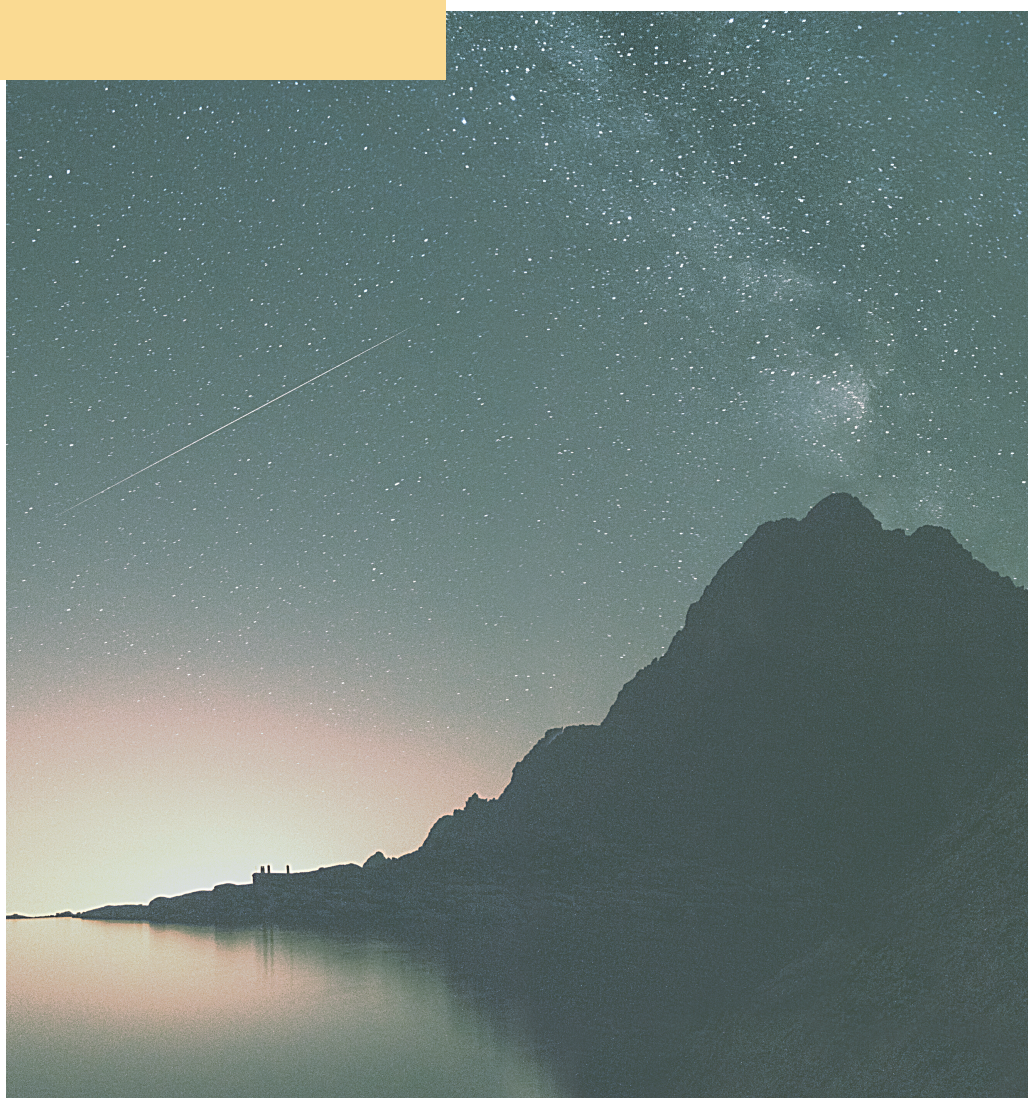


THE MISSING COMMANDMENT

A plea to modern confessing followers of Christ to think critically about their understanding of the often ignored commandment, honoring the sabbath.



J. M. Wallace

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THE MISSING COMMANDMENT

J. M. Wallace

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:18-20

**Dedicated to Israel, a people who will be gathered.
And to my King and Savior, Jesus Christ, Yahushua
Ha'mashiach.
May He soon return.**

AN INTRODUCTION

We all know that we should regard and practice the Ten Commandment. At least, I hope that we do. It's an elementary concept for us followers of Christ and one that we all pretty much agree with on the surface—even those of us that are lukewarm. Churches teach children that we shouldn't murder or want after our neighbor's things. We shouldn't follow after idols or take the Lord's name in vain. It's commonsensical; is it not?

Most say, "Of course we are to follow the Ten Commandments! They make sense!" But that's not what even most of us are doing.

Out of the Ten Commandments, there is one big, fat, super-important commandment that many people believe has been "nailed to the cross" or that what they do now is "good enough" to suffice.

But I have news for you: There is a widespread, dire misunderstanding of what Jesus came to do and what He expects of His followers.

Jesus did not nail any Old Testament commandment "to the cross" to be done away with in order to make laws and restrictions easier on His followers. Jesus came not only to give us victory over death and make it possible for more people to be saved, but also to make

more narrow the path. And I dare say that if you find that assertion shocking, you have not been seeking Yahweh's Face in your studies.

Not A New Subject But An Often Overlooked One

There are a few lengthy expositions on this subject. They look at the faults in church history regarding certain commandments in order to show corruption and a falling away, so to speak, of what God originally commanded. These references are great, if church scribes are who you wish to follow. There are also videos and articles on this subject by those who are steeped in idolatry and focus on uninspired writers for their arguments in favor of oppressing others. There are listicles on reasons to consider this commandment that appear to appeal solely to what one can gain from adhering.

I think it's most prudent, however, to first consider how God feels about His commandments and also what Jesus has to say about them as the primary basis for study before exploring any other facets of the topic.

Because whose opinion matters the most? Jehovah's or man's? The answer is—obviously—not man's.

My Intentions

Like most readers, I used to be one that gave ear to what modern day Nicolaitans say about everything Christ related. I considered myself a Child of God through Jesus and lived my life the best I could within the western system. Although I didn't really have a "church home," I went to a church building on Sunday when I could. I also, to my shame, never gave too much thought to God's Commandments and how they corresponded to what Jesus had to say outside of what commentators and self-elected pastors told me.

Then God led my husband and I to honor the sabbath. It was shortly after this that I answered the call that He placed on my life years prior. I began seeking Him wholeheartedly in faith, and my relationship with Him grew much deeper.

For all the years of calling myself a Christian and half-heartedly heeding Him, it was not until this time that I truly learned how to study, how to pray, how to worship, and, most importantly, how to hear and recognize His voice.

Since I realized that honoring the sabbath is important and repented, God has spoken to me a number of times regarding His commandments and specifically sabbath. This little book is the most important parts of what He has brought to my attention. This subject

has only become more and more pressing as we come nearer to His Return.

Funnily enough, I initially set out to address this quickly with as much information as would fit in a brochure. Instead, I found myself with a small book nearly instantly, and I did not want to waste what I had written. I then decided to put this into a blog and then, as I was writing the blog, I decided to make it into a book.

This subject is certainly worthy of a much larger, more in-depth analysis than what I came up with here to be sure. There are so many ways you one look at a commandment of God so that it would not be difficult to write 500 or more pages on it.

As you can probably imagine, this series is likely to be subject to elaboration at a later date. I want to get this information out in a free document as soon as I can. Though this message is in a book form, I can't say that this is the finished version. In short, it will be done when God tells me it's done.

What God Has to Say

The LORD has spoken to His people time and time again regarding this very commandment to punctuate its importance to Him, though, it is certainly kept far outside of modern Christian thought and culture. It's not merely a rule to follow. It's a blueprint, a promise, a deed, a supernatural sign, and a means to sift those who claim to be His children.

“Jesus came not only to give us victory over death and make it possible for more people to be saved, but also to make more narrow the path. “

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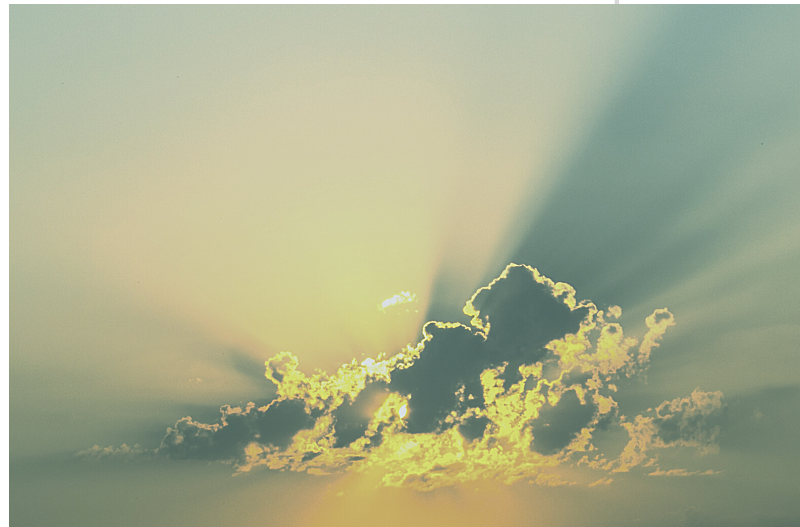
DIVINE EMPHASIS

Chapter 1

Some of what are commonly understood as the mysteries of God are not true mysteries; they only seem to be mysteries by those that do not seek Him as they should. Most Christians are mere churchgoers who rely solely on the work of "pastors" and "teachers" to ask all the tough questions for them, to do all the research, and to arrive at answers that fit in a one-hour-long sermon on Sunday. This gross abandonment of one's individual, personal responsibility to seek God is the fundamental reason why the church and the world is in the state it is today.

People act like arriving at any answer takes a doctorate in the dark arts of fraternal order, but all the answers we need are in the Word of God and can be given to each one of us directly by Him through inspiration. We are each qualified to arrive at the correct answers given that we have a working relationship with the Lord and have turned ourselves from sin. When we begin to look closely at the Word for ourselves, begin involving God prayerfully in our lives and studies, and begin setting time aside to find biblical answers to the things that are on our hearts everyday, God will certainly give us the answers we seek.

I'll let you in on what it is too many people miss—most answers are already written, and a solid relationship with God begets wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (James 1:5, Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 4:1-7). Not to mention, God wants us to relentlessly seek understanding (Proverbs 4:7).

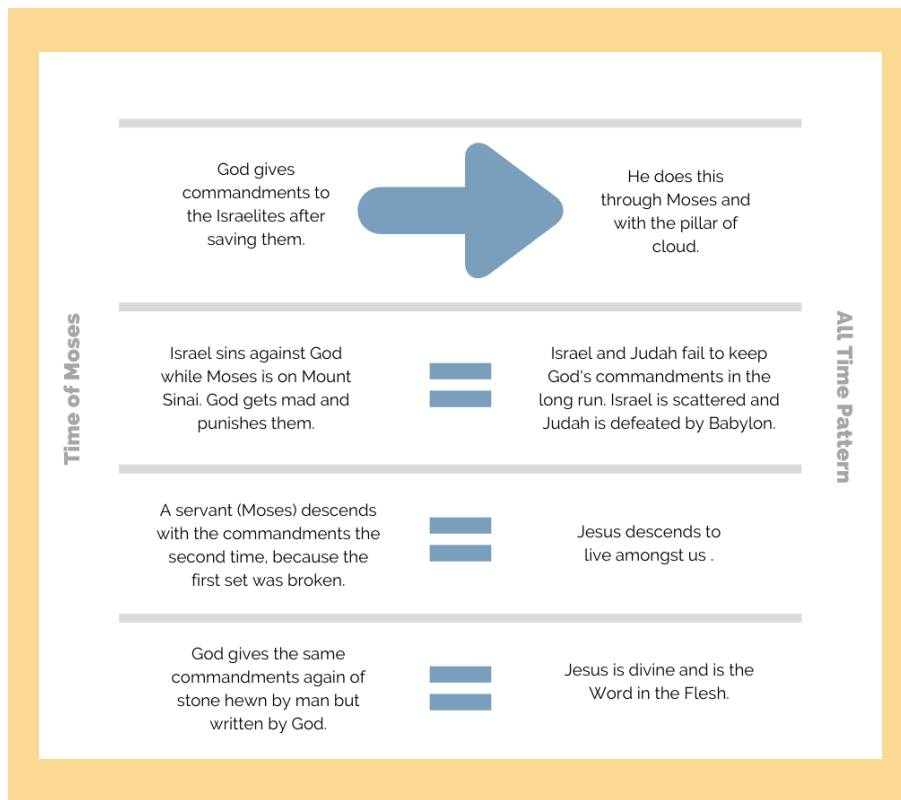


The Ten Commandments

Most of us are familiar with the story of the Ten Commandments because we have heard about it in church. Let's quickly recount what happened in the story:

After Israel was freed from Egypt, God led the Israelites to a place in the wilderness via a pillar of cloud and flame. The pillar landed on Mount Sinai, and God told Moses to come up to Him. Moses stayed with Yahweh on the mountain for forty days, where He gave Moses commands for His people and His tabernacle along with the Ten Commandments etched in stone. Shortly after Moses descended, he dropped the first set of commandments in anger at the bottom of the mountain due to Israel's iniquity, and the tablets broke. God then punished those Israelites who were sinning. Moses went up the mountain a second time with stones Moses himself had hewn and got another set of commandments written by the Hand of God. He then came back down and finally addressed the people.

I want to look at what happened a little differently than what we may be accustomed to—by way of a basic pattern of the covenant story of the bible.



These story elements from the time of Moses parallel later events. Just like Israel sinned at the bottom of Sinai, Judah/Israel sinned against the commandments, and they both saw terrible judgement. A servant, Moses, descended to bring the law. Likewise, Jesus descended to bring the law. One set of laws was given in stone hewn by God and was broken by iniquity. Another set was brought down as stone hewn from man and written by God. Likewise, Jesus was hewn as a man and not simply spirit. He was Word in the flesh.

See the simple pattern? I love finding and applying patterns in scripture. They're a reminder that God knew that all people cannot take Him at His express word, so He put in patterns and symbology to help make it plain.

What we need to keep in mind is that both sets of the commandments were the same laws. The difference between the two is just that one set was hewn by God and the second set was hewn by Moses. God wrote the commandments on both sets; they are the same commandments. Jesus did not change the law. He defined it differently because it was written on a tablet of different caliber.

"The Emphasis

Patterns aside, certainly what I find most interesting about this story in Exodus (Chapters 31-35) chronicling Moses' ascensions and descensions is that just before Yahweh sent Moses down Sinai the first time, He very specifically gave a command to Moses to speak about only one particular commandment-making it stand out.:

Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." Exodus 31:13-18

After Moses addresses the people, he drops and breaks the first set of tablets. Next, he hews the stones, goes back up to the mountain, and gets tablets that God has written with His own Finger again. Once Moses has the newly engraved stones, Moses comes down the mountain the second time with the second set of commandments.

And what is the first thing Moses says to the people after this whole ordeal? Exactly what God told Him to the first time:

“And Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said unto them, These are the words which the Lord hath commanded, that ye should do them. Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day, a sabbath of rest to the Lord: whosoever doeth work therein shall be put to death. Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.” Exodus 35:1-3

After this, Moses immediately begins to address the people regarding donating to the tabernacle efforts.

Why would God point out only one commandment like this?

There are a quite a few reasons why I think God was specific about sabbath, and I hope that by the end of this book you will see the ones that are most glaring.

But the one reason I am going to address in this chapter is because sabbath is an exemplary commandment.

How Sabbath Encapsulates The Heart of The Law

It seems like Jesus was constantly approached by Pharisees. They were always scheming to trip Him up. In one of these instances, Jesus describes the basis for all the law that God gave to Israel:

“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:36-40

In this passage, Jesus was approached by Pharisees hoping to disprove His legitimacy after they saw that He had put the Sadducees to silence. Instead of picking one single commandment of the ten which would not be just, Jesus gives them the heart behind all of the law. What Jesus said here is that these two “great commandments” are “what all the law hangs on” in verse 40. He means that these two concepts– loving God the most and loving your neighbor as yourself–are the basis for all the commandments.

So, again, Jesus told us that the basis of all the law is:

1. To love God with all your heart mind soul.
2. To love your neighbor as yourself.

Can we apply these laws to the Ten Commandments? Of course. Here’s a look at the Ten Commandments and how each one applies to the great commandments that Jesus gave in Matthew. (See the table)

Commandment (of 10)	How it matches to Jesus' Great Commandments
No other gods before Me.	Loving God.
Make no idols.	Loving God.
Don't take the Lord's name in vain.	Loving God.
Keep the sabbath holy.	Loving God and your neighbor.
Honor your father and mother.	Loving your neighbor.
Don't murder.	Loving your neighbor.
Don't commit adultery.	Loving your neighbor.
Don't steal.	Loving your neighbor.
Don't bear false witness.	Loving your neighbor.
Don't covet.	Loving your neighbor.

How Does Sabbath Apply to The Heart of All The Law?

As you can see from the table, there is only one commandment that is expressly given as both in reverence to God and as showing concern to our fellow man, and that is the fourth commandment, the sabbath. I realize that it is arguable that every commandment could possibly be both for neighbors when one takes into consideration the influence that people have on each other. Similarly, all obedience to the commandments could be attributed to being done so for the love of God, since breaking any one of them is sin against Him. But we see in Exodus that God's given reasons for honoring the sabbath is both because of the love of God (because it is His Sabbath) and because of the love of our neighbor:

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”
Exodus 20:8-11

This commandment exemplifies both love for God and love for neighbor because honoring it shows that He is our God, so it is for the Lord. Also, we are not to make anyone, not even the foreigner, sin by breaking the sabbath, so it is for our neighbor. After all, keeping our fellow man from sin is one of the best ways for us to express our love for one another, and showing obedience to God is the way in which we show Him we love Him.

Sabbath Adherence Is Important

Resting on the sabbath was specially highlighted by God when He gave all the commandments, since He deemed it necessary to be iterated twice—once before Moses went down the mountain the first time and once before all the children of Israel. No other commandment of the ten has been accentuated in this way. Likewise, the fourth commandment verses in Exodus 20 truly are

the perfect example of a convergence of both of Jesus' great commandments and highlight Yahweh's covenant pattern, perhaps answering the question of why He sandwiched the commandment story with it.

All of this emphasis shows not only this commandment's incredible importance, but also that God in his omniscience knew the decisions Israel was going to make in the future.

Do you know what happened?

Don't Just Take My Word for It

I'll let you in on another "secret": no man can be right 100% of the time—not even those rare people that truly seek God and are doing the best they can. No one is perfect all the time like Jesus is perfect, and we are nowhere near as qualified as Him to give answers. It is 100% your responsibility to check with God about every doctrine you adhere to, because you will be held accountable. Your eternal life depends on how well you seek Him and His truths for yourself.

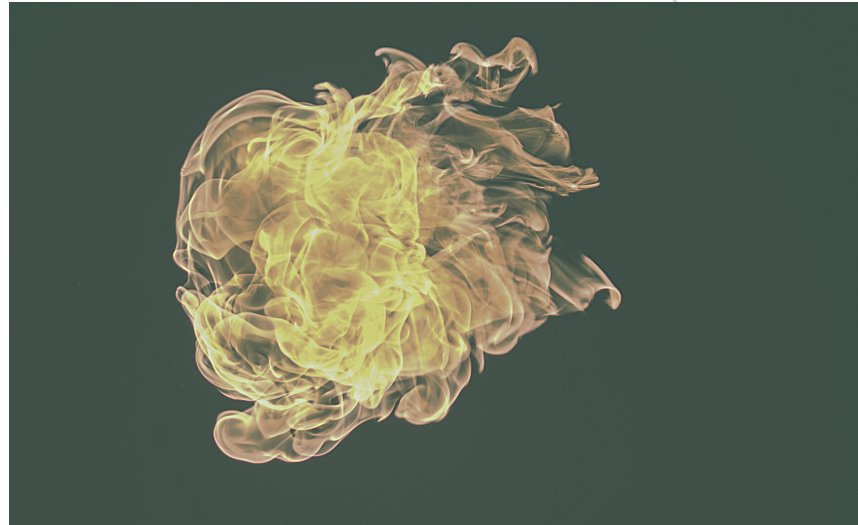
With that said, I hope that everyone who reads anything I write realizes the nature of man and takes on his/her own responsibility to look into these things with open ears, keeping in mind that preconceived notions, the doctrines of man, and the doctrines of the world are those that should be most subject to investigation.

I also hope you all seek God truly and wholeheartedly yourselves in order to obtain the answers you seek and for Him to show Himself strong on your behalf.

“Jesus came bearing the same commandments as God put on the stones. The only difference is that the stone was a little differently hewn than what everyone was used to; Jesus came as the Word in the flesh.”

GROUNDS FOR ANNIHILATION

Chapter 2



2020 has been a tumultuous year for the entire world. People are screaming "the end is nigh" from nearly every rooftop, and even people who have no faith at all are expecting a huge event to happen soon that will top COVID-19, the wars, and the international race riots. Humanity in general is bracing for more disaster as headlines push fear, panic, and division.

In turn, everyone voices an opinion about how to fix everything they're being told that is happening. But the truth is that too many people are attempting to fight the symptoms, and so few are looking to eradicate the actual illness.

And that illness is sin against Yahweh.

God Is Not A God of Confusion

God has been entirely clear in His word about what causes judgement, wrath, and instability to the people called by His name with whole chapters being dedicated to the subject. Ezekiel 22 is one of the clearest outlines of what constituted His judgement of the "bloody city," Jerusalem.

Here is an abbreviated list:

- defiled themselves with idols
- took gifts to shed blood
- took usury and increase
- made mother/father's sins known
- extortion of neighbors for gain
- oppressed strangers
- forgot God
- vexed fatherless and widows
- prophets devoured souls
- profaned sabbath
- prophets stole treasure and precious things
- despised God's holy things
- prophets made widows
- discovered their fathers' nakedness
- priests violated law
- raped those set apart to create pollution
- priests profaned holy things
- abomination with neighbor's wife
- priests showed no difference between holy and profane
- lewdly defiled daughter-in-law
- priests showed no difference between unclean and clean
- humbled sister/father's daughter
- priests hid their eyes from the sabbath
- princes kill, get gain, and destroy souls
- prophets divine lies and say God spoke when He didn't
- people themselves have used oppression and robbery, and willfully vexed the poor, needy, and the stranger

This surely is a long list of some pretty gross sins. There is absolutely no doubt that Judah and Jerusalem in particular were fantastically iniquitous before they saw His judgement and destruction.

But do you know what I hope you see and what I see when I look at this list? I see a picture of the bulk of the world today.

What's Really Alarming

Just as people like to dismiss the truth of things pertaining to every other subject under the sun that would change their worldview, people are also dismissive of the fact that Ezekiel 22 could apply to the whole world today.

The evidence to support the fact that world is subject to judgement is expansive, but I will quickly address three points:

First that Yahweh is never changing with no variableness, meaning His character does not change (James 1:17). He did not become an entirely different person when Jesus came. He still operates the same way; He can and will execute judgement on many people a lot like He did in the Old Testament (Isaiah 24:21-22, Zephaniah 1:14-18).

Second, that He spread Israel across the entire earth (Ezekiel 36:17-19), and consequently no one truly knows if they are an Israelite outside of most Jews. Because of this, no one can say with absolute certainty that they are not a physical Israelite.

Third, that DNA does not matter because those which are in Christ Jesus are His people now, too (John 1:12), and we know that His people are all over the earth now.

So if we see that God is still very capable of wrath with an unchanging nature and that His people that are called by His name are all over the world, what do we now surmise?

Perhaps that those sins that made God angry during Ezekiel's time will make Him angry now and will cause His great judgement that will impact the entire earth. I think that is a reasonable deduction.

A Blatant Disregard

Yes, this book is still about sabbath observance, and it's obvious from the list on Pg.5 that God does not like it when people "profane sabbath" and when the "priests hide their eyes from the sabbath." This fact about the legitimacy of the commandment is easy for me to argue because it is so plainly written; in order for one to reject sabbath at this point after knowing that God does not change, one would have to reject the very Word of God and call themselves agnostic.

The bulk of the followers of Jesus today truly do profane the sabbath because they don't do what God told them to regarding it, and most preachers hide their eyes from sabbath adherence entirely by not even contemplating its possibility.

"Let us reason together"

I don't intend to cover the whole of the list in Ezekiel 22 and why God was bringing it up in the first place. I hope that you read and consider it on your own, because what I really want to address is how God approached those in Judah before He exacted His judgment on them.

We all hopefully know that God is slow to anger (Psalms 86:15), and this very characteristic is what the Judaeans saw from Him. In Isaiah, a couple hundred years before their destruction, we see the foretelling of the evils and destruction of Judah among other prophecies. God certainly displayed patience in the time He gave Judah to straighten up.

What's also interesting is that not only did God wait a fairly long time (roughly 200 years) before He destroyed Jerusalem from when He mentioned it in Isaiah, but God began to plead with His people through Jeremiah so that He would not have to carry out His judgement. He wanted to show Himself merciful! He asked them to just do one little thing, and, if they did it, He would not destroy the city of Jerusalem.

Just one thing.

Want to take a stab at what it was?

"Thus said the LORD unto me; Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah come in, and by the which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem; And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the LORD, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates: Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction. And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein; Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever. And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD. But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." Jeremiah 17:19-27

So 200 years after Isaiah, God essentially said to Jeremiah, "Jerusalem is ripe for judgment. If you guys hallow the sabbath, I will prosper the city. If you don't, I will destroy it."

And if we continue to read through Old Testament, we can see that Jerusalem didn't heed God's word, and they subsequently incurred judgement upon themselves.

This whole theme is such an exceptional part of the Old Testament, that the reason for the destruction is reiterated in a story in Nehemiah (5th century BC). Nehemiah saw people breaking the sabbath, just like in the 6th century and that profaning the sabbath day

day was the cause God's wrath in the past:

"Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath." Nehemiah 13:17

Yes, Nehemiah explicitly says that the fact that they profaned the sabbath is the reason why Judah was taken over by other countries, demolished, and why they didn't have a temple anymore.

True to Pattern

Remember that brief covenant pattern from Chapter 1, where we saw that the events surrounding Moses bringing down the Ten Commandments were a picture of Jesus coming as the divine Word in The Flesh?

What if we were to apply a pattern here? How do you think widespread profaning of the sabbath by proclaiming followers of Jesus Christ today apply in grand scheme of things? It absolutely appears that the whole world is ripe for judgement.

The Same God

No matter how you slice it, it appears that the world is moving further under the hand of evil. Many things that most never dreamed were possible are happening, and many, many people have no peace.

People forget that God doesn't change and the way He does things does not change. By rejecting the knowledge of His unchanging nature, one cannot put two and two together to see. The world's brushing off the Ten Commandments and confessing followers of Christ's blatant sin regarding dishonoring the sabbath day is one big factor that is bringing us all closer to the Day of the Lord.



AMAZING REVELATIONS

Chapter 3

Many people have come up with the wild assumption that Jesus abolished sabbath, which could not be further from the truth. I want to address this fact in this chapter and also look at how understanding the personhood of Jesus emphasizes the need for sabbath adherence.

It does not elude me, however, that I have yet to cover exactly what sabbath is and how to follow it yet in the succession of this series (If you so desire, you can skip ahead and find this in Chapter 7). Most writing formats like to give readers a thorough description of the topic before going into the main argument for or against the topic, but my format has happened this way to highlight the importance of following the law first instead of getting into details of protocol. The purpose for this has been twofold- to highlight how God feels about sabbath adherence as being the most important aspect of this topic and also to show the incredible danger of what comes from defiling this law. Ultimately, I think that it's most important that we seek to obey God first before knowing the reason behind or the full extent of a certain command. Taking this approach does not fail to profit, because when we show God that we love Him through our obedience, He is highly likely to give us understanding about the things in which we ought to know anyway; He is amazing and faithful that way.

Now, on to the meat of the subject.

Jesus on The Sabbath

Let's start by looking at one of the instances in the gospel where Jesus is hanging out with His disciples on the sabbath.

In Matthew, Jesus gleaned food with His disciples on the sabbath day, and the Pharisees came to catch him dishonoring the day:

“At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.” Matthew 12:1-2

Jesus responded differently than the Pharisees expected. He mentioned that David broke the letter of the law in order to feed himself and his men, and that Levite priests technically break the letter of the law in order to perform temple duties on sabbath:

“But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?” Matthew 12:3-5

Jesus was pointing out that God made exceptions. This is also illustrated in Luke when He is eating amongst the Pharisees who were

observing Him, and He healed a man of the dropsy. During this time, He is very direct with the Pharisees:

“And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day? And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go; And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?” Luke 14:3-5

These two instances in Matthew and Luke illustrate that they—David, the priests, and Jesus Himself—were all under unique circumstances. But the most important thing to note about these instances is that these men were doing a good thing in God's sight.

God doesn't want the cattle He gave us to die from not being pulled out of a hole it fell into just because it's the sabbath day. David and his men were fleeing from Saul, and God would use David to be King of Israel and to be a large part of His plan for His people; God wanted David and his men alive and healthy. Similarly, the priests in the temple were used by God for upkeep of the temple and sacrifices, along with many other duties they had in order to serve the rest of the people and help those people atone for their sins; God wants His people doing what He told them to do. Additionally, Jesus healed on sabbath, because God willed it and was using it for His gospel; God wanted to save the world.

What do these things have in common? Again—they are all good in the eyes of God and conducive to His plan and His character. God is a good God.

If we go back to Matthew and look at what follows Jesus' words about David and the priests, we see another reason why God permitted these things pertaining to Jesus. Jesus said:

“But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.” Matthew 12:6-8

A lot of people like to use “I will have mercy

and not sacrifice” to mean that sabbath is abolished, when in fact, sabbath observance is not at all negated and these two concepts—sabbath and sin/animal sacrifice—are not entirely related. Jesus is saying here that He would rather be merciful than take sacrifices for sin; Jesus is indeed better than the temple for making atonement for sin.

But the part that stands out the most in this last verse in Matthew 12 is that Jesus proclaims that He is Lord even of the sabbath.

Let me ask you something: Why would Jesus be Lord over something that no longer bears any significance?

Who Jesus Is

It is insanity that followers of Jesus deny that they need to follow the sabbath considering who He Himself has said that He is. I want to talk about what Jesus says plainly in a couple of places, because there are some really important facts we must continually consider when we think about sabbath's connection to Jesus.

What does “Lord of the sabbath” mean? Does this mean that because we have Jesus as our savior that honoring the sabbath does not apply to us? No. That's not what Jesus is saying at all in Matthew, and to say so is saying that Jesus and His words regarding this subject are inconsequential.

When Jesus says that He is the Lord of the Sabbath, He is simply admitting that He makes the rules—that He is way higher up in the chain of command than even David and the priests in the temple. He is saying that He is the Lord of Sabbath...and that He is consequently The Lord of Time and Creation.

The Lord of Time and Creation

The book of Revelation is all kinds of symbolic and fascinating, but it's called the Revelation of Jesus Christ for a reason; it reveals who Jesus Christ truly is. When John turned around to see the voice he heard on Patmos, he saw a man standing there who was Jesus (Revelation 1:18).

And Jesus told John exactly who He was. He said that He is **the first and the last**. And in case you weren't paying attention, He made sure to say it three times (Rev 1:8, Rev 1:11, Rev 1:17).

These verses in Revelation indicate that He is the beginning and the ending of the story—of all history. And if you are reading from the beginning of the story, the beginning of history, then you know that the very beginning deals with creation in Genesis 1.

But let's not just rely on Jesus' own words only here to support His being present at the creation just for the sake of argument. The apostle John confirms Jesus' words from Revelation in his gospel when he talks about the Word coming in the flesh, who is Jesus.

Let's then follow through the text in John 1. In this chapter, John talks about himself not being the light but bearing witness to it. In between these verses, He spells out exactly who Jesus says that He was:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” John 1:1-4

These first four verses are paramount; they say that God made all things and that God was in the beginning with the Word but that the Word is God; God also made all things as the Word. He says that in him was Life, and we know that Jesus is the way, truth, and life (John 14:6). Continuing on:

“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” John 1:10-11

This is another obvious mention of Jesus. Even as John is still using “the Word” as his subject, we see that John is still talking about Jesus when he said that “God came into the world and the world knew him not and came into His own, but His own received Him not.” Jesus came into His own people (in His people Israel through Judah), but they received Him not (the Jews rejected and killed Him). This also again denotes that Jesus was there at the

beginning, because the world was made by Him.

We then see that the Word from the beginning came into being as a person:

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Here we get more confirmation that Jesus is the Word of God who dwelt among us. We can reasonably conclude that if He is the Word of God in verse 14, He must also be the same Word of God from verses 1-4, who was present at the beginning and without whom all things were created. It certainly follows reason that He is the One in which John was talking about the whole time in this chapter—from verse one and onwards.

There are other elusions to the fact that the Redeemer (Jesus) is the first and the last in the Old Testament, but this chapter perfectly supports Jesus' claim to be the first and the last, as John serves as a witness to this fact twofold—in Revelation at Jesus' express words and in the gospel of John.

From The Beginning Until Now

After the Word that was in the beginning created the heavens and the earth, He rested. Most everyone knows this part of the story, because it is literally the oldest story ever told. For six days, God, the Word, did wonderful work to make our world and its contents come into being, but on the seventh day, He deemed a day of rest for Himself.

When God gave the law to Moses, He also deemed every seventh day to be a day of rest for everyone else. Proceeding the commandment is the very reason God gives in the Ten Commandments list from Exodus 20:

“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Exodus 20:11

He hallowed the sabbath by resting and blessing every seventh day, and this is the

reason He directly gives us as to why we are to hallow the sabbath.

Now we see why Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath—because He was the one that was there at the creation and through Him was made all things. If Jesus is Lord of The Sabbath, then He must also be the Lord of Creation, because the Lord of Creation was the one who designated sabbath. If He is the alpha and omega (first and last) that He said He is in Revelation, then He must be the Lord of All Time and must be the one to lawfully make rules about recognizing days and resting every week through the sabbath.

We can look at other facets of Jesus' character to back up that He is indeed Lord of Sabbath. For example, in the commandment in Exodus 20, we are told to rest and not to work or make anyone else work. The word "sabbath" itself means to rest. But how do we truly rest?

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Jesus says that He gives rest. If we truly come to Jesus, He will guide us to take rest on the day set aside for rest and for every other day of the week.

Sabbath Is For Man

In Mark's account of the same story from Matthew of the disciples gleaning from a field, he recounts a very interesting verse that gives us a peek of God's intentions for us right before Jesus acknowledges His lordship over sabbath.

And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" Mark 2:27

This is God's heart in his designing all the law. God brought the people out of Egypt and put restrictions on Israel and mankind for our own good: all of the law was given for the good of all those that call themselves His people.

Additionally, we are all made in God's image, which means we are made in His likeness. He saw fit to rest on the seventh day after all His work was complete. He did this for many reasons, but perhaps one of the most practical was to show that God intended to have a rest

period that would be good for man also.

The Creator knows what is best for us because He made us. Not only that, but He knows what will happen until the end of time. To claim that the law is restrictive for the sake of being so without benefit is nonsensical and shows a lack of understanding of God's loving heart and His omniscience.

Misreading The Law

When we dismiss what God's law says without also considering who He is in character and His love for us, we are aligning ourselves with the Pharisees. That is exactly what they did with God's given Old Testament law.

The Pharisees did not consider God's intentions behind the law or, more importantly, the character of God at all. They did not consider who Jesus might have been nor did they consider the fact that they had a lack of a relationship with God the Father. They considered the letter of one piece of text that told them what to do, and they tacked on what they thought would be best based on their cabal agreements.

One of the biggest reasons the Pharisees are in this part of scripture pertaining to sabbath adherence is to illustrate the exact opposite of what we all should be doing. We should all reject Pharisaical doctrine—those laws and letters that come from man alone and tack on things that don't parallel the words of Jesus, of the other prophets, or that do not reflect the heart of God.

These are those things that may look like a good idea on paper. They may be created by a council. They may be commonplace and followed by many, but these are not the way of Yahweh. These things are many indeed.

I hope that we can all put the manmade doctrines behind us and push on in Jesus' love, because God is a good God who has created all His commandments for our good. And Jesus certainly did not abolish them.



ON KNOWLEDGE AND FAVOR

Chapter 4

It seems almost silly to think about blessings gained from following commandments when we so often (mistakenly) think of the commandments as being stifling. On the surface, the commandments seem like just a set of rules to follow and that the benefits of following them are just that we aren't "getting into trouble."

When one seriously fears the LORD, it's not uncommon that this angle of viewing the commandments is the prevailing one. Take it from me—there is no worse feeling than knowing that you've disappointed the Father when there is sin not repented of after you've stepped out of the bounds of what you were supposed to be doing.

But because sabbath adherence is a commandment, honoring the day of rest has benefits. Over the next couple of chapters, I want to look at the positive aspects of following the commandments—the treasures, the promises, the resulting joy—that we reap in droves when we follow His commandments.

This chapter is going to look at how building a relationship with God and finding His favor is related to following all the commandments. And I want to start by talking about something that's not so fun to think about...

Sin.

No matter how elementary the concept seems, so many people are completely off base when they attempt to put in practice their understanding of what sin is.

To clarify, to "sin" means "to do something God told you not to do" or "to not do a thing God told you to do." The most important thing about sin is that God is the end-all, be-all of what constitutes sin. He is the authority on what it is. End of story.

But as I have mentioned before, lots of men like to twist His words for their own gain.

For example, the Pharisees in the church today like to say that tithing 10% of your income to a physical church is ordained of God and not to do so is sin. But they have completely twisted the commandment to suit their wants; God gave the commandment to the ones that would be living in the physical land of Israel, and He told them to give 10% of the increase of the land of Israel to the Levites. (Please, fact check this yourself in Leviticus 27 and Numbers 18, and notice how the Lord didn't say for any of us in America to give 10% of our money to some wolf in a suit so that wolf can buy his wife another luxury vehicle.)

The same Pharisees that browbeat us with false "tithing" doctrine turn a blind eye to men and women's adultery in their congregations and allow these sins to persist among the

people they purport to shepherd. In these two gross examples of misappropriating the definition of sin, these Pharisees have proven themselves not only unfit for the duties they unjustly assign themselves, but have also put themselves in the place of God by defining what is and is not sin through both express language and through what they choose to overlook in their congregations. They have given themselves all the power to decide what is sin and what it is not; they have attempted to usurp God's place. (In their defense, perhaps they do not have the slightest idea what sin is because they have failed to read and hear what the Word of God told us all to do in the first place.)

I'm not just here to call out modern-day Pharisees; my point is that we all have to be very careful of what we understand sin to be, and we should not be trusting man to tell us these things or even for mere modern man to set a good example. Just like we shouldn't be giving a self-ordained pastor a large chunk of our paycheck so he can live in the vanity, we should not be assuming it is okay to commit adultery because so many people do it in modern Christian churches and are not rebuked for it.

Instead, we should all find out exactly what God said Himself and look at the life of Jesus and those who are given as examples in scripture. We should seek His face in all we do and especially in what it is He wants us to do and not to do. We should continually build our relationship with Him in order to find out these things.

A Relationship

To be candid, when I was younger, I had no idea how to form and keep a friendship or any kind of relationship. I had no idea about what was acceptable behavior with someone you loved, and I did not know how to differentiate love from dislike or hatred at all. I realize that this may sound confusing to some because it is not a common misunderstanding, but I know that there are people like me out there who understand my misconception. Ultimately, it took me responding to God's voice and

working on having a relationship with Him in order for these truths to click for me and for me to understand how to show and accept love and to truly value those who matter to me.

Because of my misunderstanding, I want to share a basic principle that may seem elementary to some, but please know that I say this all because it took me decades to figure all these things out.

When we have a good, solid relationship with someone, we continually foster that relationship. When we upset that person, we apologize. When we didn't keep our promises or we mess up pretty badly, we apologize and try to make it right. We compliment them. We talk to that person often and we know and attempt to know that person well. We care about their feelings, their wounds, and their needs. We expect those people with whom we have a strong relationship to act according to their personalities, just as they can expect us to act within our own personalities.

Similarly, we can apply what we know about fostering relationships to pushing someone away, putting a strain on, or ruining a relationship. We can say things that are mean. We can do things that person would look down on. We can find company with those that person doesn't like. We can fail to take the person's emotions and personhood into account. We can ignore them. We can break our promises to them.

All of ways we can ruin a relationship with another human being we can use to ruin our relationship with God. We can blaspheme Him. We can act in ways that He hates. We can ignore what He does and and says. We can fail to seek how He feels about a particular thing. We can break our promises to Him.

Likewise, if we want to nurture our relationship with God, we can uphold our promises (covenant) by following His commandments. We can not do any of those things that He hates. We can hang around with the people that He likes. We can pay attention to what He has said and what He does and has done. We can seek to be near Him and speak to Him often in prayer. We can praise Him.

Yes, when we keep our promises or the covenant with Him by keeping His commandments, we are fostering a relationship with Him. When we are obeying Him, we are showing Him that we love Him (1 John 5:3). Consequently, we are keeping ourselves as close to Him as we are able to.

Truly, our personal relationship with Him is the most important and the greatest blessing of all. For who is one that is not blessed and kept in the way if not the one who loves, obeys, and fears the Lord?

A lot of the aforementioned Pharisees like to tell you that there is no way to do wrong by God. But when we apply common sense in the context of formulating a relationship and drawing nearer to anyone created in God's image, it's plain to see that it surely is possible to pull away from Him just like it is possible to damage your relationship with anyone else.

And it's also possible to acquire favor from God.

Those Who Seek Find Favor

We know that there are several people that are noted as those who found favor in the sight of the LORD in scripture— Abraham, Noah, Samuel, Daniel, David, Mary, and John to name a few. We often want to ask what made all these people special since some of them were prophesied about. We forget that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34, Deuteronomy 10:17), so it wasn't who these people were but rather what these people did that made them so beloved of God.

There are only a few allusions as to why these people found favor. Here is a short list:

- Abraham found favor because he believed the Lord. (Genesis 15:6)
- Noah found favor because he was righteous in his generations. (Genesis 6:9)
- Job found favor because he was perfect in all his ways. (Job 1:8)
- Moses found favor because he was meek among all men. (Numbers 12:3)

There are people other than those four who

were favored and beloved of God, but we don't see in scripture any explanation as to why. However, we can gather themes from those explanations righteous ancestors when deciding to give someone favor:

1. Meekness (having patience and humility)
2. Faithfulness (being steadfast and having faith)
3. Righteousness (being without sin)

If we look in other parts of scripture, we can find affirmation of these things. What do other scriptures say regarding obtaining favor? Here are a few verses:

“For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.” Psalms 5:12

“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.” Psalms 34:15

“For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.” Isaiah 66:2

So we see that the same actions that the ancients made to receive favor are those outlined in other parts of scripture that caused God to lend His ear to people and give them grace, mercy, and favor.

God also says:

“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.” Proverbs 3:1-4

Here we are told that keeping commandments and law as well as keeping them in one's heart and mind will give one favor and good understanding from the Lord and men. God is explicitly saying, “if you do my commandments, I will give you My favor and understanding.”

A Loving God

Isn't it great that not only can we find favor of the Lord, but He also tells us exactly how to obtain that favor? I would expect nothing less from my gracious God.

Having a good relationship with God and knowing who He is is the absolute best thing in life and is something we should all boast in (Jeremiah 9:24). Following the commandments certainly allows us to take part in that blessing.

But I'm here to let you know that not only do we get favor and a wonderful relationship on this side of the kingdom and the next, but that God is full of so much love, abundance, and foresight, that He has lined up some amazing things for those that follow all the commandments that lie, not outside, but alongside this relationship of and knowledge of Him.



INHERITANCE

Chapter 5

No matter what generation, color, or economic class people are, it is a fact that every single unrighteous person feels entitled to things that don't belong to them. This fact is one of the reasons why commandments like "thou shalt not steal" and "thou shalt not covet" exist. Fleshly people just inherently want things that they didn't put in the effort to obtain.

We true followers of Jesus know that we have done nothing to deserve the love God has poured out on us and that we certainly do not deserve His forgiveness and mercy, though we gladly accept it all. We all also realize that without repentance and continually working on our relationship with God, we simply cannot reap any benefits that come from a solid relationship with Him.

Conversely, there are many in the church today that expect benefits from God without turning from their sin. The "name it and claim it gospel" that has infiltrated many churches, for example, is indicative of mass feelings of entitlement. People see no need to draw close to God to legitimately ask Him for what they need or take time to consider if He actually wants them to have what it is they are asking for. They just expect things to come to them at their whim.

But God is crystal clear about who it is that sees His help and also His inheritance both now and when the time comes for Jesus to come on the clouds.

The End Times

Jesus reigning physically on earth is one of my favorite things to think about. He is going to wipe every tear from our eyes and we will all live in peace in a beautiful land..after He utterly decimates evil.

The Day of the Lord from the Old Testament, or the Apocalypse from the new, is one of the deadliest times for mankind and will be second only to the Flood. It is going to be a terrifying time for everyone and is the reason why many like to hold to the doctrine of the rapture—they cannot fathom God making His followers have to live through it.

Though God's grace could certainly shine through by moving His people to some other place in existence in the waters of the firmament, I would argue that God would rather allow us to remain on the earth just to show how amazing He is; there is no doubt that He would carefully protect each one of His people during that time.

Frankly, many people don't want to go through the hardships in the last days; they aren't secure enough in their relationship with Jesus and His abilities, because they do not have His testimony. They run without a solid hold on scripture or on any personal research and end up just living on the hope that the person they listen to about what God says is correct, they put their trust in men and wolves.

The truth is that just because God keeps us on earth does not mean that He hasn't decided to protect His people.

The Safeguard

Just like people are more obsessed with following bad news than they are with keeping up with good news, people concern themselves more with what they think the Mark of the Beast is going to be than they do with understanding what the Mark of the Children of God is.

The Mark of the Children of God, the mark that the angel in Revelation uses to indicate who the children of God are before the seventh seal is opened, is already laid out for us in scripture.

God tells us what that mark is in Ezekiel:

"Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness. And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness..." Ezekiel 20:10-13

God is saying here that those that follow His commandments will live, and that they that hallow His sabbaths have a sign, which is a proof or a symbol, that will signify that they belong to Him. When we apply what this scripture says to the parts in Revelation about the mark, we see that those with the sign will not see the coming destruction from the seal; the people that follow the commandments are safeguarded. These people will live and have life because they do the commandments.

God says that sabbath observance is the sign of His people again in Numbers. This time, however, he mentions that it will be so forever as a **perpetual** covenant:

"Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day

he rested, and was refreshed." Numbers 15:16-17

Sabbath adherence is the mark of the children of God on this earth. A couple of people have written much on this subject and have said that the mark of the Beast is very likely a blasphemous form of either the sabbath itself or of the Ten Commandments as a whole, and I tend to agree; Jesus is very clear about who gets to call themselves His people and it all has to deal with following His commandments.

Here is what Jesus says about what constitutes a righteous person:

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12

God also says that those that follow His commandments will enter into the Kingdom.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." Revelation 22:14-15

Where do those that don't follow His commandments go?

Those Who Love Lies

Those that do not follow the commandments but expect to take part in God's kingdom have the same heart as those people who follow (and very likely are the same people who follow) false doctrines about God being some sort of genie and hope in strange doctrines of "universe" and demon worship. God says plainly that those that reject his commandments are dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murders, idolaters, and lovers/makers of lies.

The churches have indeed been infiltrated by these weird doctrines and, in most instances, have become dead places that should be left. It is simply not safe to follow after man in this day and age. We all need to take very seriously the reality of what eternity looks like after a lifetime of expecting man to

spoon-feed us truth and refusing to work on our relationships with God.

God's Love

Regardless if you were an adherent to the strange doctrines I mentioned, Jesus is not only able to forgive and save you, but He is also willing to give you inheritance if you keep His sabbaths and choose things that please Him:

“Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD, speak, saying, The LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.” Isaiah 56:1-5

You don't have to be special physically. You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to be "good." You just have to do what He asks.

EXCUSES

Chapter 6



The evidence to support honoring the sabbath in the present day for all confessing followers of Jesus Christ is staggering. There simply is no way around the fact that sabbath is what God prescribed for all time for the people that are called by His name and take part in His inheritance. There is absolutely no wiggle room when we consider Jesus' words concerning the sabbath, His personhood, the way the law was presented, God's promises concerning it, and the way it encapsulates the heart of all the law.

Despite the overwhelming evidence for this commandment's validity, many people still cannot turn away from breaking this commandment every week.

Some Excuses

People like to dismiss the fact that they should follow any commandment from the Old Testament because they cannot prove their own, personal physical association with the Israelites. This is utterly silly; we know that Israel was completely scattered to the four corners of the earth, so most confessing followers of Jesus probably do not know if they are Israelite. People assume they are not and take the easy way out by disregarding the law, when who is to say that they aren't physically Israelites? They very well could be (Zechariah 2:6-7).

Another reason for dismissal people give is that they do not see the Ten Commandments as one entity with ten commands even though God took the time out to carve them all out of stone twice. Should we murder? Should we worship idols? The obvious answer is "no, we shouldn't do those things." So why do we not follow the sabbath? If we take care not to do all these other things like commit adultery, then why do we omit the sabbath? Where in scripture did God omit any one of the commandments? It does not logically follow that we wouldn't regard sabbath. Why is it the only one of the Ten Commandments that most people blatantly preach against and blasphemously disregard?

People also like to lump all the additional laws that God gave to Moses in with the Ten Commandments, even though all those other laws were not written in stone by the Hand of God. I've heard arguments saying that because we no longer have a temple, we cannot do the Ten Commandments. I've also heard arguments saying that the Ten Commandments were thrown out with the other laws of the Old Testament, which is asinine and not at all scriptural.

I just have one question for the types of people that come at this subject with arguments like the ones above:

Would it hurt to regard the law and attempt to follow it more than it would to disregard it?

Certainly it would not hurt you to regard the law. As if God would punish you for attempting to be obedient! What god do you serve that would punish such a loving heart? Not mine.

Emotional Reasons

People tend to respond to the subject of sabbath adherence rather vehemently. It's not uncommon to be met with strong emotion if you bring it up to someone who has rejected the commandments. Regardless of these reactions and the substantial evidence supporting this commandments legitimacy, I have found that there are a few reasons why people refuse to rest.

The first reason why people refuse to rest on the sabbath is for the sake of fitting in with society. Saturday is a very busy day in western society. Most shopping, get-togethers, and big events happen for people on Saturday. Cutting those things out of their lives to show God appreciation and to rest is not something many people are willing to exchange. In other words, they love the world too much and do not exhibit the characteristics of the called-out ones.

Second, people cannot handle the fact that the majority of Christians could be wrong about Sabbath adherence. Sunday is the day that many confessing Christians put aside a couple of hours to hang out in a building with other people in the name of God without considering the fact that Saturday, the last day of the week, was the original day He set aside and that God specifically called for not doing any work or causing anyone else to work. Christians still hold to Sunday as if what God said about the last day of the week doesn't matter at all. They say, "see we do do the sabbath, just on Sunday." Except that they do not adhere to what the sabbath truly entails—like not doing work or causing people to work; they do not dedicate the entire length of the day to resting or prepare; they do not seek God intimately. They rely only on pharisees to divide scripture to them and take their money. Those who reject in this way simply cannot conceive why many confessing Christians could be so wrong, when the answer is made plain in scripture.

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:14

Third, people in ministry cannot handle the humbling of themselves when they were initially wrong about sabbath and the law. People that have been preaching that the Old Law is done away with cannot come to terms with themselves for being mistaken. They cannot humble themselves, turn to the people they were teaching and say, "I was wrong." They are afraid of losing money, power, and the love of the people like Saul did. The truth is, however, that misunderstandings about truths happen to absolutely everyone who is not Jesus. It happens to everyone because we humans do not know all things. We can minister to each other and have some neat things to say to each other about what Yahweh teaches us, but ultimately we are not to be true Rabbi's or shepherds. That's solely Jesus' job:

"But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ." Matthew 23:8-10

The aforementioned umbrella of why people refuse to observe sabbath is shame. Shame of going against what's popular and humbling oneself. And I hate to break it to you, but Jesus went against the grain and held wildly different beliefs than most everyone that He was surrounded with.

And yes, it cost Him His life. But that did not deter Him from doing what He was supposed to do.

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:24-26

Lost Souls

Satan has rather successfully turned many confessing Christians' attention to the wrong things. He has succeeded through tempting people using laziness; laziness makes people highly regard others who shouldn't have any form of authority, who contradict Jesus, and who hate knowledge. People blindly follow these "pastors" simply because they won't take the time to study and think about these things themselves.

Satan tempts the proud to lord over people. He strokes them with pride and gives them gain to further compound the problem and then uses these self-proclaimed, proud clergymen of all creeds to spout his evil doctrines. These Nicolaitans are no substitute for the teachings in God's Word and the acquisition of knowledge and acknowledgement of truth that fruits from a relationship with Him.

The foundation of the matter and my reasoning for writing this is because you, dear reader, must stop listening to what the world tells you. You must stop caring what other people think. You must stop listening to what your wicked heart tells you. Stop ignoring what the Lord says and do what He has told you to do. Start taking His commands seriously. Start taking sabbath seriously.

And I am serious as a heart attack, you will die if you don't.

Repent.



HOW TO HONOR SABBATH

Chapter 7

I did not initially intend to devote an entire chapter to “how to follow the sabbath.” I thought for sure that I would mention it in passing near the end of this book, but I feel that this is important enough to pull into its own chapter because of all the misconceptions there are about this subject specifically.

We are to be especially careful not to follow after the ways of man and are called to be very careful to follow God’s law in the way that He expects us to. That means that we are not to do as the hypocrites and hire people to follow us around to turn light switches on for us on the sabbath. We are to, frankly, use common sense when it comes to applying His laws.

So what does the law actually say about sabbath?

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Exodus 20:8-11

“Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.” Exodus 35:3

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 58:13-14

So what are we to do?

Don't Make Others Work

In loving our neighbors, we are not to impose work on them during sabbath hours. What does that look like? It simply means we don't ask people to do things for us on the last day of the week, Saturday.

That includes:

- Any person in any industry that is at work on the sabbath.
- Our acquaintances.
- Our actual neighbors.
- Our friends.
- Our families.
- Any person that comes in contact with you on the sabbath.

There are many implications of this that you should think about and come to conclusions for yourself with God's help. I don't want to prescribe anything that is not already written. I just want you to think about these things in an applicable way.

I will say, though, that if there is an emergency, use your common sense; pull your oxen out of the pit or stop your whole house from burning down or catching your neighbor's house on fire. If you run across someone who needs you to save their life on sabbath, do what Jesus would do and save them.

Don't Work

Friday is called the Day of Preparation because it's the time people take to gather and prepare everything for Saturday. The very beginning of this is when the Israelites gathered an extra portion of mana on Fridays because God did not drop it for them on Saturdays (Exodus 16:25-29). This is something God expected of Israel and is something He expects from His people now; don't cook all your meals or have the pizza delivery guy bring you a pizza on sabbath. Do your food preparation on Friday instead. Anything that you need to survive comfortably on Saturday should be taken care of on Friday; show God some respect by showing Him that you have prepared to spend time with Him and relax.

Similarly, don't discuss business with colleagues and don't set your mind on all the things you are going to do when sabbath is over. This can be harder than you can imagine, but it's important to keep this day set aside to God.

What To Do Instead

Instead, do personal bible study. Read something a brother or sister wrote on a biblical topic that you are interested in and research it yourself. Worship God. Take a nap. Sit outside in His creation and think about why He made each thing He made. Pray. Lay in the sun or watch the birds. Eat the food you set aside and thank God for it. Talk to your children about God and read scripture aloud to them. Rest.

It really is a delight.

A Summary

The commandment to honor sabbath is simple and is currently very easy to follow:

1. Make sure you have everything you need for sabbath on Friday.
2. Rest on Saturday and hang out with God.
3. Don't ask other people to work and don't work yourself unless it's an emergency.
4. Don't do business or the things you want to do.
5. Don't kindle a fire.

That really is all there is to it unless the sabbath falls on or corresponds to another holy day. But holy/feast days are another topic for another time.

In Conclusion

God is currently concerned with getting His people to begin honoring His sabbaths again, because it is something that should never have been brushed off. We followers of Jesus should honor the sabbath just like we refrain from murder and theft. The price for failure to do this is so incredibly high, especially when it's coupled with a failure to seek God earnestly in one's personal life.

I hope that this small book has helped you to see why honoring sabbath is such an important commandment that should not be overlooked. If you are one who is still skeptical, then I hope this book has instilled in you an interest to look into these things more deeply and to seek God more in your daily life.

Thank you so much for reading! If you're interested in more topics like this, visit my website at eyeslookingheavenward.wordpress.com, where I write about all the things God gives me to tell.