Exodus 19:4-6*).

Sacrificial Rites and Rituals

Excerpts from the book: *United States and Britain in Prophecy* by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Pages 163-164

“True, Old Testament Israel was given certain sacrificial rites and rituals which served merely as a reminder of sin (*Hebrews 10:1-4; 9:10*), only as a temporary *substitute* for Christ—*until* He should come. When the reality came, the substitute was dropped (*Daniel 9:27*). But God’s TRUTH and way remain eternally! Therefore God was revealing to Israel what His way is for all people of all time—including TODAY!”

Ceremonial and Ritualistic Laws

The ceremonial and ritualistic laws were added later because of transgressions and served as a reminder of sin (*Jeremiah 7:22-23*). They also served as a school master or tutor to teach Israel obedience to God’s laws (*Galatians 3:24*).

The Law of Moses was composed of two parts:

- 1) Civil laws
- 2) Ritualistic laws

The Apostle Paul wrote of these two different classes of laws. The one is holy and Spiritual (*Romans 7:12, 14*). The other is sacrificial and ritualistic laws. They were added later as a penalty with a time limit until the Messiah would fulfill them by His death by crucifixion (*Daniel 9:26-27*).

Exodus 24:7-8 Then he (Moses) took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people (God’s proposal). And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do and be obedient.” Then Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the Covenant, which the LORD has made with you according to all these words (God’s proposal).”

It was at this time the Old Covenant was completed.

Sabbath Covenant of Identity

Seven chapters later, God made “**A Special Sabbath Covenant**” with the people of Israel. Scripture reveals it would also apply to His Church, and include all the Gentile people as they would come to be part of God’s true Church.

Exodus 31:12-13 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak also to the children of Israel: “Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is ‘**A SIGN**’ between Me and you **THROUGHOUT** your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who **SANCTIFIES** you.

Jesus Christ made known the Seventh Day Sabbath is the “**the Lord’s Day**” (*Mark 2:28*). The LORD also calls the Sabbaths “**My Sabbaths**.” Though they are commanded to observe them, they are God’s Sabbaths—they do not belong to Israel, or the Jews, but only to God!

In addition, there is more involved than just observing the Sabbath Day; there is a need for true knowledge with a good understanding of both mind and heart. And God gave man His Sabbath for the purpose of keeping mankind in the true knowledge and true worship of the true God.

Exodus 31:14-17 “You shall **KEEP** the Sabbath therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.

“Work shall be done for six days, but the Seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath Day, he shall surely be put to death.

Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as ‘**A PERPETUAL COVENANT**’.

“It is **A SIGN** between Me and the children of Israel **FOREVER**; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the Seventh Day, He rested and was refreshed.”

The Sabbath is a very special identifying ‘**SIGN**’ between God and His true faithful and enduring people who worship Him in Spirit and in truth; men and women who have been begotten by God our Father in heaven as His sons and daughters (*John 6:44*).

A Totally Different Covenant

Excerpts from the book: *United States and Britain in Prophecy* by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong—

Page 175 > “Yes, it is a COVENANT! It is a *separate*, totally different covenant. Even if one tries to argue that the Old Covenant is ‘abolished’ and that therefore the Ten Commandments are abolished, he cannot argue that the covenant was to last only until the cross. The covenant is binding **‘throughout your generations’ (verse 13; ‘a perpetual covenant’ (verse 16) and ‘forever’ (verse 17).**



“Pages 168-169 > “CREATION is the proof of God—of His existence. It—the act of creating—*identifies* Him! So God took the most enduring, lasting, imperishable thing that man can know—a recurring space of time—the only day that is a memorial of the act of creating. He took the only day which points, constantly, every seventh day of the week, to God resting on the seventh day of creation week from CREATING, which points to the existence of the Almighty, All-Powerful, All-Ruling God the Creator!

“And God set that particular day apart as His day—God made that particular day sacred and holy to Him—designating it as the very day on which He commands His people to assemble for WORSHIP—the day man is commanded to REST from his own work and physical pleasure (Isaiah 58:13-14)—and to be refreshed by assembling with other obedient worshipers in spiritual fellowship!”

“Another argument for **SUNday Observance:**

“Page 169 > “Satan has deceived a deluded world into supposing Christ’s resurrection occurred on a Sunday morning at sunrise [*including the Seventh Day Adventists, etc.*]—the very time which has always been the time of pagan SUN worship (*Ezekiel 8:15-16*). The resurrection actually occurred on the Sabbath [*in the late afternoon, near sunset, page 8, , not on Sunday!* Please read the booklet: *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday.*”



“Proof: When Mary and the disciples went to where Christ was entombed while it was yet dark on the first day (SUNday) of the week, He had already risen from the dead; He was not there (*Matthew 28:1-6; Luke 24:1-3; John 20:1-2*).

“Page 164 > This special identifying COVENANT, then ordained FOREVER, applies to all Christians today—to all who are reconciled to God as His people!”

The Booklet: “*The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday,*” can be read or downloaded from our website: www.cog-ff.com.

Catholic Church Changed the Sabbath to SUNDAY

There are no Scriptural proofs to be found in the Holy Bible where one can find Jesus Christ or the apostles changed the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. Even so, the Catholic and Protestant Churches observe Sunday as their Sabbath without any Biblical authority for it.

By their own admission the Catholic Church makes known they were the ones who changed the **Seventh Day Sabbath** to a **SUNDAY** observance—solely based on their own authority, not by Scripture, as can be seen in the following quote:

Catholic Virginian, Oct. 3, 1947.



*"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, **a day which we never sanctified.**"*

James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers* (1917 ed.), pp.72, 73.

*"If Protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day. **In keeping the Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church.**" [my emphasis]*

The Calendar Changed?

Another argument presented is that the calendar was changed in past centuries so it cannot be known what day is the seventh day.

True, the calendar has been changed but the consecutive order of the days of the week was never affected. This can be determined by Encyclopedias on the internet. Also, look at any calendar and one can see the days of the week remain as God designed them without the attachment of the pagan names (*Genesis 1. 2.*).

Another consideration: Catholics, Protestants, and all other Sunday observers have no difficulty of knowing what day of the week is SUNDAY.

Proof positive: the Jews are scattered around the world and they have no problem of determining which day is the Seventh Day Sabbath; and they observe it.

Proof Scriptures the Ten Commandments Were Not Abolished with the Old Covenant

The Ten Commandments Were Taught and Obeyed in New Testament Times as can be seen in the following Scriptures:

- 1) **Romans 3:31** “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”
Romans 3:20 “. . . for by the law is the KNOWLEDGE of Sin.”
Romans 7:7 “. . . I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet’”(10th Commandment).
Romans 4:15 “. . . where there is NO law there is NO transgression.”
Romans 7:12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”
Romans 7:22 “For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.”
Romans 7:14 “. . . the law is spiritual . . .”
I Corinthians 7:19 “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but KEEPING the commandments of God is what matters.”

- 2) The clincher is found in the very last book of the New Testament, where God makes known:

Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (*New Jerusalem, Revelation 21*).

Proof Scriptures for Sabbath Observance

There are several additional proofs that the Seventh Day remains God’s Holy Sabbath in New Testament time today, and not just any one day of the week:

- 1) In the context of the elect people of God who are to flee for the place of safety in the near future, Jesus Christ made known the Sabbath is still to be observed in the very end-time, by saying:
 - a) **Matthew 24:20** “And pray that your flight may not be in winter OR on the Sabbath Day”
- 2) The Apostle Paul made known the Sabbath Day rest is yet to be observed by Christians of the New Testament while looking forward to the millennial rest, the one thousand years reign of Jesus Christ, which the Sabbath Day pictures:

Hebrews 4:9 “There remains therefore a keeping of a Sabbath” (*Companion Bible*: Greek verb *Sabbatizo* to keep Sabbath – as verse 4). A literal translation: “So then a Sabbath rest is left behind for the people of God.”

- 3) Jesus Christ observed the Sabbath and said we were to follow His example (*John 3:15; Luke 4:16*). The Apostle Paul observed it as was his custom (*Acts 17:1-2; 18:4*).

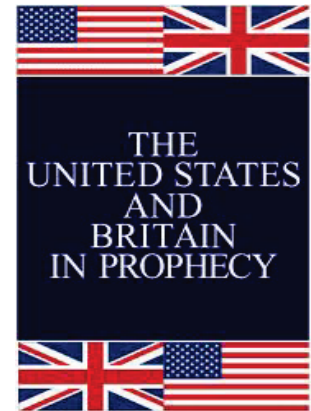
The Crucial Sabbath Command

Excerpts from the book: *United States and Britain in Prophecy* by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong—

“Pages 170-171 > “The Sabbath is God’s SIGN, which identifies not only God as CREATOR-RULER, but it also identifies those who are truly His people. . . . The Sabbath command is the ONLY One of the Ten which is a SIGN identifying WHO are the real and true Christians today! It is the real test command!

“Pages 172 > “The people of the world are willing to acknowledge the other nine commandments—but the Sabbath command is the one they positively REBEL against! It is the one that is the crucial test of obedience! It IDENTIFIES those who have *surrendered* their wills to God—who obey God, regardless of persecution or cost.

“Page 173 > God’s **SIGN** is one you accept voluntarily—of your own volition, or not at all.



“But the “beast” (symbol of the coming Roman Empire in Europe) has a MARK, which is soon going to be BRANDED ON, by physical FORCE! And it has something to do with “buying or selling”—trading, business, earning a living, having a job (Revelation 13:16-17; Revelation 13 and 17).



”Yes, this is the TEST COMMAND—the one on which YOUR VERY SALVATION and ETERNITY DEPEND!”

God’s Holy Sabbath Day is to be remembered and observed—as commanded by the LORD God—

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days you [Magill’s Linear School Bible: “mayest”] shall labor and do all your work, but the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do NO work [no customary work, Leviticus 23:25; Exodus 16:5,23]; you, nor your son, your daughter, nor your male servant, nor

your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and RESTED the Seventh Day. Therefore the LORD BLESSED the Sabbath day and HALLOWED it.”

Exodus 20:8-1

The Fifth Commandment

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

Exodus 20:12

This commandment continued to be thundered by God Himself from Mount Horeb to the people of Israel who were cringing in fear at the foot of the mountain as they heard these words spoken directly to them.



In God's infinite wisdom and caring love He gave this command, for not only the happiness of a family, but knowing the family is the foundation upon which a nation is built, He gave it so both the family and nation might realize the blessings that will come from obeying it.

Disobedience Leads to a National Curse

To disobey directly, or through negligence, will lead to the destruction of both the family and the nation! This can clearly be witnessed in society today! The family structure in America and Britain has almost completely disintegrated! And because of it their destruction is now close at hand!

This will be made very clear in this present writing.

Israel Rejects Their True God

Some years after having entered the land of promise, Israel lost sight of God by looking to the Gentile nations. They began worshipping their gods that are no gods breaking the first commandment (*Hosea 8:14; Book of Judges*). They also rejected this Fifth Commandment in favor of their own reasoning regarding the teaching of it to the family and disobeying it.

This is especially seen to be true here in the end-time.

The Beginning Breakup of the Family

In the last half of the previous century, one man using his human reasoning set the beginning trend by connecting in a powerful and persuasive way with parents with his writing of a book about 'Baby and Child Care.' He paved the way in what is now seen today in broken homes and terror on the streets of cities. "No more corporal discipline lest the parent retard their mental growth and development"; this was quickly accepted by many parents.

This man was used by Satan the devil to appeal directly to the softer nature of mothers and the fathers went along with it.

Note the following writings from the internet:

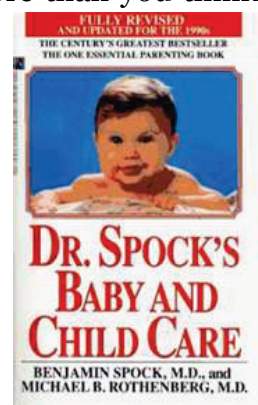
Benjamin Spock

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Benjamin McLane Spock (May 2, 1903 – March 15, 1998) was an [American pediatrician](#) whose book *Baby and Child Care*, published in 1946, is one of the biggest best-sellers of all time. Its message to mothers is that "you know more than you think you do."^[1]

Spock was the first pediatrician to study [psychoanalysis](#) to try to understand children's needs and family dynamics. His ideas about childcare influenced several generations of parents to be more flexible and affectionate with their children, and to treat them as individuals.

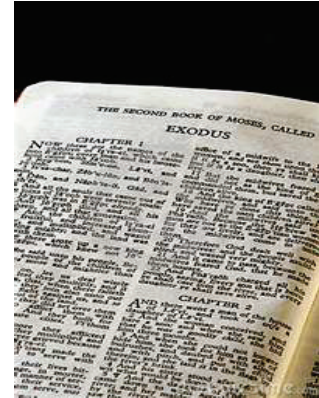
In 1946, Spock published his book *The Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*, which became a bestseller. Its message to mothers is that "you know more than you think you do."^[1] By 1998 it had sold more than 50 million copies. It has been translated into 39 languages. Later he wrote three more books about parenting.



Spock advocated ideas about parenting that were, at the time, considered out of the mainstream. Over time, his books helped to bring about major change. Previously, experts^[citation needed] had told parents that babies needed to learn to sleep on a regular

schedule, and that picking them up and holding them whenever they cried would only teach them to cry more and not to sleep through the night (a notion that borrows from [behaviorism](#)). They were told to feed their children on a regular schedule, and that they should not pick them up, kiss them, or hug them, because that would not prepare them to be strong and independent individuals in a harsh world. Spock encouraged parents to see their children as individuals, and not to apply a one-size-fits all philosophy to them. . . .”

The following article from the internet makes known the results of his teachings, clearly apart from the teaching of the Holy Bible, while using human reasoning to teach their children.



HOW DR. SPOCK IS DESTROYING AMERICA

Internet: www.familyministries.com/dr_spock.htm

“In the last 50 years, our nation has taken a moral nosedive.

Since 1960, the rate of violent crimes has more than tripled. Every day there are news reports of heinous crimes unheard of in America a generation ago. Children murder their playmates, their teachers and their parents. Teenage mothers abandon their newborn babies in trashcans, and every year students commit carnage on their classmates. Our culture has sunk so low that children are no longer safe with their teachers in school or at church – scores of men and women are arrested every year for preying on the children under their care.

The sexual revolution that started in the 60’s continues with many casualties. Promiscuity has become so rampant that 1 of every 4 teenage girls now has a sexually transmitted infection. In the last 5 decades practices have become so deviant that the number of distinct STD’s had risen from 5 to more than 50 – a sudden increase of a thousand percent. Obsession with sexual violence has brought a 318% increase in sexual assault.

Our nation is in severe moral decline and the descent is not slowing. The church is not far behind. . . .”

Obeying Parents in the Lord

The Apostle Paul viewing prophetically the problems in society in the last days with the breakup of the homes and families through the inspiration of Jesus Christ, wrote how this could be turned around by directly writing to the children regarding the need of their obedience to their parents so that they might live long on the earth as God promised they would by obeying this commandment:

Ephesians 6:1-3 “Children, OBEY your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

To that effect, God gave instructions in the writings of His Holy Bible (*Deuteronomy 4:9-14*), how children through obedience to their parents can have prolonged lives.

Parents have been given the responsibility by God of rearing their children to be obedient and loving while also respecting their father and their mother.

The Apostle Paul follows up by writing to the head of the family, the father, who is primarily held responsible for the family by God:

“And you, fathers, do NOT provoke your children to wrath (*be temperate and thoughtful with caring love*), BUT bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).



The teachings of God, if followed correctly by caring and loving parents, will result in a very happy and balanced family with the desired degree of loving affection and respect from the children for their parents.

No day care centers or baby sitters should take away the bond that belongs between parents and their children.



Nothing should replace the loving affection shown by children to their parents that comes as the result of caring love that is shown by parents who teach their children to love and respect them that is based on this commandment from God.

Sitting down together at mealtime is a major means of creating and solidifying the family with healthy and constructive conversation that brings about an atmosphere of cheerful and happy children that carries over into the school system with other children and teachers. It is contagious.

Tragically for the most part, both parents work outside the home leaving little to no time for quality togetherness. This results in children growing apart from their parents. Children often will then begin learning from others who do not have stabilizing values! Tragically this has brought about the terrible times in which we live.

A Lawless and Rebellious Society

Based on news reports and observation, one can easily see the fallout from not obeying this commandment. Children for the most part are out of control in this lawless society and tied in with others like them without parental control and in realty have come to be criminals.

Many parents are requesting the police to protect and take care of their children who are yet in the home due to their own helplessness to keep them from harm and possibly death.

Another contributing factor is the government, with the state and local level, who has interfered with the family passing laws forbidding the use of tempered corporal punishment in either the home or in the schools.

As the result many children grow up without respect for parents, teachers, or law enforcement agencies.

Parents are left ham-strung as to what and how to teach them right from wrong without the sometimes need of measured corporal punishment. Even teachers in the school system are handicapped while trying to do the best they can in trying to keep control and order in the class rooms.



The Wisest Man

There is no credence given to the writings of the wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon, who was given superior wisdom and knowledge by God. Yet, kings and queens in that time traveled from afar just to learn from him; and they did (*I Kings 4:29-34*).



The LORD God inspired his writings regarding the rearing of children:

King Solomon of Israel wrote: **“He who spares his rod hates his children (no caring love for his future), but he who LOVES him disciplines him promptly (temperately and without anger as needed, Proverbs 13:24).**

He further wrote:

“Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction” (Proverbs 19:18).

What he wrote here is certainly in evidence today. Teens are not only murdering one another but some are in prison for other terrible problems.

“Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way (*from the court system*), and he who hates correction will die” (Proverbs 15:10).”

On the other hand, Solomon wrote of the children who are willing to heed and also experience rebuke and further corrective discipline as needed:

“A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke (Proverbs 13:1).

The following writings and statistics reveal the many problems to be found among young people, the causes and the fallout, due to not heeding this wonderful Fifth Commandment.

Street Gang Warfare

How Street Gangs Work

by [Ed Grabianowski](#)

“Gang violence is a problem in every major city in the United States and membership is on the rise. According to the Department of Justice's 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment, there are at least 21,500 gangs and more than 731,000 active gang members. While gangs are less prevalent in rural areas, in major cities, gang violence is responsible for roughly half of all homicides. Gangs are also becoming more savvy, using computers and other technology to commit crimes . . .

Peer Pressure

“Gang members tend to be young. This is partly because gangs intentionally recruit teenagers, but it's also because young people are very susceptible to peer pressure. If they live in a gang-dominated area, or go to a school with a strong gang presence, they might find that many of their friends are joining gangs.

“It can be difficult for a teen to understand the harm that joining a gang can bring if he or she is worried about losing all of their friends.

“Many teenagers do resist the temptation of gang membership, but for others it is easier to follow the crowd. Peer pressure is a driving force behind gang membership in affluent areas. . . .”

A Lack of Quality Home Life

Due to little or no quality time in the home with caring parents, young people are left to fend for themselves due to neither parent being there for them in whatever they undertake. The cause is too often the result of parents divorcing each other, remarriages, or living with others without marriage.

These troubled young people too often yield to the peer pressure of gangs yearning to belong somewhere with others who seem to care for them.

Some of them end up robbing or sometimes taking part in murdering other gang members. A few of these young people have been arrested and are now facing long sentences in prison for those murders. Tragically, some have even murdered their own parents or had others do it for them.



The daily newspapers report death after death of young people from gangs fighting one another. Often older people who get in the way of these gangs shooting at one another are also killed.

The gang members do pretty much what they want without any fear of any real restraining force. They often roam the streets without fear.

Some Families are struggling to keep control of their particular blocks from these daily violent murders of one another. Drugs are another major contributing factor.

Many homes have only one parent who tries to keep the family together. However due to necessity the parent is often employed leaving the children at the mercy of others who often introduce them to drugs, sex, and gangs.

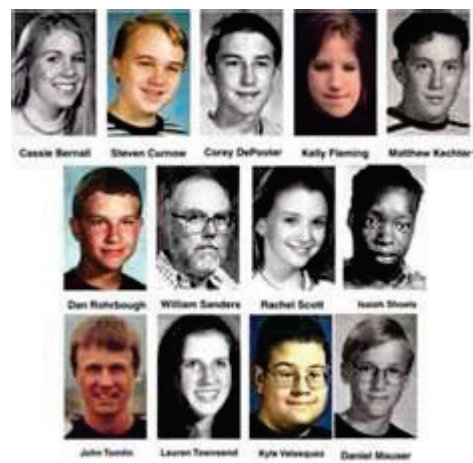
Because of great concern for the safety of their children many parents are keeping their small children locked up in their homes trying to protect them from the gangs and random murders.

Gun shots are often heard throughout the night in some areas of the cities. Parents grieve because of their sons or daughters having been shot or murdered by these gangs.

School Shootings

School shootings by some teenagers are taking place more frequently. One of the worst took place in the Columbine School in Colorado.

The pictures of those who were murdered by these two teenagers are posted here. >



Columbine High School massacre

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

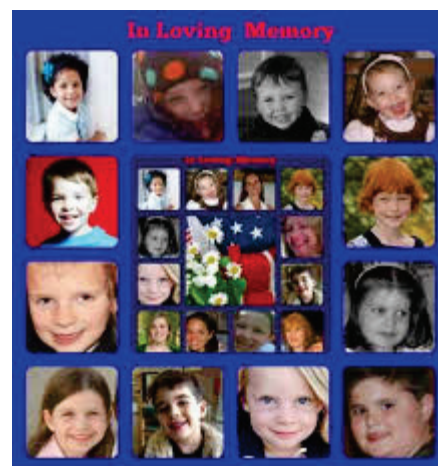
The **Columbine High School massacre** (often known simply as **Columbine**) occurred on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, at [Columbine High School](#) in [Columbine](#), an [unincorporated area](#) of [Jefferson County](#), Colorado, United States, near [Denver](#) and [Littleton](#). Two senior students, [Eric Harris](#) and [Dylan Klebold](#), embarked on a [massacre](#), killing 12 students and 1 teacher. They also injured 21 other students directly, and three people were injured while attempting to escape. The pair then committed [suicide](#). It is the fourth-deadliest [school massacre](#) in United States history, after the 1927 [Bath School disaster](#), 2007 [Virginia Tech massacre](#), and the 1966 [University of Texas massacre](#), and the deadliest for an American high school. . . .”

Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting

From, **Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting**

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia

“On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza, 20, fatally shot twenty children and six adult staff members in a [mass murder](#) at [Sandy Hook Elementary School](#) in the village of [Sandy Hook](#) in [Newtown, Connecticut](#).^{[5][6]}



and

Before driving to the school, Lanza had shot killed his mother Nancy at their Newtown home.^{[8][10][11]} As first responders arrived, he committed [suicide](#) by shooting himself in the head.

The incident is the second deadliest mass shooting by a single person in American history, after the 2007 [Virginia Tech massacre](#). It is the second deadliest mass murder at an American elementary school, after the 1927 [Bath School bombings](#) in Michigan.”^{[12][13]}

No Way to Prevent Weapons in Schools

Outside of the use of metal detectors, principals of large schools state they cannot prevent children from bringing guns to schools. And tragic experiences of past and recent years reveal sometimes these guns are used in murdering teachers and children.

Sometimes a policeman for his own protection is forced to shoot a youth before he is shot himself.

Policemen Outnumbered

Due to the economic constraints confronting cities, police are sometimes laid off leaving a smaller number to try and deal with the many crimes committed on a daily basis. This leaves them limited with their effort of trying to bring their cities under control from these youthful gangs with very little positive results.

Added to the problem are the frustrations brought about by liberal judges who too often let the law breakers go free without any serious penalty imposed.

The News Media make known the jails and prisons are full and running over with men, women, and young people! As the result those who have committed lessor crimes continue to be released to make room for others coming in to replace them. A revolving door for many; and it never stops.

The Beginning Root of the Problem

The breakup of the family and home began in its infancy during World War II. This was because of the war effort and need for workers in the assembly plants, etc. Many wives left the home to work in the factories and assembly plants to build fighter and bomber planes, tanks, and ships.

During those years husbands and wives sometimes worked different shifts leaving children coming home from school to care for themselves until one or the other parent would come home (*called lock-key children*). Hardly any quality time was left for the children. And the same is true today.

This problem has ballooned to the point where many wives and mothers continued to choose employment outside the home while sacrificing their children to undesirable fates.



Women Ruling over Men

There are the mothers and some grandmothers who have chosen to enter into politics and have become very prominent in offices of government and elsewhere.

These women are now for the most part dominating society by being in key positions in government, the judiciary, chief executive officers (CEO) in business, in media, and many other places in key decision roles.

This has led to the reversal of the roles of men and women. Women are now in the leadership role while men are found in their shadow without a whimper. Thus the fulfilling of a prophecy for the end-time:

“As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths” (Isaiah 3:12).

This has left men emasculated, spineless in leadership, as another prophet wrote:

“ . . . Surely, your people in your midst are women . . . ” (Nahum 3:12).



Some mothers are even serving in the military, with some in other countries, leaving their children with a father who has to work or is also in the military.

In reality, children have become rebellious and deliberately doing bad things to show defiance to their parents who chose to leave them in the care of others instead of being there for them.

It should be realized no one, not even a grandparent, can replace the natural parent whose child inwardly longs for that relationship denied to them.

With no one to see them, they will often cry themselves to sleep at night yearning for the full-time loving and caring relationship that has been denied to them.

With all of these problems it is no wonder we are experiencing a worsening lawless society that is already out of control. Soon people will fear to shop in cities of any size.

Jesus Christ made known the terrible family problems that would exist in this end-time; and the cause for them:

“But know this that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, unthankful, unholy . . . ” (II Timothy 3:1-2).

Earlier Generations

Prior to World War II, though society was not perfect, there was no rejection of God and His laws by most people. This can be attributed to a caring home life with both parents being there for their children. In addition there was minimal corporal discipline exercised in the home and in the school systems when needed.

I, the author of this booklet, was once paddled with a long measuring ruler by the principal of the school for fighting another small lad. Another time I talked too much in class and got one swing of a thick paddle. I learned! The paddle was sometimes referred to as “the board of education.”

Knowingly, or unknowingly, during those years there was a general belief by parents in what King Solomon was led by God to write and was practiced:

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when his is old[er] he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6).

And parents saw the positive benefits from this practice and also supported their school teachers.

Often when a parent learned his child had received a paddling at school he or she would also paddle the child at home for their mischief and disrespect of the teachers.



As the result authorities were respected and there were few prisons. Children grew up taking their lawful place in society.

Men teachers wore suits and ties and women teachers dressed appropriately setting an example of respect and authority before the student body.

From limited personal observation teachers today wear very informal clothing.

The Radical Change in Society

The scene began changing after World War II with the baby boomers, hippies, beatniks, and others, began making their presence known in a state of rebellion against the status quo.

This was brought about due to the change in their home life and desire for change. And with it, paddling in the home and in the school system was for the most part eliminated and so was respect for their elders.

Hippies /1960s

65 By [tony9573](#)

“... Hippie trends and values have had major effects on culture by influencing film, literature, music and the arts. The values of diverse cultural and religious adoption, propagated by hippies have travelled wide and far as an accepted norm. Their attitudes have posed many challenges to a conformist society.

“A trademark characteristic of a hippie was their attitude to relieve themselves of societal regulations, free to choose their own way and thereby find the actual meaning of life. An expression of this attitude was observed in their body language, dress code and grooming style. These parameters helped to serve as universal visual reminders of their fight for individual rights.



“The 1960s was a period of intense revolutionary campaigns, starting with the anti-war movement, the black power movement, civil rights movement, sexual revolution, student rights movement etc. In a way, many of these revolutions have set the code for current day campaigns to take on their particular course of action. Hippies shot to popularity due to their adoption of a controversial lifestyle, like communes which are essentially group living. They advocated a simpler way of life, promoting the concept of non-consumerism and little or no personal responsibility to the society. . . .”

The Role of Music

Music also played a major role in the declining society that went hand in hand with the hippie generation. Music is a powerful mood-swinger; it can move people toward God or toward the devil!

And with what began taking place in the 1950s, and afterwards, in retrospect, it can be seen that music began moving the younger generation toward the devil!

And like the Piped Piper, Satan would through the power of wrong music use it to impact all society and began its move after him and lead them into the forest to



massacre and dismember them; the forest soon to come will be the **Great Tribulation**.

Elvis Presley was the forerunner of what has come to pass and set the stage paving the way for the Beatles. Then it became worse with hard rock bands following with very loud speakers in automobiles blasting out blatant sexuality, and then the rappers –

“. . . these songs reflect a generalized rage, particularly rage against social authority” *Slouching Toward Gomorrah*, pages 125-126, Judge Robert Bork.

Many of their songs were very explicit regarding illicit sex and with words of outright rebellion against all authority and lack of respect for anyone. And the younger generation followed them like sheep going to the slaughter with their boom boxes with no respect for the older generation.

The Promised Elijah for the End-Time

Jesus Christ foreseeing this time of the end with the complete disregard for the laws of God, led a prophet to write of one last opportunity to escape the complete demise of the House of Joseph as nations by asking for the remembrance of His Laws:

Malachi 4:4 “Remember (*bring back to mind*) the LAW of Moses My Servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, even the statutes and judgments”

And to bring back the remembrance of His holy and righteous laws, God would send a special man to preach and teach those laws to all who would listen to him:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet BEFORE the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD” (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-11).



Herbert W. Armstrong

The man sent by God was in the spirit and power of the ancient Elijah (*Luke 1:17*). He would be used by Jesus Christ to seek a restoration of families by teaching them His laws. For over 50 years he did cry out for repentance and obedience to God lest He destroy all of mankind:

“And he (*Elijah*) will TURN the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, LEST I come and strike the earth with a curse” (*Hebrew: total destruction*, Malachi 4:6).

There were a sufficient number of families who did listen and turned back to God and to each other for some years. But after his death in 1986 they soon returned to their former way of life.

And though the Elijah is dead, he is still crying out the message of repentance by way of his Recorded Works that Jesus Christ led him to speak and write on our 14 websites, the primary one: www.cog-ff.com. Soon even his recorded voice will be stilled and heard no more when Jesus Christ closes the door of these websites (*Revelation 3:7-8*).

God will then deal with mankind by permitting Satan the devil to bring upon the House of Israel, ***famine, disease, epidemics! Immediately following will be the nuclear attack on the House of Jacob by the revived Roman Empire; this will be the Great Tribulation!***

Those of mankind who will not die or be murdered during these coming terrible times will then go into slavery to other nations as prophesied by the prophets of God (*Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28; Ezekiel 5:12*).

No Remaining Hope for Israel

This world is in a state of rebellion! It is easy to see nations and families are in a state of war against one another in different ways. And this is reflected by seeing the hostility being expressed in society.

Realizing the tragic condition of this country, and all of the other tribes of Israel, there is no real hope remaining for a real and lasting change for the values needed for government and family in this present age.

America and Britain have entered their *death throes* as a society and nations largely due to their flagrant disregard of this one commandment from a loving and caring God.

A Beautiful Peaceful New World is on the Horizon

Only Jesus Christ can, and soon will, bring about a righteous government based on His holy and righteous laws when He returns to this earth in just a few short years. He will then establish His government and rule over all nations.

Families will become very well acquainted with this Fifth Commandment and will be obedient to it and the related teachings of it.



There will be no divorces, no wrong kind of music, and no drugs,

Husbands will return to their God-given role of loving and caring leadership of the family while providing the needs of the family (*I Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23, 25*).

Wives will become homemakers and will be there at all times for their children and for their husbands (*Genesis 3:16; Titus 2:1-5; I Timothy 2:11-12; I Corinthians 14:34; Proverbs 31:10-31*).

As the result of obeying these laws families will become very happy and dwell in peace with real loving togetherness without fear of any one.

May God speed that wonderful soon-coming new age of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ when all of mankind will then begin obeying with reverent fear, respect, this loving Fifth Commandment and will then begin reaping the blessings that come from obeying it:

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you”

Exodus 20:12

The Sixth Commandment

“You shall not murder”

Exodus 20:13

Murder is commonplace anymore. The news media in all cities report one or more murders virtually every day! The following statistics make known how bad it now is in this country.

Number of [Murders, United States](#), 2009: **15,241**

Highest Murders in US by City 2011?

ADMIN MARCH 12, 2012 0

The rising murder rates in the American cities and regions and the way some of the most popular American areas are topping the list of **highest murders in US by city 2011** is a cause of worry. The reason for the rise can be counted to be recession and its aftermaths like unemployment, loss of economic resources etc. . . .

“The statistics shock and move everyone and make us think if **we are safe in our houses are not?** The rise in the number of murders and the way its cities are climbing in the list of **highest murders in US by city 2011** is like a scar at face of the most economically developed country of the world, which has been the dream destination for many around the globe. The security agencies have constantly been fighting the eventual rise in the crime and especially the gruesome murder rates but it is a fact to be known to all that without public awareness and alertness on the part of citizens it is not possible to put an end to these. The need of the hour is that the police and citizens join hands to fight the situation and make American cities safer places to live in. . . .”

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

“... of January 1, 2011 there was 3251 **people sitting on death row** . . .”

Stockton Record, Perspective, A7, April 7, 2012

Mass incarceration threatens economy, democracy, equality

By Jess Rigelhaupt The Free Lance Star

“... The United States is the largest jailer in the world. With more than 2.3 million people behind bars, it has an unrivaled incarceration rate. One in 100 adults is locked up: The incarceration rate is 750 per 100,000 residents. . . . The problems of incarceration do not end at the prison walls. There are 7.3 million people under correctional control care above and beyond the 2.3 million behind bars. . . . Mass incarceration threatens the country’s fiscal health, our democracy, and our belief in equality. . . .”

Without reform, nation is at risk

By Senator Jim Webb

Washington—We find ourselves as a nation in the midst of a profound, deeply corrosive crisis that we have largely been ignoring at our peril. The scope of the problem is vast. We have 5 percent of the world’s population but 25 percent of the world’s known prison population. More than 7 million Americans are incarcerated, on probation, or on parole; 2.27 million Americans are in prison—5 times the world’s average incarceration rate. At the same time, two-thirds of Americans say there is more crime today than a year ago. . . .”

The Murder of Unborn Babies

Abortion is one of the most heinous, brutal, and extremely painful murders that one can experience. Medical doctors report the unborn babies suffer more intense pain than those outside the womb.

It is presently being reported on National News Media that abortion clinics are very callous and uncaring as they either murder the babies inside the womb or snip their spinal cords outside the womb or pickle them in jars that will either murder them by drowning or by the use of chemicals.

Please note the statistics of the murders of the unborn from the internet.

The Statistics of the Murders of the Unborn

All abortion numbers are derived from pro-abortion sources courtesy of The Alan Guttmacher Institute and Planned Parenthood's *Family Planning Perspectives*.

The murder of unborn babies, labeled abortion,

WORLDWIDE

Number of abortions per year: Approximately 42 Million
Number of abortions per day: Approximately 115,000

Where abortions occur:

83% of all abortions are obtained in developing countries and 17% occur in developed countries.

© Copyright 1996-2008, The Alan Guttmacher Institute. (www.agi-usa.org)

UNITED STATES

Number of abortions per year: 1.37 Million (1996)
Number of abortions per day: Approximately 3,700

Abortion a Lifestyle Choice?

Mail on Line wrote on May 13:2012

"The Health Service [in Great Britain] is spending around £1million a week providing repeat abortions. Critics said figures revealed yesterday show thousands of women are using the procedure as a form of contraception. It is not unknown for some women to have seven, eight or even nine terminations in their lifetime.

The Magnification of God's Laws

As terribly bad as these statistics reveal these gruesome murders to be, the magnification of God's laws reveal virtually everyone is guilty of murder in the mind and heart at one time or another, and some all the time.

It has already been made known in earlier writings in this book that Jesus Christ came to magnify the law and make it honorable (*Isaiah 42:21*); He did not do away with His laws as many want to believe, but more than upholding His laws in the Old Testament, His teachings have been expanded to include our intent, thoughts and attitudes, as the following Scripture makes known:

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy but to fulfill (*fulfill the law by obeying it*)."

The Spirit of Murder

Jesus Christ makes the magnification of the commandment not to murder very clear by what He further said about it:

Matthew 5:21-24 "You have heard that it has been said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.

But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother ('without a cause' is omitted in the Greek Texts and numerous manuscripts) shall be in danger of the judgment. . . ."

Unless anger is recognized for what it is, and brought under control it can lead to outright hatred of a person that is a spirit of murder—as the following scripture makes known:



I John 3:15 “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

There is truth in the following statement: ***“The thought to hate— is to wish his death.”***

Conspiracy is an Act of Murder

The spirit of murder usually begins with jealousy and envy toward someone. This can lead to anger; and in turn bitterness and resentment, this is an act of murder that begins in one's mind! This also carries over into literal and spiritual murderous conspiracies that have been formed against God's past and present chosen leaders.

David was inspired by God to write in a Psalm of his own friend plotting against him:

Psalms 55:13-14, 21, 24 NJPS “It is not an enemy who reviles me (*secretly*)—I could bear that; . . . but it is YOU, my equal, my companion, my friend; sweet was our fellowship; we walked together in God's house. . . . He harmed his friend, he broke his pact (*brotherhood*); his talk was smoother than butter; yet his mind was on war; his words were more soothing than oil, yet they were drawn swords (*example: II Samuel 12:8-10 Joab's murder of Amasa*); . . . For You, O God, will bring them down to the nethermost pit—those MURDEROUS, treacherous men; they shall NOT live out half their days; but I trust in You.”

Though Ahithophel was a close confidant and counselor of King David, he plotted against his king and betrayed him by trying to overthrow David from his throne and have him murdered (*II Samuel 15:12, 31*).

Judas, one of the twelve chosen disciples of Jesus Christ, also betrayed the very Son of God! He led a great multitude with swords and clubs to arrest Him; and this brought about His death by crucifixion (*Matthew 26:14-16*).



It also applies to those who have formed conspiracies, murderous treacherous acts, against God's chosen leaders in this age.

Murder can be Forgiven by God

Contrary to what some worldly churches teach, outright murder, indirect murder, and unintentional murder, along with all other sins, can be forgiven by God upon true godly repentance that comes from the very depths of the heart:

Matthew 12:31-32 “Therefore I say to you, ‘EVERY SIN’ and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.”

Jesus Christ inspired the Apostle John to write of the merciful God that He is once sin is confessed before Him with heart-broken sorrow:

I John 1:8 “If we confess our sins (*to God the Father and Jesus Christ*), He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The second great commandment by God:

Matthew 22:39 “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

And further—

Romans 13:10 “Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Man must learn to live in peace with others or he will perish forever. The time is soon coming when all will be making their choice of disobeying and perishing, or obeying and receiving the blessings that will result from this Fifth Commandment:

“You Shall Not Murder”

Exodus 20:13

“You shall not commit Adultery”

Exodus 20:14

Society has moved so far away from any recognition of God and His Holy Righteous laws they would have no real concept of the meaning of this Seventh Commandment even if they were to read it. Further there is no fear of violating this law— except by being caught by their husband or wife.

Whether they realize it or not the day in time is coming when each one will be standing in God’s judgment to answer for what they have done (*II Corinthians 5:9-11*). To avoid the judgment of death from having committed this terrible sin, it must be confessed before God while crying out to Him for forgiveness with a broken heart.

The definition of adultery is as follows:

[Adultery - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adultery)
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adultery

Adultery (also called philandery, anglicized from Latin adulterium) is voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than the lawful spouse.

Young’s Concordance: The Greek word for adultery is “*Moichia*”

The Magnification of God’s Laws

Once again in view of this Seventh Commandment it is needful to be reminded that Jesus Christ came to magnify His holy and righteous laws, which also includes the act of adultery:

Isaiah 42:21 “The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will MAGNIFY THE LAW and make it honorable.”

More than the literal command not to commit adultery, this law, along with the other teachings, has been expanded to include our intent, thoughts and attitudes, as the following Scriptures makes known:



Matthew 5:17-19 “Do not think that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy but to fulfill (*to bring about the fulfillment of the law by obeying it*). For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle (*the dotting of an i or the crossing of a t*) will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called the least [*by those*] in the kingdom of God [*Scripture reveals law breakers will not be there, Revelation 22:11, 15*]; but whoever does and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of God.”

The Sin of Adultery

This law, and other laws, magnified by Jesus Christ, transcends the laws that the LORD God gave to Israel through His prophet Moses as can also be seen by this Seventh Commandment: **“You Shall Not Commit Adultery.”**

Jesus Christ made the magnification of this commandment not to commit adultery very clear by what He said about it – making known that it first begins in the mind as can be seen in the following Scripture:

Matthew 5:27-28 “You have heard that it has been said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever LOOKS at a woman to LUST for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

To expound on this Scripture further—it has the meaning of a married man or married woman looking at another person with thoughts of lust forming within the mind with the intent and desire of committing adultery with him or her.

Unless lust is recognized for what it is, and what it could lead to without being brought under control by a married person, can also lead to the act of committing adultery and sinning against God—as the following Scripture makes known:

James 1:12 “Blessed is the man who endures temptation . . . each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desire (*lust*) and enticed. Then when desire (*lust*) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when it is full-grown, it brings forth death.”

The Sin of Fornication

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia

“**Fornication** typically refers to consensual [sexual intercourse](#) between two people not married to each other.”

This can also mean a single person fornicating with one who is married.

To further make known the difference between adultery and fornication please note the different meanings from the Greek wording.

Young's Concordance; the Greek word for fornication is *Porneia*. Adultery in the Greek is defined as *Moicheia*.

Recent Bible translations translate the word "Fornication" as "Sexual Immorality."

The Apostle Paul wrote of the need for a man (*or woman*) to flee from any thought of enticement to commit fornication as did Joseph who fled from the wife of Potiphor after she repeatedly tried to seduce him. By way of explanation as to why he could not, he said to her:

Genesis 39:6-12 "... There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How can I do this great wickedness, and SIN against God? . . ."



Sex Openly Displayed Everywhere

***THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX*, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, inside front flap cover page:**

"... Everywhere, from every direction, sex is hurled at the public—in movies, on television, in newspapers and magazines, in advertising, TV commercials. . . ."

The Scantly Dressed Women Today

There is very little difference between the way women in society are dressed today and the prostitutes walking the streets. In all these areas these beautiful and very attractive women can be seen on newscasts and many other places wearing so little clothing there is very little left for the imagination with scant covering for their breasts, and many are clothed with dresses almost up to their thighs.

Scripture makes known there is no shame or embarrassment shown by these women:

Jeremiah 8:12 "Were they ASHAMED when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ASHAMED, nor did they know how to BLUSH. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; in the time of their PUNISHMENT they shall be cast down," says the LORD.

These women can be provocative, enticing, and alluring! By focusing on the bare areas of these women can lead to real problems within the mind of a virile man as the early chapters of the book of Proverbs makes known; leading to poverty and unhappiness, and worse, by those who are ensnared by them (*Proverbs 2:10-32; 4:20-27; 5:1-14; 6:20-35; 7:1-27*).

Not many men have the godly character of Joseph to flee by averting their eyes from what is displayed before them. And averting the eyes is a means of fleeing from temptation as Holy Scripture commands men to do and place their focus elsewhere rather than on the scantily-clad woman:

I Corinthians 6:18 “Flee sexual immorality (*Greek: Porniea; KJV fornication*)! Every sin that a man does is outside his body, but he who commits sexual immorality (*Greek: Porniea; KJV fornication*) sins against his own body.

An Adulterous Generation

Jesus Christ called His generation ‘**adulterous**’ (Matthew 12:39). This is both literally and figuratively true many times over in this end-time as statistics make known.

Statistics from the Internet:

22 percent of married men have strayed at least once during their married lives.

14 percent of married women have had affairs at least once during their married lives.

Younger people are more likely candidates; in fact, younger women are as likely as younger men to be unfaithful. 22 percent of men and 14 percent of women admitted to having sexual relations outside their marriage sometime in their past.

90 percent of Americans believe adultery is morally wrong.

50 percent of Americans say President Clinton's adultery makes his moral standard "about the same as the average married man," according to a Time-CNN poll.

61 percent of Americans thought adultery should not be a crime in the United States; 35 percent thought it should; 4 percent had no opinion.

17 percent of divorces in the United States are caused by infidelity.

Fornication is a Sin against God and Oneself

Little do men and women realize that the act of fornication is a sin against God and oneself, just as is masturbation though it is not mentioned by name in Holy Scripture; it is nevertheless a sexual sin. It is also a sin against one's future mate in marriage.

Men and women kid themselves into believing self-masturbation is not wrong since they are not hurting anyone or causing another person to sin. This is what one man once said to me as his pastor after acknowledging he did masturbate.

Scripture clearly makes known that the law of adultery and fornication covers all sexual sins of impurities whatever they might be.

The Unrepentant Sinner

It should be realized the unrepentant sinner in the long term will face a terrible time in the judgment to come and will die an agonizing death in the Lake of Fire:

Revelation 21:7-8 “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But [*without, or left out of His coming Kingdom will be*] the cowardly, UNBELIEVERS, abominable, murderers, **SEXUALLY IMMORAL**, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which **BURNS WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE**, which is the second death.” **Revelation 22:15.**

The Deception of Fornication in Marriage

To make the law of fornication clear (*Porneia, sexual immorality—which covers the widest range of sexual sins*), Jesus Christ speaks of past fornications prior to a marriage as a lawful cause of dissolving the marriage vow between a man and woman at the time – *or afterwards* – depending on whenever the knowledge comes to be known by either the man or woman, then, or later on.

Meaning: He or she who has been led to believe and placed emphasis on this belief that their mate was a virgin at the time of marriage; and later finds this was not true.

Once it does come to light— action to disannul the marriage must be taken on the Day that it is learned (*A principle taken from Numbers 30:1-2, 10-12*). By not taking action beyond that time means he or she has accepted the mate in marriage. It is then bound by God. Before that time it had not been bound by God for He knew of the deceptive fraud of the previous sexual immorality.

This can be seen by what Jesus Christ said in His quote of an Old Testament Scripture:

Matthew 5:31-32 “Furthermore, it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife let him give her a certificate of divorce (*Deuteronomy 24:1*).’ But I say to you whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality (*Greek: Porneia, or fornication – meaning fraud due to unchastity, perpetrated on the other mate by hiding sexual sins before marriage*) causes her to commit adultery and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery (*Greek: moicheia*).”

God led Moses to write of the deceptive fraud when a man would take a woman in marriage and then find she had either directly lied to her husband or led him to believe she was a virgin when she wasn't and therefore became a valid cause for an annulment or divorce:

Deuteronomy 22:13-14 “If any man takes a wife and goes in to her, and charges her with shameful conduct, and brings a bad name on her, and says, ‘I took this woman (*in marriage*) and when I came to her I found she was NOT A VIRGIN (*he had been defrauded*).’ ”

Conversely, though it is much harder to determine, this is also true with a wife believing her husband to be a virgin at the time of marriage and finding later he had deceived her. Scripture makes known because of being defrauded this is a legal cause for the one defrauded to seek an annulment or divorce—if he or she chooses to do it.

The Sanctity of Marriage between Man and Woman

The Pharisees attempted to entrap Jesus Christ by asking Him about marriage as it had been in Old Testament times:

Matthew 19:3-6, 9 “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason (*Deuteronomy 24:1*)?” And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female,’ “and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? “So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” . . . And I say to you, that whoever divorces his wife except for sexual immorality (*Porneia*, translated KJV: *Fornication*) and marries another commits adultery. And whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”

Keeping the Marriage Vows

Jesus Christ led the Apostle Paul to write further about the bond of marriage between husband and wife in God's true Church who find themselves in very difficult problems:

I Corinthians 7:10-11 “Now to the married, I command, and yet not I but the Lord, a wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.”

This Scripture is speaking of a man and woman whose marriage God has entered into and blessed.

Matthew 19:6 “. . . Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”



This Scripture makes known that God has not entered into nor bound the marriages of this world – only those who truly belong to Him as members of His true Church.

This is made clear by God having driven Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden due to their choosing the tree of good and evil by which they chose to rule their lives in all areas

including marriages by human reason instead of by the revealed truths of God (*Genesis 3:1-24*).

The results can be seen in the marriages today and all the many problems stemming from them. *(Please review the writing of the 5th Commandment to give better understanding of the many problems facing families and society today because of the violating of both the 5th and the 7th commandments.)*

The Remaining Matters in Marriage

Further, the Apostle Paul wrote of a member of God's true Church married to one who is a non-member, an unbeliever:

I Corinthians 7:12-16 But to the rest I, not the Lord say (*still true, I Timothy 4:16-17*), “If any man who has a wife who does not believe (*not a converted member*), and she is willing to live with him, let him NOT divorce her. And the woman who has a husband who does NOT believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her NOT divorce him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified (*put in a separate category, not made holy*) by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean (*not part of God's Church*), but now they are holy (*sanctified – set apart for access to God*). But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is NOT under bondage (*Greek. - of the marriage vow*) in such cases, but God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife.”

The Apostle Paul wrote the member should try hard to make the marriage work as also made known by the Apostle Peter:

I Peter 3:1 “**Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands** (*in the Lord not out of the Lord; examples: Ephesians 6:1; Acts 5:29*), **that even if some do not obey the word** (*not in the Church*), **they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of the wife.**”

By both husband and wife working together within God’s loving government would keep the marriage alive and happy. This would free them from the unhappiness, mental anguish and pain of being separated by a divorce. There would also be the loving stability for the children by having both parents together with them.

Tragically, the whole society is upside down largely due to the breakup of families and children torn apart by no longer having both parents there to love and care for them:

This is just another reason why the LORD God hates divorce—

Malachi 2:13-16 “. . . For the LORD God of Israel says that He hates divorce . . .”

Sometimes Circumstances Dictate

Tragically, with some of these married couples there are the times when there seems to be no alternative, but divorce, as Scripture makes known:

I Corinthians 7:15 “. . . But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is NOT under bondage (*Greek. - of the marriage vow*) in such cases. But God has called us to peace.”

Quote: Verse 15— Mr. Armstrong: “That is a brother or sister is not under bondage of marriage to fight in strife to prevent the unconverted to remain – or to continue the obligation of support.”

This Scripture makes known that when divorce is brought about due to the unconverted member not being pleased to continue in the marriage in peace, the member is no longer under the bondage of that marriage (*vow*) and is free to remarry, *but only within the Church* (*I Corinthians 7:39*). This has been made clear by the decision made by Mr. Herbert W, Armstrong in 1974.

Spiritual Sins/Figurative Use of Sexual Immorality

as found in

The Compromising Thyatira Church of God Era

“SPIRITUAL ADULTERY”

Far worse for the Church member is the involvement in spiritual adultery that can rob such a one from being protected from the **Great Tribulation**, and conceivably eternal life unless this comes to be recognized and asking Jesus Christ for forgiveness. This can then lead to becoming **a spiritual virgin** (*Revelation 14:4-5*).

Spiritual adultery can be recognized by the compromising Thyatira Church of God Era who accepted the pagan teachings of Jezebel who symbolically represented the Catholic and Protestant Churches:

Revelation 2:20-22 “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you **ALLOW** (*tolerate*) that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and beguile my servants **TO COMMIT SEXUAL IMMORALITY** (*Greek: Porneia, spiritual adultery by committing idolatry—turning away from the true God to Baal, and apostatizing—falling away from the teachings of God’s apostle*) and to eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit **ADULTERY** (*Greek: Moicheuo*) with her into **Great Tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds.”

Scripture makes known the Elect people of God is the affianced bride of Jesus Christ therefore the Thyatira Church Era was guilty of spiritual adultery. This is made clear by the betrothal of Joseph and Mary (*Matthew 1:18-20*).

Experimental Commentary: Betrothal was, in Jewish law, a valid marriage.”

Avoiding Fornication

The Apostle Paul gave wise counsel as to how a man or woman can avoid committing fornication – and the burning of lust for a sexual relationship:

I Corinthians 7:2, 9 “Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality (*Porniea, fornication*), let each man have his own wife and let each woman have her own husband (*when this comes to be possible with the right person, I Corinthians 7:39*) . . . it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

God holds the sexual relationship between a man and a woman within marriage as a holy intimate relationship – however not in the passion of lust while only thinking of self, but with the passionate tender thoughtful and caring love for one another.

It is with this in mind that the Apostle Paul wrote the following exhortation about it:

Hebrews 13:4 “Let the marriage be treated as honorable among all, and the bed (*Greek: literally cohabitation or coitus, Genesis 2:25; I Corinthians 7:3*) undefiled, **BUT fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**”

The Lust and Worship of Sex of Devious Kinds

Society has dramatically changed in just the past few years from the hiding of any kind of a deviant sexual relationship to outright openness and acceptance by virtually everyone. Homosexuals and Lesbians have come out of hiding into the open in recent years – and are even voted into the highest offices of the land by society! They even walk openly with thousands of others of the same mind in parades in many cities without shame or embarrassment:

Isaiah 3:9 “The look on their countenance witnesses against them, and they declare their sin as Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves.”

This is an act of flagrant disobedience and contempt to the Almighty God and Jesus Christ, their Creator as shown in the following Scripture:

Ezekiel 8:17 “. . . indeed they put the branch to their nose (*Asherah – cut into the shape of a male phallus – a shocking and obscene act; I Kings 15:13*). Therefore I also will act in FURY. My eye will NOT spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them.

Cohabitation/Fornication/ is Prevalent in Society

The hiding of sexual relationships between man and woman has moved out into the open in the past few years and is now received with acceptance by virtually everyone! They live with one another without the benefit of marriage and show no shame or embarrassment by living in this sinful relationship.

From the Internet: “Today, cohabitation [*men and women living together without entering into marriage*] is a common pattern among people in the Western world. More than two-thirds of married couples in the US say that they lived together before getting married.^[1] “In 1994, there were 3.7 million cohabiting couples in the United States.”^[2] “This is a far cry from a few decades ago. Before 1970, cohabitation was illegal in the United States.^[3] According to Dr. Galena Rhoades, “Before 1970, living together outside of marriage was uncommon, but by the late 1990s at least 50% to 60% of couples lived together premaritally.^[4] According to the U.S. Census, “the number of unmarried couples living together increased tenfold from 1960 to 2000.”^[5] Nowadays, it is seen as a normal step in the dating process.^[6] In fact, “cohabitation is increasingly becoming the first coresidential union formed among young adults.”^[7] Today sixty percent of all marriages are preceded by a period of cohabitation.”^[8]

God’s Laws are Inexorable with Severe Penalties for Transgressors

Consider the laws of gravity and inertia by which our universe is sustained and makes life possible; at the same time those who violate them, such as jumping off a bridge, etc.,

usually die; so also are the laws of God in place for those who transgress them whatever they might be and will exact a penalty.

The penalties come in many forms: sickness, disease, and death. Though the penalties are not always evident after the transgressions they will and do surface sooner or later unless they are removed upon repentance and forgiveness from God through Jesus Christ.

Social Diseases – Venereal Diseases (VD)

By searching the internet, one can learn much about the social diseases that are to so rampant and pervasive in the nations of this world. These social diseases are the penalties for having transgressed God's holy and righteous laws in wrong sexual relationships regardless of whatever kind they might be.

Having the benefit of a lawful marriage between man and woman with no adulterous relationships, and no previous encounters of fornication prior to marriage with men or women who were afflicted with one kind or another of these social diseases, and remaining faithful within the marriage to one another, can assure one of being free of these problems that are afflicting millions today. Consider the following:

Sexually transmitted disease

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia

Sexually transmitted diseases (STD), also referred to as **sexually transmitted infections (STI)** and **venereal diseases (VD)**, are illnesses that have a significant probability of transmission between [humans](#) by means of [human sexual behavior](#), including [vaginal intercourse](#), [oral sex](#), and [anal sex](#). While in the past, these illnesses have mostly been referred to as STDs or VD, in recent years the term *sexually transmitted infections (STIs)* has been preferred, as it has a broader range of meaning; a person may be *infected*, and may potentially infect others, without having a *disease*. "Some STIs can also be transmitted via the use of [IV drug needles](#) after its use by an infected person, as well as through [childbirth](#) or [breastfeeding](#). Sexually transmitted infections have been well known for hundreds of years, and [venereology](#) is the branch of medicine that studies these diseases.

"In the 1980s, first [genital herpes](#) and then [AIDS](#) emerged into the public consciousness as sexually transmitted diseases that could not be cured by modern medicine. AIDS in particular has a long asymptomatic period—during which time [HIV](#) (the human immunodeficiency virus, which causes AIDS) can replicate and the disease can be transmitted to others—followed by a symptomatic period, which leads rapidly to death unless treated. HIV/AIDS entered the United States in about 1969 likely through a single infected immigrant from Haiti.^[4] Recognition that AIDS threatened a global [pandemic](#) led to public information campaigns and the development of treatments that allow AIDS to be managed by suppressing the replication of HIV for as

long as possible. Contact tracing continues to be an important measure, even when diseases are incurable, as it helps to contain infection.

“In 1996, the [World Health Organization](#) estimated that more than 1 million people were being infected daily. About 60% of these infections occur in young people <25 years of age, and of these 30% are <20 years. Between the ages of 14 and 19, STIs occur more frequently in girls than boys by a ratio of nearly 2:1; this equalizes by age 20. An estimated 340 million new cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and trichomoniasis occurred throughout the world in 1999.^[27]

“AIDS is the single largest cause of mortality in present-day [Sub-Saharan Africa](#).^[31] The majority of HIV infections are acquired through unprotected sexual relations between partners, one of whom has HIV. Approximately 1.1 million persons are living with HIV/AIDS in the [United States](#),^[32] and AIDS remains the leading cause of death among [African American](#) women between ages 25 and 34.^[33] [Hepatitis B](#) is also classed as a sexually transmitted disease because it can be passed on sexually.^[34] The disease is found globally, with the highest rates in Asia and Africa and lower rates in the Americas and Europe.^[35] Worldwide, an estimated two billion people have been infected with the hepatitis B virus.”^[36]

The Wages of Sin

The Apostle Paul wrote that the wages of sin is death (*Romans 6:23*). But through Jesus Christ those sins can be forgiven upon godly repentance, meaning turning away from the wrong way of living to the right and godly way of life (*John 1:29; Acts 2:36-38*).

Pornographic Filth

Pornographic movies and writings by demented people is another form of perverted LUST that destroys the mind of the viewer and the reader – *leaving it crippled and sick!* As the result of involvement one can no longer think rightly!

Romans 1:26-28 “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions . . . burned in their lust for one another . . . God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.”

Having such a sick and corrupt mind often leads to preying on the innocent, the raping of children, even babies! They usually murder the helpless victims to try and hide from criminal justice for what they have violently done to them.

Internet Users become Hooked on Cybersex

Harding Institute:

“8-10 percent of Internet users become hooked on cybersex.
Dr. Bob Lanier, askbob.com

“Evidence proves there is a high correlation between on-line infidelity and subsequent real-time sexual affairs.”

MSNBC.com and Dr. Alvin Cooper – “Results show that internet users devote three hours each week to online sexual exploits. Twenty-five percent have felt that they lost control of their Internet sexual exploits at least once or that the activity caused problems in their lives.

“It is estimated that 750,000 children have been aggressively pursued for sex on the Internet, 1 out of 5 of these children were solicited for sex and 1 out of 4 children were sent pictures of people naked or having sex.

“There are recurring press reports of pedophiles using chat rooms to lure children into physical meetings. According to a recent national newspaper report, chat rooms are the most popular activity for children online, yet most chat rooms are unsupervised. Many are private, accessible only by invitation and special passwords (which may be provided to children by e-mail or instant-type messages to the screen of a targeted child).”

Women Savers Weekly, Internet

PORN ON THE WEB

AFFECTING CHILDREN

“100,000 websites offer illegal child pornography. Child pornography generates \$3 billion annually 90% of 8-16 year olds have viewed porn online (most while doing homework). Average age of first internet exposure to pornography is 11 years old.

“Largest consumer of internet pornography 12-17 age group one in five children ages 10–17 has received a sexual solicitation over the Internet. Three million of the visitors to adult websites in September 2000 were age 17 or younger.”

Source: Associated Press

“One in 10 respondents said they are addicted to sex and the Internet, according to an online survey of 38,000 Internet users.”

MSNBC.com and Dr. Alvin Cooper – “Up to 37% of men and 22% of women admit to having affairs. Researchers think the vast majority of the millions of people who visit chat rooms, have multiple "special friends".

Dr. Bob Lanier, askbob.com – “About 24 percent of men and 14 percent of women have had sex outside their marriages, according to a Dec. 21, 1998 report in USA Today on a national study by the University of California, San Francisco.”

Frank Pittman has found that the divorce rate among those who married their lovers was 75 percent. The reasons for the high divorce rate include: intervention of reality, guilt, expectations, a general distrust of marriage, and a distrust of the affairee.

Statistics show more than 72,000 sexually explicit sites on the web and an estimated 266 new porn sites being added each day. These sites alone generate a revenue of \$1 billion dollars each year.

It is estimated that 53% of all people will have one or more affairs during their lifetime.

Look at the numbers from a recent issue of Playboy Magazine:

-2 out of 3 women and 3 out of 4 men admit they have sexual thoughts about co-workers.

-86% of men and 81% of women admit they routinely flirt with the opposite sex.

-75% of men and 65% of women admit to having sex with people they work with.

-The fact is that human beings are NOT monogamous by nature. That means they cheat.

According to Maggie Scarf, author of "Intimate Partners," first published in 1987 by Random House, re-issued in 1996 by Ballentine.

"Most experts do consider the 'educated guess' that at the present time some 50 to 65 percent of husbands and 45 to 55 percent of wives become extramaritally involved by the age of 40 to be a relatively sound and reasonable one."

Warning Words from Holy Scripture

Jesus Christ led the Apostle Paul to write a very strong warning against sexual sins of any kind:

I Corinthians 6:9-10 "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals (Margin: effeminate, those submitting to homosexuals), nor sodomites (margin: male homosexuals) . . . shall inherit the Kingdom of God."

To give such people hope, the Apostle Paul further wrote:

I Corinthians 6:11 "And such were some of you (Ephesians 2:1-6). But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God."

The same can come to be true with all others who turn away from the impurities of sexual sins they are now committing.

Remember – Sinful Thoughts Begin in the Mind

The Apostle James makes very clear sexual sin begins in the mind in his writings:

James 1:14-15 “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires (*lust*) and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.”

Temptation is not a sin in itself unless it takes root. But the act of fornication is a sin whether in the mind or the act itself. Fornication and adultery have to be dealt with in the mind before it takes root and leads to sin in the mind or actively involve oneself in one or the other.

The Magnification of God’s Laws

Once again, the following Scriptures make known the MAGNIFICATION of God’s laws have to do with the teachings and influence of the law that has been extended to include our intent, thoughts and attitudes:

Matthew 5:27-28 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Filthy Speech – A Potty Mouth

The Supreme Court has also given free license for men and women to speak explicit sexual four-letter words along with filthy potty language! And many use it without respect for others within their hearing.

No longer is there shame and embarrassment – no blushing seen upon the faces of those even hearing the vulgar use of words coming out of the potty mouths of men and women:



Jeremiah 6:15 “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time I PUNISH them, they shall be cast down,” says the LORD.

Movies are laced with four letter words. One can expect any movie on television beyond PG 12, such as PG 13 and PG 14, to have words in them that are not decent. God admonishes His people not to follow the example of society and remain apart from such filth and vulgarity in language:

Ephesians 4:29, 31 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may implant grace to the hearers. . . . Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, loud quarreling (*protest*) and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.”

The Apostle Paul was led by Jesus Christ to write that we are to cleanse ourselves from the evil speech and conduct of society:

Colossians 3:5-8 “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire . . . because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to PUT OFF all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, FILTHY LANGUAGE out of your mouth.”

Physician Heal Thyself

One of the meanings of Physician in Scripture has to do with the healing of the mind. It is this meaning that Jesus Christ taught that mankind should come to know his innermost heart (*Luke 9:4*), and continually deal with the bad thoughts that too often come into it; and its use:

Matthew 15:19-20 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man. . . .”

And to deal with these evil and wicked thoughts one should go before the Great Physician and pray fervently that He, Jesus Christ, will heal his sickness of mind and heart; and He will if one earnestly prays for it with his or her whole heart. It may not heal immediately, but the healing process will begin taking place and will soon be no more.

Matthew 9:10-13 “. . . Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick (*in mind as well as body*)

Because of the awesome and great God of LOVE and abundant mercy He will upon true repentance heal the mind and heart with forgiveness and healing. Always, God in heaven and Jesus Christ His beloved Son stand ready to forgive and heal the person's mind and heart— if and when they come to recognize their sickness and cry out for their forgiveness which leads to their healing:

Psalm 86:5 “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”

This Scripture makes known God’s desire to forgive for He takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (*Ezekiel 33:11*). And because He desires one and all to live and enjoy life, He has revealed His holy righteous laws to teach the right way while warning the sinner of the consequences of violating any one of His laws, including the 7th Commandment—

“You shall not commit Adultery”

Exodus 20:14

The Eighth Commandment

“You shall not steal.”

Exodus 20:15

The eighth commandment of not stealing covers many areas as the following writings make known:

- **Theft - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theft

In common usage, **theft** is the taking of another person's property without that person's permission or consent with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of it.



The word is also used as an informal shorthand term for some crimes against property, such as burglary, embezzlement, larceny, looting, robbery, shoplifting and fraud.^{[1][2]} In some jurisdictions, theft is considered to be synonymous with larceny;^[2]

Identity Theft

There is also the theft of stealing the identity of another person through impersonation or in some other way. Identity theft has come to be one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Information from the internet reveals it is estimated that over nine million people have been affected.

Though the elderly are primarily targeted by the thieves and robbers, they target anyone through many different ways as the following article makes known:

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

“**Identity theft** is a form of stealing someone's **identity** in which someone pretends to be someone else by assuming that person's identity, typically in order to access resources or obtain credit and other benefits in that person's name. The victim of identity theft (here meaning the person whose identity



has been assumed by the identity thief) can suffer adverse consequences if they are held accountable for the perpetrator's actions. Identity theft occurs when someone uses another's personally identifying information, like their name, identifying number, or credit card number, without their permission, to commit fraud or other crimes."

The Penalties for Thievery Short of the Death Penalty

Cruden's Concordance – Steal:

"... [Holy Scripture makes known] There was no penalty attached to theft or property but restitution (*restoring to its rightful owner*), double or more, as the case might be. If restitution was not made it was treated as a debt, the property or even the person of the debt being sold to cover it. The man stealer, who reduced his prey to slavery, was to be put to death."

Robbery

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



"**Robbery** is the [crime](#) of taking or attempting to take something of value by force or threat of force or by putting the victim in fear. At common law, robbery is defined as taking the property of another, with the intent to permanently deprive the person of that property, by means of force or fear.^[2] Precise definitions of the offence may vary between jurisdictions. Robbery differs from simple [theft](#) in its use of violence and intimidation.

The word "rob" came via [French](#) from [Late Latin](#) words (e.g. *deraubare*) of [Germanic](#) origin, from Common Germanic *raub* — "theft".

Among the types of robbery are **armed robbery** involving use of a [weapon](#) and **aggravated robbery** involving use of a deadly weapon or something that appears to be a deadly weapon. **Highway robbery** or "[mugging](#)" takes place outside and in a [public place](#) such as a sidewalk, street, or parking lot. [Carjacking](#) is the act of stealing a car from a victim by force. [Extortion](#) is the threat to do something illegal, or the offer to not do something illegal, in the event that goods are not given, primarily using words instead of actions."

Robbing and Stealing from the Almighty God

Failure to pay tithes to the awesome and great God, the Creator of the universe, is undoubtedly the greatest theft of all for it is robbing and stealing that which belongs to Him; tithes and offerings that were to enable the Priests and Levites to minister to the House of Israel and by His chosen ministry to serve His flock of today! The tithes would also make possible the preaching of His Gospel (*Matthew 24:14*), and the Ezekiel Warning message to Israel and to the world (*Ezekiel 33*).

Failure to pay God's tithe to His true and faithful Church is an act of robbery and results in a financial curse as His Prophet makes known:

Malachi 3:8-12 “Will a man ROB God? Yet you have Robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we ROBBED You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are CURSED with A CURSE, for you have ROBBED Me, even this whole nation.



“Bring all the TITHES into the storehouse, that there may be FOOD in My house and TRY Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not OPEN for you the windows of heaven and POUR OUT for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

“And I will REBUKE the devourer for your sakes, so that he will NOT destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the LORD of hosts; “and all nations will call you blessed for you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.

No Changes in the Laws of Tithing

Scriptures makes known that there were no changes in the laws of tithing from the Old Testament to the laws of tithing in the New Testament (*Hebrews 7; I Corinthians 9:1-14*). The Holy Scriptures also makes known that paying tithes to the ever-living God acknowledges Him as the Creator and Owner of all creation (*Genesis 1; John 1:1-4*).

By understanding and obeying God's laws of tithing will result in the financial curse being removed. Then will begin the financial and other good blessings being poured out from Him; blessings that only God can give (*John 3:27; James 1:17*).

Jesus Christ in His infinite wisdom does not give His blessings all at one time to the tithe payer, as some might think. However he or she will soon find His blessings beginning and growing thereafter, instead of the curse whereby it seems everything continues to go wrong.

The Laws of Tithing

Jesus Christ has made known through His chosen ministry the tithe is to be paid only from money earned by the efforts of a person from employment, business, or otherwise, but it is not required from gifts, social security, unemployment benefits, veteran's disability, retirements, etc.

The Apostle Paul wrote the payment of the tithe is also for God's chosen ministry who both preach and teach along with serving in other areas:

I Corinthians 9:13-14 “. . . do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. . . .”

Further, the Apostle Paul wrote the true and faithful ministry who labor in both preaching and teaching of the Word of God is worthy of double honor (*meaning remuneration – to recompense, to pay an equivalent for their services, (I Timothy 5:17-18).*

Firstfruits to be Given to God

In addition to God's laws concerning the tithing of money there are also other laws that are just as applicable today as they were in Old Testament times, such as the requirement of giving of the firstfruits from fruit trees, gardens, the firstborn of cattle, sheep and goats, etc.:

Exodus 22:29-30 “**You shall NOT delay to offer the First of your ripe produce and your juices . . . likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days, from the eighth day you shall give it to Me** (*from the eighth day up to one year old, Exodus 12:5; 29:38.*)”

Offerings to God were to include all firstfruits as well:

Exodus 23:19 “**The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.**”

This is not possible in this day and age for many brethren who are scattered have no true minister to whom they can give their firstfruits. In such cases the owners can appraise their value and can be mailed to the true ministry (*Leviticus 27:30-31*).

The Feast of Tabernacles

The firstlings of clean animals that were to be set apart for special purposes were to be eaten by the priesthood and the people of Israel at very special times of the year. This also carries over into New Testament times:

Deuteronomy 15:19-20 “**Of all the firstborn males that come from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify** (*set apart for holy use*) **to the LORD your God; you shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock. You and your household shall eat it** (*the firstborn females as second tithe by the family; the firstborn males to be eaten by the priests during the Feast, Numbers 18:17; Leviticus 7:28-34*) **before the LORD your God year by year** (*the offering must not be delayed beyond a year*) **in the place which He chooses.**”

Further, the firstlings of animals were not to be castrated (*Leviticus 22:24*). In addition the firstlings could not be set apart by the owner for himself (*Leviticus 27:26*); they belonged to God. The unclean firstlings were to be redeemed by the owner from God (*meaning— bought back, Exodus 13:13; Numbers 18:15-17*).

Realizing the hardship of taking the slaughtered firstling animals, or driving them, to the Feast of Tabernacles, God offered an alternative to the membership while giving further details about the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles during which families were to eat, drink, and rejoice before the LORD their God; and the command still applies today:

Deuteronomy 14:22-26 “You shall truly tithe all the INCREASE of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place HE CHOOSES to make His Name abide, the tithe of your grain, and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may LEARN TO FEAR the LORD your God always. But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are able to carry the tithe, or if the place the LORD your God is too far from you, when the LORD has blessed you, then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall EAT there (*the meat from the oxen or sheep*) before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.”

Failure to pay God His tithe in all of these areas is an act of stealing and robbing God of that which belongs to Him (*Malachi 3:8-10*).

Laying Up Treasures

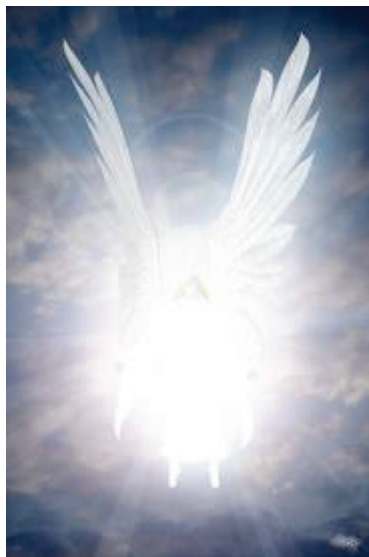
The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is the most important work to be done by the Church of God (*Matthew 24:14*). Both laborers and tithes are needed to support this great commission. Stressing this need, the counsel of Jesus is as follows:

Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. . . .”

When considering the teaching of the ANT in Scripture (*Proverbs 6:6-9*), as it is possible, it is wise for a family to follow suit by canning or purchasing fruits and vegetables before the need takes place. In addition a family should try to save sufficient money to provide for all of the other living expenses, but to hoard gold and silver is to take away from what really matters—God’s Work.

Deception/ Fraud from False Ministers

Deception is another form of fraud and theft, and they fall under the category of stealing. Satan the devil is a master of deception using human instruments who masquerade themselves by wearing the cloak of religion to try and deceive the true people of God with the objective of destroying them for all time.



The Apostle Paul removes their masks and describes them in full; and the one who uses them for his destructive purposes:

II Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also

transforms themselves into (or as) ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

Jesus Christ forewarned His people of this ongoing practice of deception which is an attempt to steal His flock:

Matthew 7:15-20 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. . . . Therefore by their fruits you shall know them.”

Further, the false prophets and ministers of Satan the devil abound in great numbers in contrast to the little chosen flock of God (*Luke 12:32*)! As the result the world has been blinded to the true way of God (*Revelation 12:9*).

Jesus Christ said there is only one way to become one of His true flock:

John 10:1, 8, 10 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is A THIEF AND A ROBBER. . . . All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did NOT hear them. . . . The thief does NOT come except to STEAL, and to kill, and to destroy. . . .”



Jesus Christ also made known how these wolves can be identified by His true and chosen people:

Matthew 7:15-20 “Therefore by their fruits you shall know them.”

Most of these counterfeits are obvious; while others are not always immediately identified as to who they really are. However they do come to be known in time by their wrong teachings and by their conduct.

The High Standards Set for the Ministry

The Apostle Paul wrote the true ministry of Jesus Christ must always be above reproach in every way:

Romans 2:21 “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should NOT steal, do you steal?”

To ancient Israel and Judah, the LORD God through His Prophet Jeremiah indicted their prophets and people for their hypocrisy:

Jeremiah 7:9-10 “Will you STEAL, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, then come and stand before Me in this House (*Temple*) which is called by My Name, and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations.’”

Not only did the LORD God indict the false prophets of old for stealing His Words, but it still applies to all those who are still doing it:

Jeremiah 23:30-32, 34 “Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets.” says the LORD, “who STEAL My words every one from his neighbor. Behold I am against the prophets,” says the LORD, “who use their tongues and say, ‘He says.’”

So it is today, the false prophets and ministers steal God’s words and use them to teach Satan the devil’s pagan teachings as truth by taking the Scriptures out of context while ignoring the many Scriptures that would refute their wrong teachings.

The Underpaid Wages of Laborers

There are the wealthy of yesterday and today who have built their massive wealth on the backs of the poor and needy men and women that run into the many millions and even billions of dollars without paying them a fair wage or having any real concern for their welfare.

The Apostle James wrote of their coming day of judgment in which they will then reap what they have sown:

James 5:1-6 “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have HEAPED UP treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you KEPT BACK BY FRAUD, cry out, and the cries of the REAPERS have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth (hosts). You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.”

A Just and Fair Wage for the Laborer

The LORD God teaches employers should always be considerate of their employees:

Leviticus 19:11, 13 “YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. . . . YOU SHALL NOT DEFRAUD YOUR NEIGHBOR, NOR ROB HIM. The wages of him who is hired shall NOT remain with you all night until morning.”

Conversely, the employee should give the employer honest work. Not to do so could be considered as stealing from the employer for work they were paid to do and failed in doing it.



Employers Can Change for the Better

Fraud and stealing is an indictment of a coming terrible time of judgment by Jesus Christ, but it can be averted as a prophet of God wrote by repenting and making an about face:

Ezekiel 33:15 “If the wicked restores the pledge, GIVES BACK WHAT HE HAS STOLEN, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”

Stealing is a way of life for many people who steal from others to further their own wealth and goals. To make an about face and steal no more often creates a problem of returning what has been stolen. One such man made the following comment: “I have stolen so much I do not know who I would return the various things I have stolen.”



Judges who Decree Unrighteous Judgments



Jesus Christ holds the Judiciary primarily responsible for upholding the laws passed by the law-making bodies for their evil being perpetrated on the innocent, the murder of the unborn, and other evils that continue to worsen by giving legal license due to political pressure, seeking political favor, bribery, etc.!

God is going to deal with them in no uncertain terms for their unrighteous judgments as the Prophet Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 10:1-4 “Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, which they have prescribed to ROB the needy of justice, and to take what is RIGHT from the poor of My people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may ROB the fatherless. What will you do in the day of punishment, and in the day of desolation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory? Without Me they shall bow down among the prisoners, and they shall fall among the slain.”

Properties Owned for Generations Legally Purchased

Another form of stealing, though legalized, is to take away homes and properties that have belonged to families for generations. The reasons for this legal action is sometimes they are found to be standing in the way of new redevelopment areas, and for other reasons.



In such cases they find their properties are in the process of being purchased by the city fathers, or others; and they have no choice but to sell to the buyer.

As stated, they have due process with the court system, but rarely, if ever, the ruling is in the favor of its owner to retain his property. Some owners have been forcibly removed by the courts and law enforcement agencies.

The Law of Eminent Domain

California Eminent Domain

Eminent Domain Attorneys in California. Free Analysis
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The power to take private property for public use by a state, municipality, or private person or corporation authorized to exercise functions of public character, following the payment of just compensation to the owner of that property.

Federal, state, and local governments may take private property through their power of eminent domain or may regulate it by exercising their **Police Power**. The **Fifth Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution requires the government to provide just compensation to the owner of the private property to be taken. A variety of property rights are subject to eminent domain, such as air, water, and land rights. The government takes private property through condemnation proceedings. Throughout these proceedings, the property owner has the right of DUE PROCESS.

Eminent domain is a challenging area for the courts, which have struggled with the question of whether the regulation of property, rather than its acquisition, is a taking requiring just compensation. In addition, private property owners have begun to initiate actions against the government in a kind of proceeding called inverse condemnation.

History

The concept of eminent domain is not new. It has existed since biblical times, when King Ahab of Samaria offered Naboth compensation for Naboth's vineyard. In 1789, France officially recognized a property owner's right to compensation for taken property, in the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which reads, "Property being an inviolable and sacred right no one can be deprived of it, unless the public necessity plainly demands it, and upon condition of a just and previous indemnity."

Tomorrow's World

This will not take place in God's World of Tomorrow; nor was it true after Israel entered into the land of promise. The land at that time was allotted to the individual tribes by Joshua (*Chapters 13 through 19*); and the individual families of the House of Israel by God through Eleazar the priest as their inheritance forever.

Joshua 19:51 These are the inheritances, which Eleazar the priest (*acting for God*), and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of Israel of the children of Israel, distributed for inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tent of meeting. So they made an end of dividing the land.

Soncino Commentary, 'Joshua 19:51':

"This verse ends the account of the division of the country. It was a military division of the country, a share in the soil being given as a reward to every soldier who had fought for the Promised Land. . . . Each tribe was marched to its new possession, every family entered on its humble estate, and Israel began its national existence."

God's Laws Concerning Inherited Lands

God's laws forbade the permanent selling of the inheritance of the family to anyone else. And even though a man or woman married into another tribe, the inheritance had to remain within the original tribe:

Numbers 36:9 "Thus no inheritance shall change hands from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance."

Though a family could for a time sell their property to another it had to be returned to the family in the year of Jubilee (*Leviticus 27:24; 25:8-10*).

Leviticus 25:23-34 "The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption (*a buying back*) of the land. . . ."

King Ahab of Israel and Naboth

To use an example: King Ahab tried to purchase the inherited property from Naboth for his permanent possession:

I Kings 21:1-3 ". . . So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house, and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." And Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

On the surface one would think Ahab's offer would have been worthwhile for Naboth while neglecting to realize the LORD God had forbidden the permanent sale of an Israelite's inheritance as Naboth made known to Ahab.

God's Requirement of the Leaders and Judiciary

The most holy and righteous God holds the rulers over mankind who have been given such great responsibility to a much higher accountability for they should be representing Him and basing their judgments according to His holy and righteous laws that shows no partiality with anyone as made known in the writings of His prophet Samuel:

II Samuel 23:3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me: “He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the FEAR of God.”

Whether they do, or not, Jesus Christ expects His people to be subject to all of the law abiding bodies from the policeman up to the judiciary (*Romans 13:1-7*), unless those laws conflict with the laws of God. The Apostle Peter made this known to the Sanhedrin (*Acts 4:19; 5:29*).

The Formation of God's Judiciary

Had the House of Joseph followed the Scriptural teaching given by God to Moses regarding the selection of the judiciary to judge the millions of Israelites at that time, there would not be the mammoth problems that are seen in the clogged legal system and prisons today.

Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, offered wise counsel to Moses that would make possible the fair judgment of all of the people of Israel without lengthy waiting. His counsel was recognized by Moses as right and good and was immediately implemented:

Exodus 18:19-26 “Listen now to my voice, I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. Moreover you shall select from all the people ABLE MEN, SUCH AS FEAR GOD, MEN OF TRUTH, hating covetousness (*bribery or political favors*); and place such over them to BE RULERS of thousand, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties and rulers of tens. And let them JUDGE the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their places in peace.” So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. . . .” **Deuteronomy 17:8-13.**

The Coming Establishment of God's Righteous Government

Jesus Christ is now schooling His select people as He did His early apostles to aid Him after having returned to this earth to begin teaching and ruling as Priests and Kings in His coming Governmental reign over mankind:

Isaiah 1:26 “I will restore your judges as at the first and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.”

Restitution

Short of the death penalty in certain theft situations— restitution (*meaning to restore, a giving back to the rightful owner*) was to be made to the owner over and above what had been stolen from him:

Exodus 22:1“If a man STEALS an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall RESTORE five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.”

The Example of King David

Though the example of King David has already been used in the earlier writings in this book (*7th Commandment*), his example is being used again to bring to light the application of God’s law of restitution in real life situations.

King David was guilty of stealing another man’s wife to commit adultery with her. He then brought about the death of her husband to cover up his sin after finding she had been impregnated by him. Like most people will do in a crisis situation, he justified himself for what he had done and put it out of his mind.

The merciful and wonderful God that He is gave David about a year to come to see the terrible thing that he did and repent (*from conception of his baby to birth about a year*); it did not happen (*II Samuel 11:1-17*).

The LORD then sent His Prophet Nathan to King David with a little parable to try and enable him to see the awful thing he had done. After hearing from the Prophet Nathan the parable of the rich man choosing to steal the one lamb from a poor man for his own selfish purpose instead of one from his own flock (*I Samuel 12:1-14*), King David was incensed, very angry, and applying God’s law of restitution, said to Nathan:

II Samuel 12:5-7 “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore 4-fold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.” Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! . . .”

King David must have been utterly stunned and speechless to have his sin uncovered so plainly there was no hiding from it any longer!

The Painful Penalty Imposed on King David

Speaking for God, the prophet Nathan then made known the sentence that King David had decreed for that man would come to pass in his own family with extreme mourning upon knowing one after the other of his children would suffer the pangs of death because of his sin:

II Samuel 12:1-14 “. . . why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? . . . Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house because you

have despised Me . . .” Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”

Though David repented bitterly for his terrible sins (*Psalm 51*), nevertheless, four members of his family had to die for what he had done; they are as follows:

Baby (*II Samuel 12:14-15*); Ammon (*II Samuel 13:28-29, 32-33*); Absalom (*II Samuel 18:14*), Adonijah. (*I Kings 2:24-25*).

From this terrible penalty imposed on David’s family because of his sins, it should be realized there is no respecter of persons before God. Each one is responsible for his own actions, good or bad (*Ezekiel 33:18-19*). The following Scripture also makes this known as can be seen in King David’s life:

Proverbs 22:22-23 “Do not ROB the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate. For the LORD will plead their cause and plunder the soul of those who plunder them.”

Children Stealing from Parents

Children often will steal from their parents to supply their drug needs or for other reasons. The justification for stealing is often reasoned and excused by them, thinking— this is no big thing because they are my parents; besides they owe it to me, or this will be from my inheritance, etc.

God does not see it their way any more than He did King David who justified himself for what he had done:

Proverbs 28:24 “Whoever ROBS his father or his mother, and says, ‘It is no transgression,’ the same is companion to a destroyer.”

No Justification for Stealing

Stealing under any circumstance cannot be justified before God in heaven above:

Proverbs 6:30-31 “People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. Yet when he is found, he must RESTORE seven-fold; he may have to give up all the substance of his house.”

Soncino Commentary: sevenfold:



“According to the law of Exodus 11:37; 22:3, the restoration is double, fourfold or fivefold, and there is nowhere mention of a sevenfold restoration. The term therefore must be understood as ‘manifold’ (cf. Genesis 4:15; Leviticus 26:28).”

There is always a right way to satisfy the needs of anyone (*Matthew 6:25-34*).

Responsibility for Property

Many homes are broken into and properties from them are stolen every day. Normally this takes place while people are away from their homes or in the stillness of the night when people are sleeping. Sometimes they are caught and the LORD God makes known how this should be handled:

Exodus 22:2-4 “If a THIEF is found breaking in, and if he is struck so that he dies, there shall be NO GUILT for his **bloodshed**. If the SUN has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his **bloodshed**. He should make FULL restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double.”

Soncino Commentary: “If the sun is risen upon the thief the slaying of the thief is murder because it is not absolutely necessary to take his life.”

Please Know—

One must realize the penalty for violating God’s laws was to be obeyed by ancient Israel during that time! And they will be again in the millennium when Jesus Christ will be ruling over mankind; but for now we must obey the laws in whatever country we live and not take the law into our own hands in such circumstances (*Romans 13:1-7*). To disobey the laws of society could cause one to end up in prison or be executed!

In addition, this would be an act of murder in God’s sight!

Restitution in Other Areas – Damage by Cattle or Fire and Laws of Safekeeping

The following Scriptures make known there is always the need of assuming responsibility for his neighbor’s possessions. Failure to do so could result in thievery with heavy penalties imposed upon the one at fault:

Exodus 22:5 “If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed, and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man’s field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his vineyard.”

Accidental or a Deliberate Set Fire

Exodus 22:6 “If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that the stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.

Safekeeping of Goods

Exodus 22:7-9 “If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep, and it is stolen out of the man’s house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges to see whether he has put his hand into his neighbor’s goods.

This also includes other properties that have been delivered to a neighbor to keep for him and they are stolen, or borrowed from a neighbor, and something happens to them, these laws reveal how they should be settled (*Exodus 22:10-15*).

Embezzlement

Embezzlement is another form of thievery or robbery:

Exodus 22:9 “For any kind of trespass, whether it concerns an ox, a sheep, clothing, or for any kind of lost thing which another claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.”

A Curse on the Whole Earth

The seriousness of stealing in any form is very serious with God and the one who is guilty is under a curse from God and will ultimately experience the death penalty from God unless and until the person repents with godly sorrow:

Zechariah 5:3 Then he said to me, “This is the CURSE that goes out over the face of the whole earth: ‘Every THIEF shall be expelled,’ according to what is in this side of the scroll; and, ‘Every perjurer shall be expelled, according to what is written on that side of it.’”

— No Knowledge of God and His Holy Laws —

By observing the news in this end-time and witnessing the problems of this world it is very apparent there is no knowledge of God and His holy righteous laws. Even the churches no longer preach against the evils ongoing and worsening in society—especially against the social hot-button issues!

God spells out the problems and reasons that make known why this country and world have the grave and unsolvable problems facing its leadership:

Hosea 4:1-3 “Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel. For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: There is no TRUTH OR MERCY OR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and STEALING and committing adultery; they break all RESTRAINT, with *bloodshed after bloodshed*. Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea will be taken away.”

Be Content with What You Have

Anticipating possible trying times, and not wanting to disobey God, the following prayer is made to Him to be spared from any circumstance whereby this could happen:

Proverbs 30:9 “. . . give me neither poverty nor riches—feed me with food You prescribe for me; lest I be full and deny You, and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and STEAL, and profane the Name of my God. . . .”

While reading the writings of the Apostle Paul it becomes easy to see the hardships he suffered even in God’s service, and yet he wrote:

Philippians 4:11-12 “. . . I have learned in whatever state I am to be content . . . I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

Further, he wrote of the need to rely on Jesus Christ to supply whatever the need might be:

Hebrews 13:5 “. . . be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave (*fail*) you nor forsake you.’

This can easily be seen by reading of the needs being miraculously supplied to Israel as they crossed the barren desert on their way to the promise land.

How to Inherit Eternal Life

A question was asked of Jesus Christ as to what he could do that he might inherit eternal life, Jesus replied:

Mark 10:19 “You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder.’ ‘DO NOT STEAL,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ DO NOT DEFRAUD,’ ‘Honor your father and mother.’”

Love Does No Harm to a Neighbor

In addition to quoting what Jesus Christ had said, the Apostle Paul added that one should love his neighbor as one does himself:

Romans 13:9 “For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “YOU SHALL NOT STEAL,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself (*Matthew 22:39*). *LOVE does no harm to a neighbor*; therefore LOVE is the fulfillment of the law.”



God’s counsel is that mankind should be thinking beyond his own needs and working so that he might be able to aid others in their difficulties:

Ephesians 4:28 “Let him who stole STEAL no longer (*whatever form of stealing it might be*), but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

Supplying a need by doing honest work can take away any wrong thought that could lead to the breaking of God’s eighth commandment—

“You shall not steal.”

Exodus 20:15

The Ninth Commandment

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:16

Please take note of the following definitions and related areas of this wonderful commandment of LOVE spoken by our wonderful and caring God in Holy Scripture.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia “. . . the commandment as a prohibition on any false statement that **degrades** our neighbor's reputation or dignity. . . . the commandment in the broadest possible sense, as a prohibition on all lying.”



An Evil World

This society and world is so far apart from God there is no reverent fear or even recognition of the real Jesus Christ; therefore evil continues and worsens along with hurt and harm done to one another!



The openly revealing witness of this is easily seen in the newspapers and heard on radio and television!

They continually make known there is no problem of fabricating whatever form of bearing false witness that is needed against one's neighbor to enhance and advance themselves before others: – outright lying in all areas, including politics, business, society, among friends and neighbors!

And worst of all—the world is enshrouded in spiritual darkness through Satan and his use of *deception* by his false ministers!

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy of the selfishness of mankind with no real caring concern or love for others—a very powerful and tragic view that is being witnessed by the majority of today's society:

II Timothy 3:1-5 “But know this **THAT IN THE LAST DAYS** *perilous (margin: stressful)* times will come; for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unforgiving, **SLANDERERS**, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, **TRAITORS**, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away.”

The Apostle Paul further wrote of this age as being evil:

Galatians 1:3-4 “Grace to you and peace from God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from **THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE** according to the will of our God and Father to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Jesus Christ spoke of this end-time as abounding in evil: “. . . **Lawlessness will abound**” (**Matthew 24:12**).

Pleas Unheard by God

The following Scriptures speak prophetically of mankind having been cut off with a curse from God on them in this end-time because of their sins (*Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28*)!

While facing dire circumstances from the increasing frequency of record-breaking disasters (*Ezekiel 7:25-26*), drought (*Joel 1:1-20*), failing economy and terrorists, there are the unsolvable problems within this dying society the prophet Habakkuk describes in detail, and why:

“O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, “Violence!” And You will not save. Why do You cause me to see iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds” (*Habakkuk 1:1-4*).

The Cry of Religion

As all these things worsen there will be an earnest cry made to God in the religious services for Him to answer their prayers for deliverance because of the increasing and imminent threat to human life from any of these sources, but they will not be heard by Him. God’s prophet makes known why:

Isaiah 59:1-4 “Behold, the **LORD’S** hand is not shortened that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with **BLOOD**, and your fingers

with iniquity; YOUR LIPS HAVE SPOKEN LIES, your tongue has muttered PERVERSITY (*malicious insinuations – misrepresentations of others, deceptive lies*). **No one calls for justice, nor does any PLEAD for TRUTH. They trust in empty** (*meaningless*) **words AND SPEAK LIES; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. They hatch viper’s eggs and weave the spider’s web** (*their planning*); **he who eats of their eggs dies, and from that which is crushed** (*nothing works for them for good, only worse*) **a viper breaks out.”**

Confession of their sins will be made in time to come before the Almighty God by those who come to fear Him as it was then by a prophet of God lamenting the sins of Israel at that time:

Isaiah 59:9-15 “. . . **We look for light** (*a solution of personal, civil, national, world problems*), **but there is** (*moral and physical*) **darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for** (*along*) **the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes; we stumble at noonday as at twilight; we are as dead men in desolate places. We all growl like bears** (*in distress*), **and moan sadly like doves; we look for justice, but there is none; for SALVATION, but it is far from us.**

For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us; and as for our iniquities we know them; in transgressing and LYING against the LORD, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart WORDS OF FALSEHOOD.

Justice is TURNED BACK and righteousness stands afar off (*Habakkuk 1:4*); **for TRUTH is fallen in the street** (*rejected*), **and equity cannot enter.**

So TRUTH FAILS, and he who departs from evil (*and speaks against evil, Amos 5:10*) **makes himself a prey.”**

Those who depart and stand up for TRUTH are increasingly being ridiculed as contemptible! In addition, laws have been passed that forbid the preaching of, as the Holy Bible terms it, the abominable sins in society.

Knowledge of God’s Laws

The laws of God should be realized as vitally important in mankind’s short journey on this earth. However due to their rejection of them it is a lawless and blinded society that has lost its way! As the result their tragic ending as nations will soon take place at the close of this age.

Paradoxically, mankind can look up to the North Star in the sky on a clear night and find his needed direction when he is lost; the same direction can also be found by observing the Starry Heavens to see the awesome display of the POWER of God’s laws; that speak silently but eloquently to all who will listen to them.



By studying the design and pattern of stars that operate by the inexorable laws of God coupled with the demonstration of unbelievable POWER can enable man to see that it is only by God's laws one can see the right path pointing to life and happiness, just as the following Scriptures make known:

Psalm 19:1-4 “The heavens **DECLARE** (*speak of*) the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day **UTTERS** speech (*sun*), and night unto night **REVEALS** knowledge (*starry systems and moon*). There is **NO** speech **NOR** language where their **VOICE** is not heard. Their line (*sound*) has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”



As the heavens declare the glory of God, **verse 1**, so likewise do God's Spiritual laws declare and point out the way to life and happiness:

Psalm 19:7-12 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul (*instruction, direction*). The testimony of the LORD is sure, making **WISE** the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, **REJOICING THE HEART**. The commandment of the LORD is pure, **ENLIGHTENING** the eyes; the **FEAR** of the LORD is clean (*cleansing*), enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired than fine gold; sweeter than honey and the honeycomb (*margin: honey in the comb*). Moreover by them Your servant is **WARNED** (*enlightened*), and in keeping of them is great reward. Who can understand his errors (*aside from the teaching of God's laws, Romans 3:20*)? . . .”

What is Sin?

Holy Scripture defines the meaning of sin as the transgression of God's laws (*I John 3:4*) and unless there is repentance before the Almighty God and Jesus Christ, and changes made for the better, it can mean death (*Romans 6:23*); and by studying God's laws the needed knowledge of what constitutes sin is made known:

Romans 3:20 “. . . By the **LAW** is the knowledge of sin.” **Romans 4:15; 5:13.**

This Ninth Commandment makes known the sin of violating God's commandment not to bear false witness against one's neighbor is to avoid the hurt, sorrow, shame and embarrassment that can follow any lie spoken or written against one's neighbor; thereby breaking any vestige of a relationship or brotherhood between them.

Though one may try very hard to rebuild the relationship it is almost impossible to repair the damage that has been done as made known in Scripture between them:

Proverbs 18:19 “A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city . . .”

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

The caring LOVE Jesus Christ has for mankind is found in the last Six of the Ten Commandments. Those Scriptures reveal the Awesome and Almighty God in Heaven above is LOVE (*I John 4:8, 16*). And because He is LOVE and desiring to enlarge His Family, of which there is now only God the Father and His beloved Son Jesus Christ, explains why we as human beings have our existence. This is a little known fact of life!

And while mankind lives it is with the desire of being graced with immortal life after death. Before this takes place mankind must learn to love and practice godly love to his neighbor as defined in many Scriptures while doing no harm to one another:

Romans 13:10 “Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore LOVE is the fulfillment of the Law.”

The Golden Rule in Holy Scripture

One can only imagine how much better this world would be if mankind were to practice this one Scripture—often referred to as “the Golden Rule”—in their daily lives in all circumstances:

Luke 6:31 “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”

Jesus Christ makes known how this can be done:

Matthew 22:39 “. . . you shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself.”

How Can One Know?

The Apostle John provides the answer as to how one can know whether there is caring love for his or her neighbor in the following Scripture:

I John 5:2-3 "By this we know that we LOVE the children of God when we LOVE God and keep His commandments. “For this is the LOVE of God, that we keep His commandments.

And the one that is being focused on in this writing is the Ninth Commandment:

Exodus 20:16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”



God's Physical Family

The Ninth Commandment of not bearing false witness against one's neighbor has a direct connection with God's Master Plan for the ultimate salvation of all of mankind in time to come.

This present life is to teach the hard lessons that should be learned from human experience in this age; the heartache, suffering and unhappiness that comes from having chosen to live the way of reasoning instead of by the revealed teachings and laws of the caring and wonderful God in heaven above—as represented by the Two Trees in the Garden in Eden (Genesis 2. 3.).

The Nation of Israel

In the context of this Commandment it is necessary to repeat that to begin His Master Plan the LORD God chose the nation of Israel to be His wife. She would act as His center piece for the salvation of mankind by bringing all of mankind together by using her as priests to teach the Gentile nations the way of LOVE for one another; this would bring about peace among them as brothers and neighbors (*Exodus 19:5-6*).

To begin implementing His plan the LORD God thundered His Ten Commandments to His people from the top of Mount Sinai to not only instill the needed Reverent Fear within them to make the changes needed in their own lives, but also with the knowledge of God's laws, they would be enabled to teach the Gentile nations.

However Israel rejected her God and His Holy righteous laws! As the result she blinded herself in Spiritual and Moral Darkness through selfishness and lust following the lawless pagan ways of the Gentile nations (*Jeremiah 10:1-2*).

After almost a full 6,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve's creation, mankind is still looking for solutions to their very weighty and unsolvable problems while never considering the cause for them!

They continue to seek the solutions through human reasoning rather than seeking them from God's revealed laws found in His Holy Bible and becoming obedient to them. As the result they are wandering around blindly groping along the wall for something solid to hold them together.

The Supreme Court of the United States

Paradoxically these same laws are yet engraved on the doorway of the courtroom of the Supreme Court of the United States. However they are ignored and meaningless to them and to society.



This is due to the erroneous false teaching by religion along with human reason believing the Ten Commandments of God are not necessary to obey any more than the Constitution is to be the bedrock of belief and followed in this country.

Yet most of those same people look for salvation through the erroneous religious pagan teaching of going to heaven and having eternal life when they die (*Isaiah 59:5; II Timothy 3:5*). How wrong they are!

God's Spiritual Family

Writing to the members of God's Churches in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul admonished them to live their lives differently than before after having been added by God to His Church:

Ephesians 4:22, 25 “That you put off concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitfulness lusts, and be RENEWED by the Spirit of your mind . . . Therefore (*having*) putting away LYING, each one speak TRUTH with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”



Members of One Another

A family in the broadest sense is that all of mankind has descended from our original parents, Adam and Eve, at creation – the first human beings created by God (*Genesis 1:26-28*).

Due to God's chosen wife, Israel, having failed her intended purpose of teaching the Gentile nations the way of peace and happiness in this present age, Jesus Christ has since chosen His begotten Bride to do what she failed in doing (*Romans 11:1-8*).

Thankfully, God's Master Plan calls for the ultimate salvation of all of Adam and Eve's descendants beyond this human life and age. And to accomplish this wonderful blessing for mankind, God is developing and schooling His Spiritual Family chosen from among mankind to be used in time to become teachers in aiding Jesus Christ toward that end while looking forward to the New Heavens and a New Earth in which righteousness dwells:

II Peter 3:17-18 “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand (*verses 10-14*), beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked, BUT grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Gentile Christians in Ephesus of their awesome and wonderful calling by God the Father through Jesus Christ:

Ephesians 2:19 “Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners (*sojourners*), but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household (*Greek: oikeios, Family*) of God.”

The Apostle Paul wrote further of the begotten Family of God:

Ephesians 3:14-15 “. . . for this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom **THE WHOLE FAMILY** in heaven (*Angelic Spirit Family by virtue of their creation by God*) and earth (*human family*) is named.”

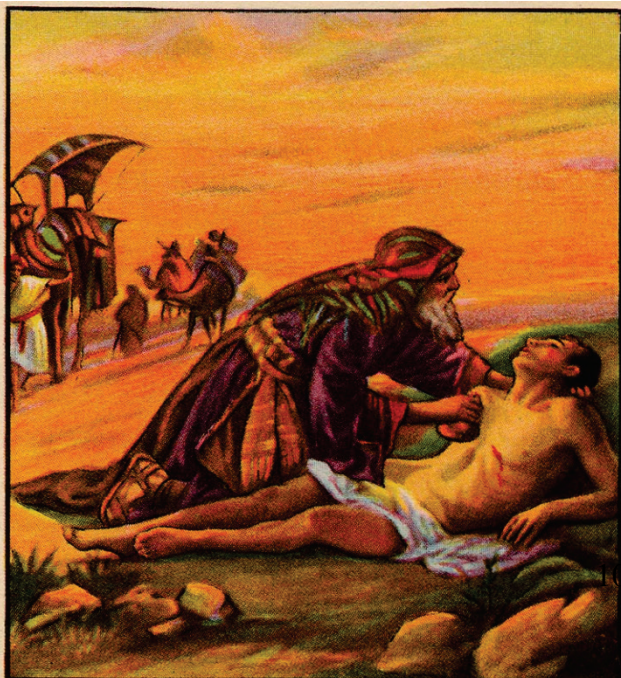
To become the Bride of Jesus Christ the teaching of all of God’s laws must be learned and obeyed – including the Ninth Commandment – not to bear false witness against one’s neighbor.

How to Inherit Eternal Life

Cynically, the question would undoubtedly be asked by most people in today’s society in view of the Ninth Commandment: “*And who is my neighbor?*” The very same question that a lawyer asked of Jesus Christ:

Luke 10:25-37 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him (*Jesus Christ*), saying, “Teacher what good thing shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

So he answered and said, ‘You shall LOVE the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and your neighbor as yourself.’” And He (*Christ*) said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”



But he wanting to JUSTIFY himself said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he

arrives at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion on him. And he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil (*olive oil, a curative agent*) and wine (*an antiseptic*), and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, “Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.”

So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among thieves?” And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

What a different world this would be if all of mankind’s hearts were as compassionate and caring as made known in this story about the Good Samaritan

“Go and Do Likewise”

Not to ever come to have caring LOVE for a neighbor will take away any hope of ever having eternal life unless there is repentance and amends made to repair a relationship whether a brother in Christ, or a neighbor, as Jesus Christ made known through the Apostle John:

I John 3:14-15 “We know we have passed from death to life because we LOVE the brethren. He who does not LOVE his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

Further areas defining a neighbor are listed by the following lead-ins to other Scriptures:

Cruden’s Concordance, Neighbor: “[1] One who dwells or is placed near another, II Kings 4:3. [2] Every man to whom we have an opportunity of doing good, Matthew 22:39. [3] A fellow-labourer, of one and the same people, Acts 7:27. [4] One who does us good, and who pities and relieves us in distress, Luke 10:36.”

The Magnification of God’s Laws

As already made known in the earlier writings in this book, Jesus Christ made known to His disciples on what is called His sermon on the mount that His laws are still very much in force:

Matthew 5:17-18 “Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets (*laws and writings of the prophets in the Old Testament*). I did NOT come

to destroy, but to fulfill (*to do or perform by doing and obeying them*). **For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle** (*the dotting of an i or crossing of a t*) **will by no means pass from the law until all is fulfilled** (*when all of mankind will be fulfilling it through obedience*).”

Jesus Christ then made known the laws of God were now expanded beyond their literal meaning in the Old Testament to their highest level of caring love for one’s neighbor by including intent, thoughts, and attitudes, as can be seen by the following Scripture:

Matthew 5:43-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall LOVE your neighbor and HATE your enemy.’ But I say to you, LOVE your enemies, and bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven . . .”

Thus the following Scripture of magnifying the law was fulfilled by Him:

Isaiah 42:21 “The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness sake; He will EXALT (*magnify*) His law and make it honorable.”

Liars are an Abomination to God

God emphasizes His commandment not to bear false witness against one’s neighbor by making known He hates any form of deceit and lying that would create a problem for his neighbor:

Proverbs 6:16-19 “There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, A LYING TONGUE, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, A FALSE WITNESS WHO BREATHES OUT LIES, and one who sows discord among brothers.”

To lie or bear false witness is the most damaging thing one can do to his or her character as a person of worth to all others.

Lies against a Neighbor

Lies and false allegations happen all the time in this age. Tragically, once something false is said or printed about a neighbor, it is believed to be true at the time! But if this is found later not to be true, and though it is acknowledged, it is hard for those who have heard or read it to get it out of their minds.

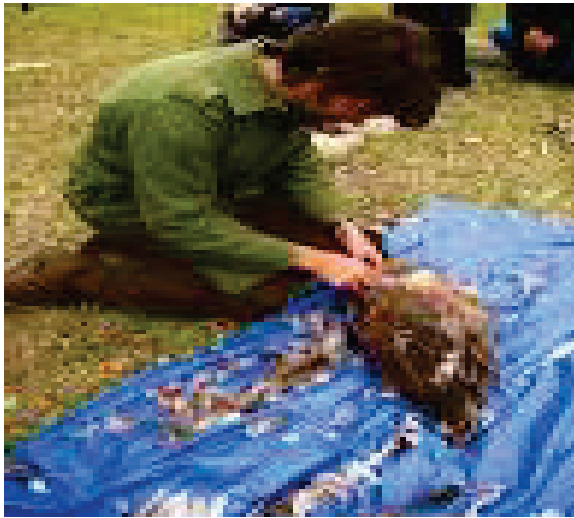
To make the point: something very bad has sometimes been found printed on the front page of Newspapers about a person. When found to be in error, if retracted, it is often found buried in the back pages where many will never see the retraction.

The charge that has been brought against a neighbor does not always end with trying to correct a wrong! For with some people upon seeing the person who has been wronged, though acknowledged to be wrong, will wonder whether it was true after all.

This is a sad and tragic fact of life.

A Story about a Goose

A little story was told on the Radio many years ago about a man who told something bad about his neighbor and discovered later it to be untrue. He went to his priest and confessed what he had done and wanted to know what he could do to correct it.



He was then told to go and pluck the feathers out of a goose and bring them to him; which he did. The priest told him to throw the feathers up into the strong wind. Then the priest told him to go and gather up the feathers. Seeing the feathers had been blown everywhere by the wind, the man said it would be impossible to gather all of them up.

The priest then said, “Let this be a lesson to you. It is easy to say something about another person that hurts or damages the person’s reputation, but it is impossible to ever fully undo the wrong in the minds of other people.”

Should Something Bad Never be Repeated?

This is not to say nothing should ever be said about one who is guilty of bearing false witness or other terrible things that could be harmful to another person or persons. However it should be a proven and established fact beyond question. Even then one should use wisdom how to go about doing it.

To help our understanding, Jesus Christ said a tree is known by its fruits whether the fruit it bears is good or bad (*Matthew 7:16-20*). This often requires time.

And given sufficient time a man or woman will come to be known by their fruits to have good character, or otherwise; a fact of life.

Hard for a Liar to Change

Once a person is caught in a lie it becomes difficult for anyone afterwards to know whether that person is telling the truth about anything. He or she is no longer

believable! To lie also requires a good memory when it becomes necessary to repeat it before others.

Though change can be accomplished, it becomes very hard to be completely believable again by others though the person takes steps never to lie again. A major step to become believable is to admit he or she lied to a person, and saying, "I have promised myself I will never lie again."

Being the brunt of a lie can sometimes lead a person wrongly to retaliate by also fabricating a lie, or worse, against the perpetrator for having done harm to him.

Do Not Retaliate

The Apostle James wrote one should never retaliate by speaking evil against such a person for having done harm to him or her.

James 4:11 "Do not speak evil of one another, brethren, he who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law (9th Commandment) . . ."

The LORD God also forbids taking vengeance that could lead to physical force being used to bring about hurt to one's neighbor:

Leviticus 19:18 "You shall not take VENGEANCE, nor bear any GRUDGE against the children of your people, but you shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

This is clearly made known by the magnification of God's laws as Jesus Christ made known in His sermon on the mount:

Matthew 5:21-24, 38-42 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' "But I say to you, that whoever is angry with his brother (*margin: without a cause is omitted*) will be in danger of the judgment . . ."

Companion Bible: "Not merely one that is near but anyone with whom one deals."

From the internet: "A person who harms another's reputation may be referred to as a "famicide", "defamer", or "slanderer". The [Latin](#) phrase *famosus libellus* means a libelous writing."

Parents Lie to Their Children

Parents lie to their small children each year about Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny laying colored eggs, the Tooth Fairy taking away an extracted tooth during the night and leaving a gift, as being real.



Some years ago, it was said one young child after learning his parents had lied to him about Santa Claus then said he was going to check into whether Jesus Christ was real. He had lost faith in believing them.

To show the hypocrisy, parents will usually correct their children for lying but not correct themselves. This leaves the children in bewilderment knowing their parents will lie to

them but expect them not to do it.

Parents should never lie to their children for it sets a bad example for them to follow. *Think!* How can they instruct their children not to lie when they deceive them? Parents need to be truthful, so children will know their parents can be trusted.

It should also be realized that children follow the example set before them. If a parent uses tobacco, drugs, lose their temper, use *curse words*, *vulgar* and *toilet* language, view the wrong kind of movies, children will too often follow suit.

It should be realized to a small child his or her parents are as God to them, no one greater. They are examples for them to follow for good or bad.

Examples Set by Leadership

Those who occupy the highest offices in the land also set an example for all society for good or bad; they are the leaders who should be above reproach.

It should be realized President Clinton has not been the only president or politician who has lied, or still lies. He was the only one caught and then forced to admit he had lied before the peoples of this country on television because of undeniable evidence against him.

The news media makes known that on average all politicians lie.

Like children following the example of their parents, so does society as a whole follow the example set by the leadership and lie whenever it seems convenient or advantageous to them in their cause or goal.

Some few years ago, one major news magazine had on its cover page in large bold print:



“Lying? Everyone does it!”

On the Witness Stand before a Judge

Up until recent years to try and get to the truth from a witness in a jury trial each one was required to swear with his or her hand on the Holy Bible before taking a seat on the witness stand that the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, would be told by them. This was the effort to avoid any lying from the witness.

This made little difference with many people for they had no fear of God.

Though a person is still required to tell the truth before taking the witness stand and being sworn in by the clerk of the court, the swearing on the Holy Bible is no longer required (*internet: google and wiki*).



God makes known how He feels about such people who swear they will tell the truth and then lie against their neighbor:

Proverbs 17:15 “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.”

The Apostle Paul wrote of such people:

I Timothy 1:9-10 . . . the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners . . . for LIARS, for PERJURERS . . .”

World Leaders often Lie to One Another

As an example to illustrate the lies that often take place between the leaders of this world, consider a bit of history: Prior to England entering the war in 1939, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain flew to Berlin and sought appeasement with Adolph Hitler to end his aggression of other countries.

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia:

“...the previous [appeasement](#) of [Hitler](#) had shown, the governments of both France and the United Kingdom were set on avoiding war at any cost. The French government did not wish to face Germany alone and took its lead from the British government and its [Prime](#)



Minister, Neville Chamberlain. Chamberlain believed that Sudeten German grievances were justified and that Hitler's intentions were limited. Both Britain and France, therefore, advised Czechoslovakia to concede to Germany's demands. . . .”

This led later to the Munich Conference with Britain, France, and Italy being involved in which agreement was given by offering Hitler Czechoslovakia if he would stop any further aggression toward other countries.

It was reported that Hitler agreed and they shook hands after signing documents to that effect. After Mr. Chamberlin left for home it was reported that Hitler laughed for having duped him. Mr. Chamberlin, believing him, came home and while stepping off the plane waved the white signed document, saying, “Peace in our time.” History revealed the lie!

Shortly after, Hitler invaded Poland. Then France and Britain declared war on Germany and this rapidly expanded the war to include all nations, World War II.

Peace never happened! Nor did it from that war until 1945 when Hitler committed suicide after having been responsible for over 50 million deaths; and among them, the death of six million Jews.

As a rule, world rulers only care about themselves and the office they occupy! They will do all they deem necessary to try and remain in office; some even having killed millions of their own people; ruthless leaders, such as: Adolph Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, etc.

An evil age, so wrote the Apostle Paul (*Galatians 1:4*).

Deception is Another Form of Lying.

Deception due to erroneous teachings from religious leaders, ministers, prophets, etc., is the worst form of lying for it is used by Satan the devil through his human instruments to try and destroy the whole human race.

The world is filled more now than ever with the lies of deception by these instruments of Satan against the TRUE teachings of God. The Holy Scriptures make this very clear:

I Timothy 4:2 “Now the Spirit explicitly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith giving heed to DECEIVING spirits and doctrines of the devil SPEAKING LIES in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”

These religious leaders represent themselves as the true ministers of Jesus Christ:

Matthew 24:4-5 And Jesus answered and said to them (*His disciples*), “Take heed that no one deceives you. For MANY will come in My Name, saying, ‘I am Christ (*meaning coming in His name representing Christ*),’ and will DECEIVE MANY.”

The LORD God (*Jesus Christ*) makes known He is against such people:

Jeremiah 23:32 “Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,” says the LORD, “and tell them, and cause My people TO ERR by their LIES and by their recklessness. Yet I did NOT send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all,” says the Lord.

Using the Name of God and Jesus Christ to try and support their erroneous claim of being God’s prophets and ministers is actually stealing offices that have not been given to them therefore they are profaning the Name of God:

Leviticus 19:11-13 “You shall not steal, NOR DEAL FALSELY, nor LIE to one another. And you shall not SWEAR by My Name falsely, nor shall you propane the NAME of your God: I am the LORD. You shall NOT cheat your neighbor, nor rob him . . .”

Talebearing/Gossiping

Talebearing is another form of bearing false witness against one’s neighbor; and God forbids it:

Leviticus 19:16 “You shall NOT go up and down as a TALEBEARER (*literally a Peddler*) among your people; . . .

Soncino Commentary: “. . . a person (peddler) who travels about dealing in scandal and malicious hearsay, getting the secrets of others and retailing them wherever he goes.”

It should be realized that what was sometimes said in the beginning as possibly being true has a way of growing when being passed on to others to not even resemble what was originally said.

Leviticus 19:16 “. . . neither shall you STAND (*Soncino Commentary: ‘idly by’*) against the **BLOOD** (*the life*) of your neighbor; I am the LORD.” KJV.

Soncino Commentary: “. . . stand idly by the **blood** of your neighbor, i. e. when his life is in danger . . . watching with indifference your fellowman (*neighbor*) in mortal danger through drowning or attacked by wild animals, or robbers, without hastening to his rescue.”

This also applies when withholding evidence that could free your neighbor and being indifferent about the penalties that could send him to prison or take his life.

Proverbs 25:18 “Men who bear false witness (*to testify*) against his neighbor is like (*using*) a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.”

Reproving One's Brother or Neighbor

After being wronged by someone, the LORD God says one should go to his brother, or neighbor, alone, and gently with love reprove the person for the harm he or she has done (*Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1*):

Leviticus 19:17 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke (*reprove*) your neighbor, and NOT bear sin because of him.”

“Not to bear sin because of him:” That is seeing his brother's sin and not taking steps to correct it in love – personally, or if need be, taking it to the ministry. However realizing the carnal mind is hostile toward God (*Romans 8:7*), this is not always advisable to go to a neighbor who is not in the Church of God. One would need much wisdom coupled with love in so doing.

Revealing Secrets

Quite often a person who has come to know of a secret or confidential matter will whisper to a friend, “I will tell you something if you promise not to tell anyone else.” Then that person unable to keep it secret tells their friend, and so it goes, until it then is no longer a secret and could end up being very harmful:

Proverbs 11:13 “A talebearer (*a whisperer*) reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter (*of a confidential nature*).” **I Corinthians 13:4-8.**

Soncino Commentary: A gossipier [*is one*] who carries to others confidential information given to him.”

Most people love hearing the gossip and the rumors from the grapevine, as it is often called.

Proverbs 18:8 “The (*slandorous*) words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles (*swallowed greedily*), and they go down into the inmost body (*and are thoroughly digested*).”

God's counsel is to avoid the talebearers:

Proverbs 20:19 “He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters (*opens wide*) with his lips.”

Forgiveness Must be Given Upon Contrite Request

Though it is hard enough to forgive someone for defaming his or her character by bearing false witness, it is even harder to forgive fully – *from the heart*. But Jesus Christ

says it must be done (*Matthew 18:21-35*); that is, once the perpetrator upon seeing the harm and hurt he or she has done to the injured person humbly seeks forgiveness:

Luke 17:1-4 Then He (Jesus Christ) said to the disciples, “It is impossible but that offenses (*margin: stumbling blocks*) should come (*from a neighbor, friend, or brother*), but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you and say, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.”

Jesus Christ set the example Himself by forgiving the Apostle Peter who could have stood up for Him when He was on trial for his life and didn't. Instead, he swore an oath to the bystanders, who had questioned him whether he was one of Christ's disciples, that He did not know Jesus Christ (*Matthew 26:69-75; John 21:15-17*).

Safeguards in Place

The following Scriptures were given by the LORD God through His prophet Moses to make sure that no guilt could be established, no landmark could be removed, or any other injury to life, or property, except by the agreement of two or three reputable witnesses:

Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall NOT rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.” **Matthew 18:15-16.**

A False Witness

Once discovered, false witnesses were to be severely punished:

Deuteronomy 19:16-18 “If a false witness (*who proposes harm or violence*) rises against any man to testify against him of wrong doing, then both men in the controversy shall STAND BEFORE THE LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.”

False Witnesses Brought Against Jesus Christ

Fabricated lies were used against Jesus Christ by the Sanhedrin who sought and used witnesses to try and justify their ruling of murdering Him.

Matthew 26:59-60 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came, they found none.

Mark 14:56 For many bore false witness but their testimonies did not agree.

Because of His awesome love and mercy with the future in mind (*John 3:16-17*), before Jesus Christ died on the tree, He asked for forgiveness for those who were responsible for His terrible beating, His crucifixion, and death (*Luke 23:34*).

A Grave Offense by Lying to the Holy Spirit

By lying to God's apostle on the full selling price of their property for the use of God's newly baptized and converted people, Ananias and Sapphira, died for having lied to the Apostle Peter in a Church context to the leadership of God's Church! This amounted to lying to God who had given His Spirit to these leaders (*I Thessalonians 4:8*).

Acts 5:1-11 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostle's feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to LIE to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself. . . . you have not LIED to men but to God." Then Ananias hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great FEAR came upon all those who heard these things. . . . Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to TEST the Spirit of the Lord" Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great FEAR came upon all the Church and upon all who heard these things.

This should instill reverent fear of God never to knowingly and deliberately lie to His true ministers or anyone.

God's Royal Law

The Apostle James wrote of God's royal law of love for everyone without showing partiality:

James 2:8-10, 13 "If you really fulfill the ROYAL LAW (*king of all laws*) according to the Scriptures, 'You shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself,' you do well; but IF you show PARTIALITY (*margin: receive the face*) you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the WHOLE LAW, and yet stumble in one point, he is GUILTY of all. . . . For

judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy (Matthew 6:14-15). Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

The Apostle Paul made reference to the King of all Laws by defining it in the following Scriptures as a debt of LOVE for all people:

Romans 13:8-9 “Owe no one anything except to LOVE one another, for he who LOVES another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS,” “you shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all SUMMED UP in this saying, namely, “You shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself.”

Further, he writes very plainly about God’s wonderful blessing of LOVE:

Romans 13:10 “LOVE does no harm to a neighbor; therefore LOVE is the fulfillment of the law.

This makes known the purpose of the Ninth Commandment:

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Exodus 20:16

The Tenth Commandment

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

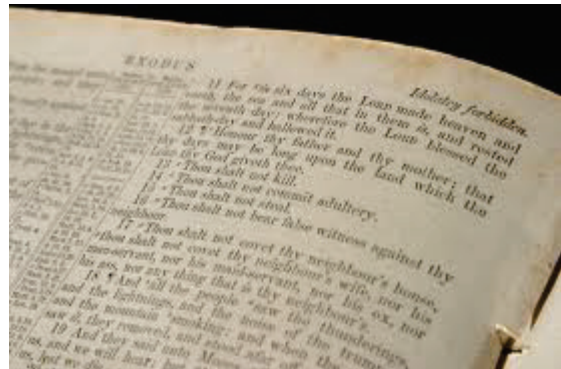
Exodus 20:17

This commandment is little, if ever, thought about even in religious circles as anything to be concerned about because of not being able to see the difference between a natural desire for something that is obtainable and coveting something that is not obtainable.

It is hoped the following definitions and related areas of this commandment will add to one’s understanding to see the distinction.

From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia

“The Hebrew word translated “covet” is *chamad* (חָמַד) which is commonly translated into English as “covet”, “lust”, and “strong desire.”



To covet is to wish, long for, set one’s heart on something that belongs to someone else with great desire and eagerness.

Order of the Ten Commandments

One might ask: why was this commandment not listed earlier instead of being the Tenth?

The explanation seems to be because it connects with the first one with the others in between. God is perfect and all that He does is perfect and always in exact order as are His Ten Commandments.

This can be understood by reading the first commandment and then reading what the Apostle Paul wrote about the Tenth.

The first commandment reads as follows:

Exodus 20:1-3 And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.”

And to violate that commandment is an act of idolatry! The same is true with the Tenth commandment as the Apostle Paul also made known:

Colossians 3:5 “Therefore put to death your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and COVETOUSNESSES, which is IDOLATRY.”

To violate any of these areas is putting another god before the true God and therefore is an act of idolatry.

Very few people ever think about having a strong desire for something can border on the law of coveting. Even the Apostle Paul would not have recognized covetousness as being an act of idolatry except by God’s law:

Romans 7:7 “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would NOT have known sin (*what it is*) EXCEPT through the law (*Romans 3:20*). For I would NOT have known COVETOUSNESS UNLESS THE LAW HAD SAID, ‘You shall NOT covet.’”

The law of God is very important to know and understand for it defines sin for what it is (*I John 3:4*), and the cost of violating it is death (*Romans 6:23*).

You Shall LOVE Your Neighbor as Yourself

To obey the law of not coveting that which belongs to someone else, one needs to pray asking God for the LOVE needed for his neighbor to overpower the strong desire of coveting his or her belongings.

This wonderful caring LOVE enables one to bring the overt desire of coveting, lust, and greed under control thereby eliminating any compunction to steal, rob, or murder anyone to obtain for self that which belongs to other people (*James 1:12-18*).

The Apostle Paul stresses the need of this LOVE from God that will make possible obedience to His law:

Romans 13:10 “Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore LOVE is the fulfillment of the Law.”

This commandment not to covet has also been magnified by Jesus Christ:

The Magnification of God's Laws

Due to the context of this commandment, it is needful once again to repeat what Jesus Christ said to His disciples on what is called His sermon on the mount concerning His holy and righteous laws:

Matthew 5:17-18 “Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets (laws and writings of the prophets in the Old Testament). I did NOT come to destroy, but to fulfill (to do or perform by doing and obeying them). For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle (the dotting of an i or crossing of a t) will by no means pass from the law until all is fulfilled (when all of mankind will be fulfilling it through obedience).”



Jesus Christ then made known the law of God had been expanded beyond its literal meaning in the Old Testament to the highest level of caring love for one's neighbor by including intent, thought, and attitude, as can be seen by the following Scripture:

Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28 “. . . You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to LUST for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Thus the following prophetic Scripture of magnifying the law was fulfilled by Him:

Isaiah 42:21 “The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness sake; He will EXALT (magnify) His law and make it honorable.”

Segmenting the Tenth Commandment

This commandment is very necessary to understand in its fullness for to violate any part of it is to sin. For this reason each one will be touched on with its meaning in today's society.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's house”

Exodus 20:17

Some may wonder why God has placed HOUSE first in this commandment instead of the man's wife. The answer has to do with much more than just a house! Though some

houses are very beautiful and attract much attention, there is much more to the meaning of house in this commandment than one might think.

A house has to do with home, family, belonging, roots, dreams and happiness. It is a place always desirable to return after a work day to be with his family, from a business trip, or other places, to all that is near and dear to a man or woman.

Some years ago there was a song, entitled: **“Don’t Destroy Another Man’s Castle.”** The beginning lyrics are powerful and meaningful:

“They say a man's home is his castle. He's like a king on a throne. It may be a shack down alongside the track. But everything in it's his home.”

Perhaps the saying of one important man who had just returned from a lengthy trip sums up best the meaning of a house that embodies a person’s home, when he said: **“The best part of going away is to come home again.”** This was after hearing another say to him, “Welcome home.”



The Forcible Taking Away of a Home

The following Scripture not only described the ancient time of Israel, but it also applies in principle in today’s society when a man’s house and home is forcibly taken away from him legally, and indicting those who do it:

Micah 2:1-2 “Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, because it is in THE POWER OF THEIR HAND (legally). They COVET fields and take them, also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.”

There is a law of ‘Eminent Domain’ in the United States that makes possible the taking away of houses/homes of people who have owned and lived in them for many years.

Law of Eminent Domain

www.questia.com

“In the United States, the law of eminent domain allows the government to confiscate an individual's private property, impound property or seize the rights that an individual holds in a property. Although the owner receives financial compensation for the property, he or she does not have to authorize or approve the transaction.



“Private property is often taken by the government for its own use or to give to other parties who will use it for public or community purposes. The most common recipients of appropriated property are utilities, railroads and other community service providers. The law of eminent domain has also been invoked in cases involving public safety.”

God through His Prophet Jeremiah indicted the powerful people of Judah who were at that time responsible for taking away houses and property belonging to people who had inherited it from their forefathers as does yet happen in some situations today:

Jeremiah 6:12-13 “And their houses shall be turned over to others, fields and wives together; for I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land,” says the LORD. “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is given to COVETOUSNESS; . . .”

Foreclosures

Due to the continuing collapse of the economy, loss of employment, and for other reasons, homes have been taken away from their owners by banks and finance companies due to failure of making the needed payments.

As the result there are families living under bridges and similar places struggling to remain alive.



Taxes/Tithing

COVETING by powerful men and women in high places has led to excessively taxing people beyond their means while filling their own bank accounts. Though it is legally done it is still in God’s eyes an act of robbery and extortion. The indictment against such people by God is the same today as it was in ancient Israel:

Ezekiel 22:12 “In you (Jerusalem) they (princes, rulers, verse 6) take bribes to shed blood; you take usury and increase; you have made profit from your neighbors by extortion, and have forgotten Me,” says the Lord GOD.

Forgetting God is also to have forgotten His laws of tithing. If tithing was practiced there would be no need of taxation for the tithes would provide all the needs of government and would enable the little people to have a higher standard of living and prosper without the worry of having their homes taken away from them.

Gambling, Lotto, Etc.

Another area is Gambling! It is a big-time operation in present-day society. People at all levels of society involve themselves in some form of it. Though it is entertainment for some it is another form of coveting, lust and greed, to try and gain riches for themselves. Casinos can be found almost anywhere.

The remote possibility of winning millions of dollars as advertised on billboards, and elsewhere, attracts millions of people who are enticed by them to purchase lotto tickets, even though they know their chances of winning is virtually impossible.

The poorer people will also purchase the tickets while knowing this will often take away from other needs for the family and home.



Gambling is driven by the rich and powerful wanting to add to their wealth, while others do it just for the excitement of winning, and some desperately try to win enough to salvage their losses and retain their belongings:

Habakkuk 2:9 “Woe to him who **COVETS** evil gain for his house (*by sinful methods*) that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of disaster!”

The Casting of Lots

The casting of lots was used in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to determine God’s will in needed circumstances.



It was also used as a form of gambling in Roman society as can be noted when Roman soldiers used it as a means of gambling for the tunic of Jesus Christ (*John 19:24*).

A Sacred Religious Ceremony

Casting of lots was also used to determine God’s will in replacing Judas Iscariot as one of the chosen apostles of Jesus Christ. After first praying for Jesus Christ to show His will which man to choose, the lot fell on Matthias (*Acts 1:21-26*)

Writings of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong

Mr. Armstrong wrote in his booklet: ***Pagan Holidays or God's Holydays Which, Page 36, The Day of Atonement, The Two Goats, Leviticus 16:7-10:***

“Types of Christ and Satan

“These two goats were, of course, types. Notice, it was necessary to be decided by lot, which one was qualified to represent Christ, and which Azazel. Some say BOTH were qualified. The Scripture does not say this. Let us not assume it. Now a "lot" is a solemn appeal to God to decide a doubtful matter. It is a sacred religious ceremony. It included a supernatural act of God. That is why lotteries and gambling are of the devil—an actual profaning of a holy service appealing to God.”



Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong also wrote: “Coveting MONEY and that which money will buy is merely the manner of manipulating Satan’s WAY OF LIFE—‘GET’ instead of ‘GIVE’—TAKE and COMPETE instead of COOPERATE—self-concern and self-gain with desire to WIN, instead of LOVE toward GOD and LOVE toward neighbor” (*Good News*, September 1986)

He further wrote: “A LOT is a solemn appeal to God to decide a doubtful matter. It is a sacred religious ceremony. It includes a supernatural act of God. That is why lotteries and gambling are of the Devil – an actual profaning of an ancient holy ceremony appealing to God.

“See Prov. 16:33. *“The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.”*

“PHOTO CAPTION: Gambling desecrates the Old Testament custom of permitting God to determine a doubtful issue by casting lots.”

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Money a Root of all Evil

Jesus Christ makes known the pursuit of money in unlawful ways takes a person in a wrong direction from the only way of life that would bring love and peace from a caring God; and many have fallen victim to their love for money:

I Timothy 6:10 “For the LOVE of money is a ROOT of all kinds of evils, for which some have strayed from the faith in their GREEDINESS, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Choices have to be made whether one looks to God with faith and trust for his blessings or pursue the love of money that will in the end leave them penniless. Either way it becomes a way of life:

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve [both] God and mammon (Greek: wealth).”

Coveting Motivated Judas Iscariot to Betray Jesus Christ

These Scriptures speaks powerfully of the treacherous act of Judas Iscariot, one of the 12 chosen disciples of Jesus Christ, who was so obsessed with the pursuit of money he betrayed Him to the Sanhedrin who was determined to kill Him for 30 pieces of silver:

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.



Desire vs Coveting

Scripture makes known it is not wrong to want to get ahead in life – desiring a wife, house/home, farm, ranch, business, employees, etc. However one can become so obsessed with this desire it can easily become an act of coveting that which belongs to a neighbor.

The news media makes known on a daily basis that society is filled with the wrong kind of people who will at times injure and murder without compassion or mercy to obtain what they covet from others. In this context, the Apostle Paul wrote:

Romans 1:28-30 “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind to do those things which are not fitting, being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, COVETOUSNESS, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers., backbiters, haters of God . . .”

The Tenth Commandment then speaks of a neighbor's precious and beloved wife that belongs to him and no other.

“You shall not covet your neighbor's wife”

Exodus 20:17

Society is filled with men and women who are so overly obsessed with the pursuit of sex they do what seems necessary to attract either the opposite or same gender sex!



Many women dress themselves with as much exposure as legally possible to arouse desire within men.

Any and everything goes for the most part – *a lifestyle of freedom!*

Even many married women wear scant clothing to cover their endowed bodies. This makes it much more difficult for a man to restrain himself from coveting his neighbor's wife.

Sexual Desire is Natural

The LORD God created within man a strong sexual desire for a woman; and she for the man. If this were not so there would be no marriages between man and woman, and no giving birth to children.

This would have defeated God's Master Plan for creating mankind and the expansion of His Spirit Family. This can be understood by what the LORD God said at the time of the creation of Adam and Eve.

After God having created Adam and Eve, He then blessed them in marriage and told them to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth (*Genesis 1:26-28*). It was God's desire to expand His Spirit Family in years to come. And it was for this reason both man and woman were created to have a strong sexual attraction and desire to have a loving sexual relationship with one another in marriage.

Exercising Control of Sexual Desire

At the same time God's law teaches men and women to exercise control over their very strong passions lest they sin against Him. Man having been created to be the aggressor by having the stimulus to seek a woman for marriage is warned this can easily get out of control unless he struggles against it.

Mathew 5:28 “But I say to you that whoever LOOKS on a woman to LUST for her has already committed adultery in his heart.”

The society of today does not live by the teachings of God's laws for in reality they do not know Him or His laws.

As the result they live their lives in what they call freedom. As an example, San Francisco, California, is known to be a city where any and everything can be practiced with no problems with society and the city fathers. Other cities are not that far behind with their lawless practices.

A Lawless Society

A further example to illustrate the increasingly lawless society, many men and women live together without the benefit of marriage (*Matthew 24:12*).

Marriages have their problems as well. Statistics reveal many men and women in marriage either cheat or have cheated on their lawful mates by committing adultery.

Little do they realize that in time to come, unless there is true heartbroken repentance, they will pay a terrible penalty on judgment day while standing before Jesus Christ (*Romans 14:10; II Corinthians 5:10*), as Scripture makes known:

Leviticus 20:10 “The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall be surely put to death.”

King David of Ancient Israel

There is no example more apparent than that of King David who made a terrible mistake in judgment by committing adultery with another man's wife. Though his example was used in the earlier writing of the Seventh Commandment it seems necessary in this context to use it here as well.

The Terrible Sin of King David

As it has happened many times with both men and women in one way or another; very strong temptation was placed before King David's eyes at a weak moment in his life. This led to his not only coveting another man's wife, but he acted on that very strong desire by having her brought to him, and then bedded her in an act of adultery:

II Samuel 11:2-5, 15, 25, 27 Then it happened one evening that David rose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. So David sent messengers and enquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Elam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers, and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. And the woman conceived, so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

After learning Bathsheba was carrying his baby David tried very hard to cover up his act of adultery by having her husband brought back from the war and tried enticing him to bed his wife. He failed! Knowing of no other way to deal with this problem David sent a note by Uriah to his leading general to have him placed in an area of battle whereby he would be killed.

II Samuel 11:15 And he (*David*) wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

Uriah carried his own death warrant to Joab and it was carried out:

II Samuel 11:23-25 And the messenger said to David . . . your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead." Then David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab: do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another." . . .

This was a true statement by David! However the problem was he intentionally had him killed to cover up the evil he had done and save his own honor; in actual fact it was an act of murder! Afterwards, David took her as his wife:

II Samuel 11: 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done was evil in the eyes of the LORD.

David's Justification and Blindness to what He had Done

Possibly a year went by after having committed this evil and there was no repentance from David. He had closed his mind to the murder of Uriah due to Israel being a warring nation for as he had said to Joab: ". . . **do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another.**"

Though he was knowledgeable of the Sixth Commandment he did not see what he had done was an act of murder because of God's use of Israel in warfare against its enemies.

In this context it should be realized God's laws had not been magnified then as they have been in the New Testament as made known by Jesus Christ in His sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5:17-48; Matthew 19:3-10*).

However even at that time, it is difficult to understand how David was able to justify his having taken Uriah's wife and committing adultery with her. Somehow in some way he did and moved on with his life.

A Respite of Time Given by God

The LORD God gave David time to come to himself and repent. Since it did not happen He sent Nathan His prophet to David with the story of the Rich Man and his taking for himself another person's only lamb to be killed and eaten.

II Samuel 12:1-13 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: 'There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who was come to him.

So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." Exodus 22:1.

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given much more!

Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the children of Ammon.

Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give

them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.”

And David said unto Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said unto David, “The LORD also hath put away your sin; you shall not die.”

‘However, because of this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.’ ”

In addition to David’s baby son dying, three of his other sons were also killed fulfilling the law of God (*Exodus 22:1*); Absalom had his servants kill Ammon for raping his sister Tamar (*II Samuel 13:28-29, 32*). Absalom was killed for conspiring to topple David from his throne (*II Samuel 18:14-18*; Adonijah was executed by Solomon for conspiring to take over his throne (*I Kings 2:20-25*).

David’s Cry for Forgiveness

This little story of Nathan opened David’s mind to fully comprehend the terrible thing he had done and led to his heart-broken cry for forgiveness:

Psalms 51:1-4, 9-12 “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions and my sin is ever before me . . . create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me, do not cast me away from Your presence, restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with Your generous Spirit . . .”

Forgiving King David

Without really knowing God, and the merciful and loving God that He is, it is very difficult for some to understand why He would have forgiven King David. Those who would stand in judgment of David need to take into account their own sins and their need for forgiveness.

Except for this brief time in which he yielded to his human weakness, David consistently had a good heart and great love for God as can be seen in his many prayers in the Book of Psalms. And God looks upon the heart (*I Samuel 16:7*).

God always hears a heart-broken plea for forgiveness whoever that person might be as numerous Scriptures makes known:

Jeremiah 29:13 “And you will SEEK Me and FIND Me, when you SEARCH for Me with ALL YOUR HEART.”

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked:

Ezekiel 33:11 “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked TURN from his way and live. . . .”

Examples of God’s Awesome Mercy

Among the many examples of God’s awesome mercy and love are: King Hezekiah of Judah (*II Kings 20:1-6*; King Manasseh, the worst of the worst, *II Chronicles 33:1-13*).

And the LORD God also forgave David because of his heart-broken cry to Him for forgiveness. Nevertheless he paid a terrible penalty for the evil he had done by the untimely deaths of four of his children. Undoubtedly he carried those painful and grievous memories to his death.

There is yet another example of another man who had sinned greatly, but was forgiven and even used by Jesus Christ in a powerful way.

The Apostle Paul

Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, was used by Jesus Christ as His apostle to do a great work. In addition to being used to teach God’s people, he was also used by Christ to write 14 epistles in the New Testament.

However the Apostle Paul considered himself as being the worst of sinners for what he had done to God’s true Church, but was forgiven by Jesus Christ:

I Corinthians 15:9 “. . . I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God . . .”

Galatians 1:11-13 “. . . For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God and tried to destroy it.”

Reaping What Is Sown

Unless there is godly repentance for the evils committed and perpetrated on others, God made known through the Apostle Paul a person reaps what he or she sows. This has clearly been made known in the life of David:

Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

Knowing the nature and fallibility of mankind, Jesus Christ used this lifetime example of David in Scripture, a man greatly beloved by Him, to make known there is no partiality with Him in regard to sin:

Romans 2:11 “For there is no partiality with God.”

David’s Forgotten Prayer in a Time of Weakness

From his youth to his kingship there continued to be a strong and passionate desire within King David’s heart to obey God’s laws in all areas. But he also recognized a weakness to sometimes act presumptuously and he had prayed to God about it:

Psalm 19:13 “Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them NOT have dominion (*rule*) over me. Then I shall be blameless and I shall be innocent of great transgression.”

David’s tragic sin in this area seems without question a weak point in his life of not being close to the LORD God in prayer. This should be a lesson learned for all who sincerely love and seek to obey Him for in each one is a weakness to sin in one area or another.

Soncino Commentary: “Presumptuous sin. As distinct from errors. When the baser side of his nature prompts him to do what he knows is wrong, he begs of God to restrain him. The Hebrew elsewhere means ‘presumptuous men,’ the arrogant and godless. . .”

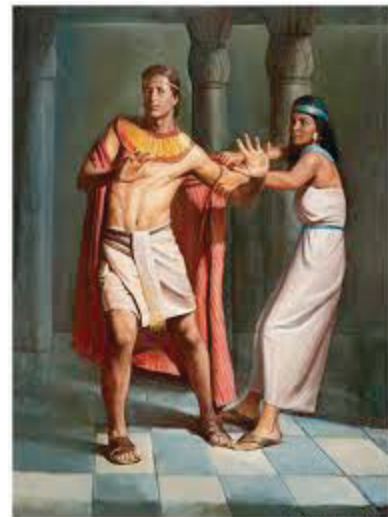
Flee Sexual Temptations

Scripture says: “**Flee fornication**” (*I Corinthians 6:18*)! There aren’t too many today who would flee from the strong temptation of fornication as did Joseph who fled from Potiphar’s wife (*Genesis 39:12*).

Coveting is a problem beginning from babyhood. This can be seen by a child wanting another child’s toy and will usually cry when he or she cannot have it. This potential problem of coveting continues throughout human life.

The Apostle James wrote of God’s blessing for those who overcome it:

James 1:10 “Blessed is the man who endures temptation . . .”



Human Nature

The nature within each human is naturally selfish, covetous, envious, jealous of others, and as such is always an ever-ready problem that can lead to all of the works of the flesh unless resisted (*Galatians 5:19-21*). This human nature is well described by Jesus Christ to His disciples:

Mark 7:20-23 And He (*Christ*) said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. Far from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornication, murders, thefts, COVETOUSNESS, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things COME FROM WITHIN and defile the man.”

This can readily be seen by another example of a man in ancient Israel who yielded to his nature within him upon casting his eyes upon some very desirable riches—riches that had been denied by God to all Israel.

The very strong covetous desire within Achan led him to steal a few of the accursed things from a defeated army! And by stealing these things he brought about the deaths of others and his own life as well. After having been singled out for his theft, Joshua asked him to confess what he had done:

Joshua 7:1, 20-21, 25 And Achan answered Joshua and said, “Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done. When I SAW among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I COVETED them and took them. And there they are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it.” . . . So all Israel stoned him with stones . . .

No One Excluded From Satan’s Nature

The human nature within mankind is more correctly defined as Satan the devil’s nature. And because he is the prince of the airwaves (*permeating the earth’s atmosphere like radio or television signals, Ephesians 2:2*), Satan affects the attitude and thereby influences people to often presumptuously act, or with deliberate planning of sin, and in other ways as well, unless those wrong airwaves from him are resisted.

God’s True Church

True Christians are also attracted and tempted by strong desire from the inherit nature of Satan within them to be influenced by him at one time or another to yield to some form of evil. This is a problem to struggle with throughout human life.

The Apostle Paul wrote of it as being a law that he continually struggled with and exhorted all others to do the same and not give in to it:

Romans 7:12-25 “. . . For I know that in me (that is in my flesh – *the law of sin, verses 21, 23*) nothing good dwells . . . For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind . . . O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord [*that He will by His mercy and grace, Ephesians 2: 1-10*]!

The daily prayers of a Christian should reflect the heart's desire to obey God's holy righteous laws— as did the Psalmist:

Psalm 119:36 “Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to covetousness.”

There is another part of the Tenth Commandment that has to do with the law of coveting:

**“You shall not covet your neighbor's . . . manservant,
nor his maidservant”**

Exodus 20:17

In ancient Israel, and also in the early New Testament Church of God, there were slave owners (*Ephesians 6:5-9; Philemon 10-16*).

In this present-day society of Israel, he or she is considered an employee.

Upon observing a very industrious man or woman in gainful employment by their employers, it becomes easy for another person to COVET that person to enhance their own stature and gain.

To try and obtain the man or woman employee as their own there are numerous ways and methods by which this continues to be done, as it has in past time – including going behind the employer's back without it being known.



This can bring about reprisals, and undoubtedly has many times.

Israel an Agrarian Society

Israel was primarily an agrarian society. Farmers had cattle, donkeys, goats and sheep. Oxen were used to plow and donkeys a means of transportation. This can yet be seen in the Arab world where one can often see men riding the donkeys to shop as well as for other purposes.

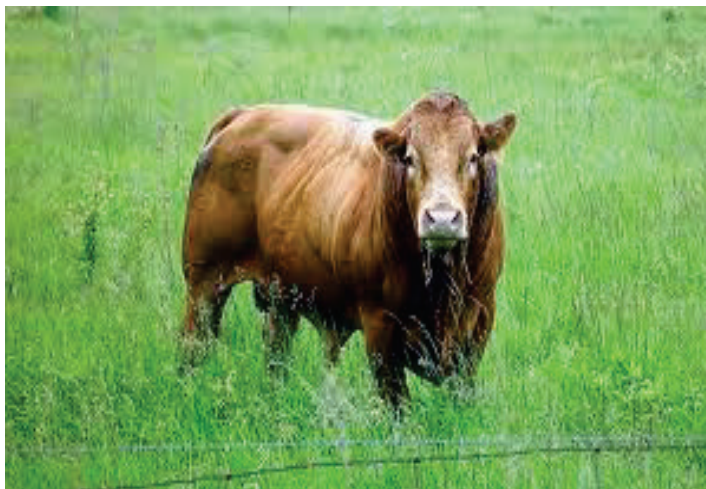


Regardless of whether one has little or much, the LORD God commanded these animals were not to be coveted:

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s . . . ox, nor his donkey . . .”

Exodus 20:17

Coveting another man’s property continues to be a terrible problem in today’s society. This has led to thievery and rustling a farmer or rancher’s prize cattle and donkeys along with horses and tractors among other coveted belongings.



Samuel the Prophet



Lest he might be accused of similar sins, Samuel the prophet of God in ancient Israel, asked anyone to witness against him of any wrong doing:

I Samuel 12:1-4 “ . . . here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed (*the new king*): whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I defrauded . . .” And they said, You have not defrauded us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from a man’s hand.”

The Apostle Paul wrote to those complaining against him:

Acts 20:33 “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel.”

Keeping the Wrong Kind of Company

Realizing one can be influenced by keeping the wrong kind of company which could lead to sin, the Apostle Paul strongly wrote:

I Corinthians 5:9-11 “I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of the world, or with the COVETOUS, or EXTORTIONERS, or IDOLATORS, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you NOT to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or COVETOUS, or an IDOLATOR, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an EXTORTIONER – not even to EAT with such a person.”

In the closing part of this 10th Commandment, the LORD God sums up the complete meaning of COVETING, by saying:

“You shall not covet . . . anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Exodus 20:17

In this world’s society a person’s success is measured by whatever he or she has been able to accumulate in life. However Jesus Christ does not agree with that standard for success:

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of COVETOUSNESS, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”



Too often the accumulation of wealth can come to be a problem for it sometimes is looked upon by others with covetous thoughts that can lead to theft, robbery, or murder.

The Wrong Kind of Companionship

The Apostle Paul warned against keeping the wrong kind of relationships:

I Corinthians 6:9-10 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will NOT inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, or idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, NOR COVETOUS, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor EXTORTIONERS will inherit the Kingdom of God.”

King Solomon wrote of the need of being in the company of the wise rather than eventually experiencing destruction from being a companion of foolish people:

Proverbs 13:20 “He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.”

Greed/Coveting

Greed is another form of coveting; never saying enough; always seeking to add to whatever riches they may or may not have. Greed is defined as follows:

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

“**Greed** is the inordinate desire to possess wealth, goods, or objects of abstract value with the intention to keep it for one's self, far beyond the dictates of basic survival and comfort. It is applied to a markedly high desire for and pursuit of wealth, status, and power.

“As a secular psychological concept, greed is, similarly, an inordinate [desire](#) to acquire or possess more than one needs. It is typically used to criticize those who seek excessive material wealth, although it may apply to the need to feel more [excessively moral](#), [social](#), or otherwise better than someone else.”



Greed by those who are unemployed, or refuse to work, often leads to coveting what belongs to others and becomes a form of idolatry:

Proverbs 21:25-26 “The desire of the lazy man kills him (over time leads to his death), for his hands refuse to labor. He COVETS greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.”

The righteous is able to give because of his willingness to work and from his earnings he gives to the needy.

Proverbs 15:27 “He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates brides will live.”

Soncino Commentary, “Money so obtained does not benefit a man’s household as when it is honestly earned. In due course he is punished for his offense, and in his downfall his family experiences trouble and hardship.”

Greed/Grudging

Grudging is another form of coveting. This is sometimes referred to as one being stingy, a tight-wad, in short, the unwillingness to share or pay someone a fair wage. This is best illustrated by the poor among the saints in Jerusalem who were facing food shortages (*Romans 15:25-28*).

Because of this pressing need a request was made to other Churches by the Apostle Paul to give of their substance to aid their needy brethren and have their offerings available to those who would pick them up and take them to the desired places:

II Corinthians 9:5 “Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a GRUDGING obligation.”

The Administration of Government

To avoid coveting in God’s theocratic form of government where temptation would be very great, as can be seen in governments today, God made known to Israel his form of government through Moses’ father-in-law to Moses and the qualifications needed for the men to be in those offices of responsibility:

Exodus 18:19-21 “. . . Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as FEAR God, men of TRUTH, HATING COVETOUSNESS; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rules of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rules of ten.”

The same basic form of theocratic government is also made known within God’s true Church by the Apostle Paul:

Ephesians 4:1-16 “. . . And He Himself (*Jesus Christ*) gave some to be apostles,, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, BY THE TRICKERY OF MEN, in the CUNNING CRAFTINESS by which they LIE IN WAIT to deceive,

BUT speaking THE TRUTH IN LOVE MAY GROW UP in all things into Him who is the Head—Christ— . . .”

The Apostle Paul also made known the needed qualifications of men who were to be ordained into God’s ministry:

I Timothy 3:2-13 “A bishop (*minister*) then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach, not given to wine, not violent, not GREEDY for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not COVETOUS . . . Likewise deacons must be reverent (*a reverent fear of Jesus Christ*), not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not GREEDY for money. . . .”

The Apostates Masquerading as True Ministers

However there are always the Apostates/Wolves with their COVETOUS ambitions that either have or will come among the true flock of God to seek members, their tithes, and properties. Unless there is repentance there is a terrible fate awaiting them:

Jude 11 “Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run GREEDILY in the error of Balaam for PROFIT, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.”

False ministers have no real feelings of guilt for what they do for they preach God’s laws, including His Ten Commandments, have been done away by the New Covenant. This leaves them free, they erroneously think, to break God’s holy and righteous law knowing where there is no law there is no sin (*Romans 4:15; 5:13*).

The Nature of Wolves



Jesus Christ did not use the wolf as a type of Satan’s ministers for no good reason. The wolf will not normally stop after killing a sheep just to satisfy its hunger as the following article makes known:

August 28, 2009 6:30 am • [By EVE BYRON of the Helena Independent Record](#)

HELENA - While the debate about how many wolves are enough to ensure a healthy population will again come to a head in a federal courtroom Monday, a Dillon-area ranch is picking up the pieces from the largest known wolf depredation in recent history.

In a highly unusual move for wolves, they killed about 120 adult male sheep in one incident on the Rebish/Konen Livestock Ranch south of Dillon last week. The ranch has suffered confirmed wolf depredations twice in three weeks.

In late July, three wolves - two blacks and a gray - killed at least 26 rams. The gray wolf was lethally shot by a federal wildlife manager, and one of the blacks was injured. They thought that would scare off the rest of the pack. Last week, wolves struck again. This time, they took out 120 purebred Rambouillet bucks that ranged in size from about 150 to 200 pounds, and were the result of more than 80 years of breeding. . . .”

Wolves/False Ministers

Jesus Christ compares the false ministers to wolves as being just as destructive:

Matthew 7:15-20 “Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are RAVENOUS WOLVES . . .”

They lead their flock to slaughter through guile with their COVETOUS and (spiritual) adulterous practices:

II Peter 2:14-16 “. . . having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, beguiling unstable souls. They have a heart trained in COVETOUS practices, and are accursed children. They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam . . . who loved the wages of unrighteousness, but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained THE MADNESS of the prophet.”

There are others who will not go that far, but will adulterate the truth to achieve their objectives by enticing others with flattering words (*II Corinthians 2:17*). By unmasking such people, the Apostle Paul separated himself and other true ministers from them, by writing:

I Thessalonians 2:5 “For neither at any time did we use flattering words (as do deceitful people), as you know, nor a cloak for COVETOUSNESS—God is witness.”

Flattery lowers a person’s guard and leaves a person receptive to ill will. There is a saying, “Flattery will get a person anything!” Knowing this should enable a person to be on guard with such people.

God's Instructions for a Life of Peace and Happiness

God the Father and Jesus Christ make known Their caring love provides the needs for all who live godly lives. This is made known by the Apostle Paul:

Hebrews 13:5-6 “Let your conduct be without COVETINGNESS; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So that we may boldly say, ‘The LORD is my helper; I will not fear, what can man do to me.’”

There is no need to COVET that which belongs to others. All one needs to do is to fervently pray asking God to provide those needs as promised by Him:

Matthew 7:7-12 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. . . .”

The rich and caring promises are there for those who believe and have faith in God our Father who gives them through and by His Holy Spirit:

Luke 11:11-13 “If a son asks for bread from his father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

In addition to the essential needs, one should consider what Jesus Christ said in this Scripture about His Father's desire to give to His children other desires as well.

There is no partiality with God regarding His giving of gifts to His people. With these caring promises from God and Jesus Christ there should never be a cause to covet any of the possessions of one's neighbor.

The Daily Needs of God's People

Jesus Christ spoke of the vital essential needs for human existence and the emphasis that is placed on human life:





Matthew 6:25-34 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet

your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? . . .

Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ . . . For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **SEEK FIRST** the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do **NOT** worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own troubles.”

“I Will Never Leave You”

During the difficult trials with great needs in life, it is sometimes hard to grasp with faith that Jesus Christ has promised to always be with each one of His true people, the Elect, nevertheless it is true; just as He said:

Matthew 28:20 “. . . and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

With all of the wonderful caring promises from the Almighty God in heaven, no thought should ever be permitted to enter one’s mind to disobey this holy commandment of God:

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Exodus 20:17

The Ten Commandments

Epilogue

By Alton B. (Don) Billingsley

Now it becomes necessary to bring to a conclusion this writing of the Ten Commandments.

Writing this booklet has been a desirable goal of mine for a long time.

At the outset, realizing how vitally important the Ten Commandments are for mankind, I wondered how am I ever going to write what needs to be written about each one in order to do it justice.

Realizing my inadequacy, I have prayed earnestly for the guidance of Jesus Christ to aid and help me for I knew I could never have written of myself all that was needed to be incorporated with each Commandment to aid the understanding more fully in the many areas relating to them.



The Ten Commandments

Considering that everyone desires to live a life free of all of the curses that are very evident in society and the world, it is essential not only to have the knowledge of each one of the Ten Commandments in mind, but also the desire and will-power to observe them.

To violate any one of the commandments is sin (*I John 3:4*); and UNREPENTANT sin will bring forth death (*Romans 6:23*). It is also needful to be understood that the magnification of those laws is also sin as Jesus Christ made known (*Matthew 5:21-48*).

It is easy for some to say it is not all that bad to lie, a white lie with fingers crossed behind the back, have hatred in our hearts for someone, to covet, etc. But Scripture makes known to violate any one of them is the same as murdering someone. This is hard for some to understand but Scripture makes known this is true.

The Apostle James wrote that to transgress one commandment is to have transgressed all of them (*James 2:10-11*). With this in mind, it is needful to consider seriously the

gravity of what he wrote in view of the teaching of the Ten Commandments in past history to mankind.

Since there are those who have no knowledge of how far back in time the Ten Commandments were taught by God, we will let Scripture tell us.

Adam and Eve Were Taught the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments were taught to Adam and Eve by the LORD God as can be seen by what they did in direct disobedience to their Creator God.

They were commanded by God not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (*Genesis 2:15-17*). But with God out of sight the serpent cunningly said to the woman:

Genesis 3:1-6 “. . . Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall NOT eat it, NOR shall you touch it, lest you die.’” And the serpent said to the woman, “You shall not surely die, for God knows that in the day you eat of it YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL.

So **WHEN** the woman **SAW** that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes (*how could it be bad?*), and a tree **DESIRABLE** to make one wise (*she COVETED it, 10th commandment*), she **TOOK** of it and ate (*stole it, 8th commandment*).

She also gave it to her husband with her and he ate (*in so doing they accepted another god instead of the true God, 1st commandment; they bowed down and served Satan, 2nd commandment; they dishonored their Father and Jesus Christ, 5th commandment*).

By breaking these commandments, they broke all of them as made known by the Apostle James (*2:10-11*).



Due to Adam’s sin all mankind came to be under the penalty of death (*I Timothy 2:14*); however not for Adam’s sin, but for their own sins. The Apostle Paul made this known in the following Scriptures:

Romans 5:12-14 “Therefore, just as through one man, sin entered the world (*of mankind, for Lucifer had previously sinned, Ezekiel 28:15*), and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— . . .”

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Cain Murders Abel

The firstborn of Adam and Eve’s children, Cain and Abel, were also taught the Ten Commandments as well. This is evident when reading of Abel’s offering being accepted by God and Cain’s offering rejected (*Genesis 4:3-5*). Upon seeing this, Cain became very angry— and the spirit of murder flared up in his mind against his twin brother. Realizing this, God said to him:

“Why are you angry? And why is your countenance fallen? If you do well (obey His laws), will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, SIN LIES AT THE DOOR (Sin is the transgression of God’s law, I John 3:4). And its desire is for you (Satan’s nature is within all human beings (Romans 7:23).

Failing to obey God, Cain then murdered his brother Abel (*Genesis 4:8*). God then placed a curse on him for what he had done.

Noah Walked with God

Noah walked with God (*Genesis 6:9*). And because of that relationship, he was used by Him to preach the way of righteousness to mankind before the Flood (*Psalms 119:172; II Peter 2:5*). But they refused to listen to God through Noah’s preaching; rejected His laws, and spurned His dire warnings (*Genesis 6:5-6, 12-13*).

“The world that then was” (II Peter 3:6), perished in the Flood, with the lone exception of Noah and his immediate family (*Genesis 6:7; 7:20-23; 7:12-13, 23*).

[Wiki Answers >](#)



“The best known calculation is of course Ussher’s time of 1656 years. . . . Thirdly, the rate of reproduction - using conservative figures of population growth based on the information provided in the Biblical record, then the figure arrived at would be around 7 Billion people.”

A most terrible price paid for the people of that time due to their unrepentant sins:

Genesis 6:5, 11-13 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually . . . The earth was also corrupt before God, and the earth was

filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”

Question: Could that pre-Flood world that was so evil God saw no recourse but to destroy it—have been much different than this evil world today? Think about it.

Faithful Abraham

Abraham also kept God’s laws and walked with Him. The famous Jewish historian, Josephus, records that Abraham taught the Chaldeans and other people of Mesopotamia about God before he was told by Him to leave there and go to the land of Canaan (*Book 1, Chapter 7, page 98, Genesis 12:1-5*). After having entered that land, God said to Abraham:

Genesis 26:4-5 “. . . I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; BECAUSE Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

Abraham taught these same laws of God to his children. Isaac also taught Jacob those laws, and he in turn taught them to his 12 sons. As the result Jacob knew about the law of tithing (*Genesis 28:17-22*).

Joseph, his youngest son, fled from Potiphar’s wife after she attempted to seduce him for he knew it would be sin (*Genesis 39:7-12*).

Many other examples could also be given to show the teaching of God’s holy and righteous laws were made known from the beginning of the creation of Adam and Eve, but these few examples should be sufficient proof to the unbiased mind.

The Angels of God

God’s commandments were also known by the angels after their creation which took place many billions of years ago.

After the creation of this universe and the earth, Lucifer, the greatest of all God’s creation of angels, was given governance over the planet earth.

Lucifer was not satisfied with just the planet earth. Scripture reveals INIQUITY (sin) was found in him due to his vanity and his superior greatness over all of the other angels (*Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17*). This led him to rebel against his Creator God whereby he and his angels ascended to heaven in force to try and overthrow the Almighty God from His throne with the intent of ruling over all existence.

Their effort failed! Lucifer and a third of the angels in which he had implanted his rebellious attitude against their Creator God were cast back down to this earth by God (*Jude 6; II Peter 2:4*).

To His disciples, Jesus Christ said:

Luke 10:18 “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

Lucifer, who was renamed the Adversary, became also known in Scripture as Satan the devil.



God's Law/Angels/Mankind

God's law is a statement of two great principles which Spirit Beings understood from their creation by God (*Matthew 22:36-40*).

He expanded these two great principles into the Ten Commandments for human beings (*Exodus 20:1-17*).

The Reiteration of the Ten Commandments

Israel dwelt in Egypt for 210 years (***Soncino Commentary, volume 1, page 259*** “Of these 430 years, the Rabbis state, the Israelites were in Egypt for a period of 210 years. This accords with the narrative of Exodus, and with the genealogies given in chapter vi (6).” Further, this period of 430 years is also to be counted from the time of Abraham's vision, (*Genesis 15:12-16; verse 13; Galatian 3:16-17*).

Jewish Antiquities, Book 2, Chapter 15, 2, Josephus, the well-known and respected historian, wrote: “They left Egypt in the month Xanthicus, on the 15th day of the lunar month; 430 years after our forefather Abraham came into Canaan, but 215 years only after Jacob removed into Egypt. (319) It was the 80th year of the age of Moses, and of that of Aaron three more. . . .”

Due to Israel's lengthy time in Egypt the knowledge of God's laws was lost until the time of their exodus from Egypt. This is why it became necessary to bring His laws back to their memories.

God's Awesome Presence on Mount Horeb

The reiteration of the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel by the thunderous voice of the LORD God, who had descended upon Mount Horeb in **FIRE**, was powerfully heard by the millions of Israelites and struck real fear in the hearts and minds of each one!

The Apostle Paul wrote that even Moses was terrified by the sight and sound of God's voice thundering from Mount Horeb as He spoke each one of the Ten Commandments:

Hebrews 12:18-21 “For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that **BURNED WITH FIRE**, and to BLACKNESS and DARKNESS and TEMPEST.

“And the SOUND OF THE TRUMPET AND THE VOICE OF WORDS, so that those who heard it BEGGED that the word should not be spoken to them anymore; (for they could NOT endure what was commanded: ‘And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or thrust through with an arrow (*lightning bolt*).’ And so **TERRIFYING** was the sight that Moses said, ‘I am exceedingly afraid and trembling).’ ”

This makes known that God is indeed the law giver, not Moses, or anyone else (*James 4:12*).

God's Proposal of Marriage to Israel

It was here at Mount Sinai on the Day of Pentecost the LORD God proposed marriage to Israel with the condition of their obeying His voice and keeping His marriage covenant (*Exodus 19:3-6*).

As His wife, it was the LORD God's stated intention to use Israel as priests to teach the Gentile nations about His laws and way of life (*Exodus 19:4-6*). And by obeying His laws, as He had instructed them, they would be schooled sufficiently to teach the nations:

Deuteronomy 4:6 “Therefore be careful to observe them; for it is YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING in the SIGHT of the peoples who will HEAR all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a WISE AND UNDERSTANDING people.’ ”

The children of Israel accepted God's proposal for marriage with His conditions (*Exodus 19:7-9; 24:3, 7*). Scripture reveals that Israel soon lost their fear of God and sinned in many different ways. God tried many times to bring them back to Him, but it only worked at times, and not for very long each time.

God lamentably said of His wife:

Deuteronomy 5:29 “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would FEAR Me always and keep My commandments, that it might go well with them and with their children forever.”

The Statutes and Judgments

After having voiced the Ten Commandments to His People Israel, the LORD God allowed Moses to teach the Children of Israel His statutes and judgments (*Exodus 20:22; 21:1; Deuteronomy 5:30-33*); teachings—that He made known to Moses (*Exodus 20:22-25; 21:1-36; 22:1-31; 23:1-33*).

The statutes, judgments, and ordinances are all based on the Ten Commandments and are defined as follows:

Statute – An extension of a commandment such as the Holy Days, etc.

Judgment – A decision based on a commandment.

Ordinance – A temporary law, like a detour sign due to a road being worked on, a 10 MPH sign put up until situation is corrected.

The End-time Restoration of God's Commandments

Israel having been in Egypt for over 200 years lost sight of the true God and His laws; so it is today. They live their lives through human reasoning! And this has led them into a way of life that has become increasingly lawless and vile in this end-time. God is very angry and will soon punish them in the **Great Tribulation!**

Jesus Christ knowing the end from the beginning (*Isaiah 46:9-10*), knew this end-time would come to be a very lawless age (*Matthew 24:12*). And the loving caring God that He is, promised never to dramatically intervene in world affairs without first revealing His intentions to His prophets (*Amos 3:7*). And through His prophets and servants He would use them as WATCHMEN to **WARN** of impending evils (*Ezekiel 33:1-11*).

For the House of Israel to understand WHY the terrible problems are even now befalling them, it became necessary for the Ten Commandments, Statutes, and Judgments, be restored and preached to them; and they were.

The Promised Elijah

True to this promise, God used His prophet Malachi to make known He would send a man in this lawless end-time age in the spirit and power of the ancient Elijah to RESTORE His laws and proclaim them to His wayward people, Israel! Luke 1:17.

Jesus Christ used a very special man to fulfill the role of the promised Elijah of the end-time, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. And he was



powerfully used by Christ during his lifetime of 52 years to fulfill that commission.

God's Work did not end at his death; it was only placed on hold for a few years due to an apostate pastor general replacing Mr. Armstrong!

The Re-Activation of God's Work

Jesus Christ re-activated His Work at the Passover season in 2006 choosing to use this little insignificant Faithful Flock as His instrument to fulfill end-time prophecy (*Habakkuk 1:5; 3:2; Isaiah 29:14*).

God's Work is now going forth to Israel and the world by the use of satellites high in the sky by which our websites function with the "Recorded Works of the Elijah" during his life time!

They continue to serve as a witness and warning of what will happen to Israel unless they repent and return to Him.

Please note the very first thing that is connected with the Elijah's commission:

Malachi 4:4-6 "Remember the law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet BEFORE the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD (Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was used by Jesus Christ to restore those laws and doctrinal teachings during the 52 years of his ministry, 1934-1986! And Jesus Christ restored them in 2006; and though dead, He is using that same man via of those Recorded Works on websites reaching the world more fully than during his life-time ministry).

"And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, LEST I come and strike the earth with a curse (*meaning utter destruction*)."

Did Families Come Together?

Jesus Christ chose not to strike the earth with utter destruction due to a sufficient number of parents and children's hearts turning back to one another. The following examples give insight to this smaller number being used to spare the earth from utter destruction:

- 1) The example of Abraham entreating the LORD God to spare the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, if as few as 10 righteous people were found in those cities they would be spared. Though the LORD God accepted Abraham's plea (*Genesis 18:16-32*), ten righteous people were not found.

- 2) While considering Elijah in ancient Israel there appears to be a duality connected with the Elijah in the end-time. Though it is not explicitly said in Scripture, it appears each time God made known unless a sufficient number of families were brought together by obeying His laws, the earth could have been struck with utter destruction during that time as well. For Scripture reveals the evils of that ancient time in Israel match perfectly with the evils of today.

Elijah became very depressed believing he was all alone and his life was in jeopardy due to Queen Jezebel of Israel seeking to kill him. To encourage Elijah, God made known to him that 7,000 Israelites had not bowed their knees to Baal nor had kissed him (*I Kings 19:18*).

- 3) A sufficient number has been found in this end-time in the Tribes of Israel! The Apostle Paul makes known Jesus Christ has in reserve a remnant, very probably the same number of 7,000 Elect members of His true Church who are Spiritual Israelites (*Romans 11:4-7*). And because of their faithfulness and loyalty to Jesus Christ the earth has once again been spared from utter destruction.

In addition, approximately 150,000 men, women and children came to be part of the Worldwide Church of God due to the Elijah's preaching and teachings some few years before his death.

This also made possible a sufficient number of families who accepted those teachings and became involved in programs designed to bring them together; such as the youth programs and Y.E.S. programs for the children. This kept the earth from being brought to utter destruction by Jesus Christ

Sadly, this did not last! Shortly after the Elijah died in 1986, most of those people and their children, following an apostate leader, removed themselves from the teachings of Jesus Christ as were taught through the Elijah. They returned to the customs of their former lives in 1995.

However this added to the sufficiency at that time for Jesus Christ NOT to destroy this earth with utter destruction. But short of that utter destruction to this earth, the people who turned away, along with the tribes of Israel, are to be punished in the **Great Tribulation** that will soon come to pass. A most terrible and grievous time:

Matthew 24:21-22 “For then there will be **Great Tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And UNLESS those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; BUT for the Elect's sake those days will be shortened.”

The Confirmation of Elijah by Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ confirmed the sending of the Elijah to His disciples for the end-time:

Matthew 17:10-11 “**And His disciples asked Him** (*In view of His coming back to earth, Matthew 16:27-28; 17:1-9*), **saying, ‘Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come FIRST?’** Then Jesus answered and said to them, “**Elijah truly is coming FIRST, and will RESTORE ALL THINGS** (*laws and doctrinal teachings, Jude 3*).”

During the Great White Throne Judgment all those people who did know the truth and walked away from it will be faced with what they have done before Jesus Christ. Though there will be weeping and wailing because of it (*Matthew 7:21-23; 8:12; 25:30*), most, if not all, will repent and be accepted by Him.

The Tribe of Judah

The Tribe of Judah continues to observe the tradition of the elders and teaching as doctrines the commandments of men rather than those of God (*Mark 7:1-14*).

To this day they continue rejecting Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, as they did when He began His ministry in 27 A.D. (*Romans, chapters 9 through 11*), even though prophecy made very clear the exact year when He would begin His ministry, the year of His death by crucifixion, and the destruction of Jerusalem, and the Temple of God (*Daniel 9:24-27*).

The time will soon come when they will acknowledge their rejection of Him and will truly repent and mourn greatly and will then be accepted by Him (*Zechariah 12:10-14*).

The Continuing Witness by The Elijah

The Tribes of Israel continue to be witnessed to by the “Recorded Works of the Elijah” on our websites and **warned** of terrible times ahead for them due to their rejection of the teaching of the Ten Commandments!

For the most part it is only God’s true Church who accepts the fullness of those commandments.

Ten Commandments Will Not Save Anyone

However as important as God’s commandments are—they by themselves—will not save anyone. At the same time, one cannot be saved without observing them.

It is by “grace AND law” that mankind will be saved (*Ephesians 2:1-10; Mark 10:17-22*). In contrast—many of the worldly churches teach it is— “law OR grace”. They do not want to obey the fullness of God’s commandments.

God is LOVE and His law is a law of love (*I John 4:8, 16; 5:2-3*). Further Jesus Christ said:

John 14:15 “If you LOVE Me, keep My commandments.”

Though the world’s Christian religions say they love Jesus Christ, they deny this by not observing the fullness of the Ten Commandments as they were given to the children of Israel on Mount Horeb and magnified in His Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5:17-48*).

Ten Commandments Written in Stone

In ancient Israel the Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God on tablets of stone which was the most enduring substance at that time. The Ten Commandments are spiritual laws and were written on HEWN tables of stones (*Deuteronomy 10:1-5*).

They were not the ministration of death. The ministration of death was the civil laws on whole stones – UNHEWN (*margin: uncut, Deuteronomy 27:6*).

The civil laws had to do with society. They were made known to Israel and carried the penalty of a severe curse on anyone violating them (*Deuteronomy 27:1-26*).

The New Covenant

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote of the time when a new Marriage Proposal would be made to Israel in which God’s laws will be written in their minds and hearts:

Jeremiah 31:31-33 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a New Covenant (*of marriage*) with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the Covenant (*marriage*) that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My Covenant which they broke, though I was A HUSBAND to them, says the LORD. But this is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will PUT MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS, AND WRITE IT ON THEIR HEARTS; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

The time came for the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy after the coming of the Messiah and the establishment of His true Church in 31 A. D. God’s laws then began being written in the hearts and minds of His begotten people forming Godly character (*Jeremiah 31:33; Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:1-4, 38*):

Hebrews 8:7-10 “. . . I will put My laws in their minds and their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people.”

The Apostle Paul also wrote to the Churches in Corinth about the laws of God being written in the minds and hearts of His people and would be made known by the outward manifestation of the way they lived their lives while being a light to this darkened world:

II Corinthians 3:2-3 “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men (*Isaiah 51:7*); you are manifestly an epistle of Christ,

ministered by us, written not with ink, but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone (a reference to the Ten Commandments, Exodus 24:12), but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”

Love to God and for Neighbor

God’s LOVE is a persevering love that dwells deep within the very heart and mind of His truly begotten sons and daughters (*Romans 5:5; I Corinthians 13:8*). This precious LOVE brings together the love for God and His Commandments; and both are inseparable, as Jesus Christ made known:

Matthew 22:36-40 Jesus said (to a lawyer in response to his question): “You shall LOVE the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments HANG all the law and the Prophets.”

These Two Commandments form the foundation for all the laws of God. In addition each commandment has been placed in its own perfect order, from the first to the last one which completes them.

And God’s law is perfect and will lead to the converting of the soul of those who love and obey it (*Psalms 19:7-11*). It makes known what sin is (*Romans 3:20*), and the needed changes to become a true begotten son or daughter of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

In God’s wonderful Master Plan toward the salvation of all of mankind Scripture implies most of mankind will come to love God, Jesus Christ, and their Holy Righteous Laws and will be saved (*Romans 11:26-27*).

Love Fulfills the Intent of God’s Laws

The wonderful blessing of God’s love cannot be obtained in any other way than by asking our Father in the name of Jesus Christ to shed abroad His LOVE in our hearts by His Holy Spirit:

Romans 5:5 “. . . the LOVE of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, which was given to us.”

And God expects His true people to SHARE His LOVE in keeping with His law to one’s neighbor as circumstances makes possible. And this wonderful LOVE sums up the need to have those laws at the forefront of our minds and hearts knowing they continue to point out what sin is and the way to life everlasting – all revolving around His awesome and wondrous LOVE—a debt of love owed to one’s neighbor:

Romans 13:8-9 “Owe no one anything EXCEPT to LOVE one another, for he who LOVES another has fulfilled (*the intent of*) the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if any other commandment, are ALL SUMMED UP in this saying, “You shall LOVE your neighbor as yourself.” LOVE does no harm to a neighbor; therefore LOVE IS THE FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW.”

In Conclusion

To conclude this present writing it is good to reflect on what the Apostle John stressed about the awesome and wonderful love of God that goes hand in hand with the observance of His holy and righteous laws:

I John 5:3 “For this is the LOVE of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

It is my prayer these writings will enable each one to grasp the vital importance of acknowledging and observing God’s Ten Commandments together with His statutes and judgments (*Malachi 4:4*). This is the only path that will lead to peace and happiness for all who choose to live by God’s perfect and righteous laws (*Psalms 119:165*).

Credit and Praise to our Great God

First and foremost the work of putting this book together would have been impossible had God our Father and Jesus Christ not used me in doing it; all praise, honor and glory belong to Them for Their guidance and help.

Though Jesus Christ has used me in putting it together, admittedly, it is not a perfect work for I am just a human instrument. Nevertheless, it is a vitally important Book due to its essential Biblical content and its desperate need for mankind in this end-time!

It has been written in a spirit of caring love with the effort of trying to turn around mankind from their wrong way of life that is leading them to experience the horrors of the soon-coming **Great Tribulation!**

Perhaps this is best said by the writing of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in his book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, who wrote a grave warning in its preface and introduction:

“People of the Western world would be stunned—dumbfounded—if they knew! The governments of the United States, Britain, Canada, Australasia, South Africa would set in motion gigantic crash programs—if they knew! They could know! But they don’t why? . . . A staggering turn of events is due to erupt in the next few years. It will involve violently the United States, Britain, Western Europe, the Middle East.”

The great and awesome God of LOVE is grieved in heart for what His people Israel will soon have to experience in the soon-coming **Great Tribulation**, just as He was sorry and grieved in heart for having to bring about the deaths of mankind in the pre-Flood of Noah for their corruptness and abominable evils.

God says through His prophet to His people of this soon-coming time:

Ezekiel 33:11 “Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked TURN from its way and LIVE. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

Further Credits

It is also my desire to acknowledge the help given me by Frank Olive, our webmaster, who has designed our cover and back page to this book as well as offering wise counsel at times.

I am also very grateful for the prayers of this little flock and a few offering edits. I have been truly blessed by Jesus Christ to have such loyal and faithful support from so many.

Last, but by no means least, much credit goes to my lovely wife, Peggy. She has devoted many hours going over and over these writings while making suggestions as well as needed edits. She has proven to be a real help-meet to me and I thank God for her.

I am fully confident that all who will take the time to read this book with a positive attitude will be helped and greatly blessed by Jesus Christ.

Time is Running Out for this Age

Please know the time is very short! Soon Jesus Christ will be here on earth establishing His firm loving reign over all mankind that will be based on the teachings of His Ten Commandments, Statutes and Judgments.

Jesus Christ will then be using His beloved Bride to aid Him in teaching and pointing to the way for mankind to become members of His Divine Family with immortal life—never to experience death again. Life that will be filled with happiness and pleasures forevermore (*Psalms 16:11*).

With this in mind, we humbly pray to God our Father and Jesus Christ—

“Thy Kingdom Come”

Mathew 6:9-10

Your servant in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and soon-coming King,

Alton B. (Don) Billingsley



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