

## Moses

In **Genesis 50:24**, *“Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am about to die, but God will assuredly take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’”*

So Joseph died before the rest of his brothers. This is surely the foreshadowing of the Messiah, the son of Joseph who died before his brethren and forty years later they saw the destruction of the Temple and great persecution. Yes, after Joseph's death the people did experience hardships as we will see. So years went by and Israel and his sons all died in Egypt. And after many years a new Pharaoh rose up who never heard of Joseph and all that he did for Egypt. Why would this Pharaoh not know about Joseph when at one time he would have been the next Pharaoh? During the time of Joseph the Pharaohs were not Egyptians but Semites like Joseph and his family. It was called the Hyksos Dynasty. So all the Pharaohs came from Canaan, but this dynasty ended in 1550 BC. He had no desire to let any Israelite or Semite ever again have any power over them.

**Exodus 1:8-14** says this, *“ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, ‘Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, otherwise they will multiply, and in the event of war, they will also join those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land.’ So they appointed taskmasters over them to oppress them with hard labor. And they built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they oppressed them, the more they multiplied and the more they spread out, so that they dreaded the sons of Israel. The Egyptians used violence to compel the sons of Israel to labor; and they made their lives bitter with hard labor in mortar and bricks and at all kinds of labor in the field, all their labors which they violently had them perform as slaves.”*

This was the first hardship and the second came soon after. Then Pharaoh made all the Israelites slaves and said that all the baby boys must be put to death. But there was one couple who could not obey this law. It is believed that Yocheved was older than Sarah when she gave birth to Moses. It is considered to be a miraculous birth,

much like the mother of the Messiah. You see, it is believed that Yocheved and Amram had been separated for a long period of time. Like Joseph, he too, was very much surprised to hear the news of this coming child. Both children grew up to become the redeemer of Israel. Moses's sister Miriam was a prophetess, and it is strongly believed that she prophesied about her brother when she was around five years old telling her mother that she would have this son, much like the Angel Gabriel told Mary. And she would prophesy by saying "My mother will bear a son who will be the savior of Israel." So they hid their son as long as they could before putting him in a basket in the Nile River.

**Hebrews 11:23** says, *"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful (yafeh in Hebrew) child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict."*

**Exodus 2:5-10** continues, *"Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her female attendants walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave woman, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, 'This is one of the Hebrews' children.' Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and call a woman for you who is nursing from the Hebrew women, so that she may nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Go ahead.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, 'Because I drew him out of the water.'"*

So here was Moses, who like Joseph, rose up in the courts of the Pharaoh. Moses, also like Joseph, would have become the next Pharaoh,

**Exodus 2: 11-14**, *"Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to his fellow Hebrews and looked at their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his fellow Hebrews. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw that there was no one around, he struck and killed the Egyptian, and hid his*

*body in the sand. Now he went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, 'Why are you striking your companion?' But he said, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?' Then Moses was afraid and said, 'Surely the matter has become known!'"*

Stephen testified to this fact in **Acts 7:23-28**, *"When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?' But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?'"*

**Hebrews 11:24-26** says, *"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Messiah greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward."*

Only God could have given Moses such insight. Though being raised in the courts of Pharaoh, God's hand was still upon Moses who would one day save a nation, just like with Joseph, when God revealed the meaning of dreams that led to the preparation for the famine that saved an entire nation. God knows His people, no matter what may be going on in their lives today, God has a plan for their tomorrow. So Moses fled in fear from Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Moses ran to Median where he met the seven daughters of Reuel at the well while watering their sheep. As we have seen before, the place to find a bride was at the well. They asked Moses to come and meet their father and so he did and he ended up marrying the oldest daughter, Zipporah. Many years had gone by and one day while Moses was tending the flock he noticed a bush was on fire. As he drew near to see why the bush was not being burnt by this fire, he heard a voice say to him.

*"Moses, the place where you stand is holy."*

**Exodus 2:23-25** tells us, *“Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage ascended to God. So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.”*

**Exodus 3: 1-6** continues, *“Now Moses was pasturing the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not being consumed. So Moses said, ‘I must turn aside and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burning up!’ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then He said, ‘Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ And He said, ‘I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”*

Moses is now eighty years old. He too, became a shepherd like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David. Of course, Yeshua was called the Good Shepherd, **John 10: 11-18**, who was also over the flock of Israel. God had been preparing Moses for forty years and we know that he led Israel like the good shepherd in the wilderness for another forty years.

**Exodus 3:7-12** goes on to say, *“And the Lord said, ‘I have certainly seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their outcry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. And now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. And now come, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God,*

*'Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?' And He said, 'Assuredly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.'"*

Like so many of us, we think that we can not carry out the will of God. We look at our shortcomings and we think that we ourselves can not do what God is asking of us. For Moses was not eloquent in his speech and yet, he was highly educated in the Egyptian ways of life. God knows us and He knew Moses and so He laid out His plan before him word for word.

**Exodus 3:13-22** tells us, *"Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?' And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, 'This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.' God furthermore said to Moses, 'This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is the name for all generations to use to call upon Me. Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has appeared to me, saying, 'I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt. So I said, I will bring you up out of the oppression of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey.' Then they will pay attention to what you say; and you with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt, and you will say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.' But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So I will reach out with My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go. I will grant this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be that when you go, you will not go empty-handed. But every woman shall ask her neighbor and the woman who lives in her house for articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and you will put them on your sons and daughters. So you will plunder the Egyptians.'"*

The three day journey reminds us of Abraham who also went on a three day journey to sacrifice his son Isaac to the Lord.

We see once again God reminding the people of His unbroken covenant with Israel's Patriarchs and them. The burning bush represented the sufferings of Israel.

Though they suffered at the hands of the Egyptians, they were not consumed. Yeshua also suffered and yet He too, was not consumed. Once in Egypt God brought about several plagues upon the Egyptians to cause Pharaoh to set the Israelites free, like the Nile turning to blood, frogs everywhere, swarms of flies, livestock dying, boils on everyone, destroying hail, locusts, darkness, death of the first born. But before the death of the first born God told Moses that in every Israelite home they must slaughter a lamb and put the blood on the doorpost to avoid the death angel. So the event was called Passover because the death angel passed over everyone's home who had the blood on the door. All of this was a foreshadowing of things that we will better understand as we go on. After the death of the first born and after all of that destruction, Pharaoh finally let them go and that is what they did. They left in a hurry carrying their belongings and their unleavened bread. And yes, Moses kept the promise to Joseph after all those years to carry his bones back to the promised land. But not all were Israelites who left, because there was a mixed multitude of people with their livestock and belongings who sojourned with them. Yes, the mixed multitude were believers in the One True God and yet, they were Gentiles. Before every plague God gave Pharaoh a chance to decide his fate, a lot like in the days of Noah, they too, had a chance to be saved.

**2 Peter 3:8-9** says, *"But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance."*

Not only did the Egyptians see the hand of God but also the Israelites. God led the people around by way of the wilderness to the Red Sea; and the sons of Israel went up in battle formation from the land of Egypt.

**Exodus 13:20-22** says, *"Then they set out from Succoth and camped in Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from the presence of the people."*

**Psalm 91:4** says, "He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may take refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and wall."

**Exodus 14**, Now Pharaoh came to his senses and said, *"What have I done by letting the Israelites go?"* He sent out all of his soldiers to go and bring them back and when Israel saw them they were frightened because the soldiers were behind them and the Red Sea was in front of them. But God parted the waters and Israel crossed over on dry land. So the soldier chased after them, and when they reached the middle, the water came rushing back on them and they all died. The people saw a great victory as Pharaoh's army all drowned in the sea. But they also had another victory as this analogy tells us of Israel going through the Red Sea in

**1 Corinthians 10:1-6**, *"For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and they all passed through the sea; and they all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea."*

Also **Romans 6:2-4** tells us this about us, *"How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Messiah Yeshua have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as the Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."*

When Israel went into the sea even though it was on dry land, it was as if they had died, and when they came out it was as though they had risen. This is the whole symbolism of baptism. That first night Israel stayed at Succoth for as it says, they made booths for their livestock. The Feast of Sukkot is spoken of in

**Lamentations 23.** It was a time to be remembered that Israel spent their first night in Succoth. Why is this important? Because God shielded them with a pillar of cloud and of fire. This same pillar of cloud and fire that led them for forty years also stood over the Tent of Meeting. The same imagery is in the feast, *"God with us," "God our eternal home."*

We build Sukkahs or booths, a temporary dwelling, and live in them for seven days, the number of completion, the number of God. Remember, even Mary and Joseph stayed in a temporary shelter their first night. The feast is full of imagery of God, and Israel in the wilderness, and Yeshua, and on the eighth day there is a celebration called rejoicing in the Word. It is believed that this is the true time that Yeshua was born on the first day of Sukkot. Well, there is another feast to consider and that is this. The first Passover was on the fourteenth day of Nisan and on the 16th day of Nisan Israel crossed the Red Sea. The sixteenth day of Nisan is the same day that Yeshua rose from the grave. This is the same time that we just read about in Romans and Corinthians. It is also the time that we should begin counting the Omer. The Omer was a stalk of barley that was waved in the temple. From that day forward you begin to count forty-nine days and on the fiftieth day is another Feast Day, it is Pentecost. This was the time that Israel reached Mount Sinai. This was the time that God gave us the Ten Commandments and in Yeshua's day, God gave the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and those in Jerusalem heard them speak in the tongues of their language. How are these two connected? You only have to look at the Armor of God, and see that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God.

**Exodus 19:4-6,8-9,** *"Now Israel was in the wilderness and after a short while they found themselves right in the same spot that God called Moses. God said to Moses, 'Tell the people you yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.' "* Then all the people answered together and said, *'All that the Lord has spoken we will do!'"*

Then God told Moses to prepare the people because He was going to meet with them. Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the entire mountain quaked violently. When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him with thunder. Then the Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

**Exodus 19 continues,** Then the Lord spoke to Moses: *“Go down, warn the people, not to touch the mountain lest they perish. Also have the priests who approach the Lord sanctify themselves, and so they set boundaries around the mountain and consecrate it.”* So Moses went down to the people and told them and all the people were watching and hearing the thunder and the lightning flashes, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it all, they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, ‘Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but do not have God speak to us, or we will die! However, Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to **test you**, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you will not sin.’”

So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. God gave to Moses the Ten Commandments. But these Commandments are not just ten little words, but ten different areas of obedience and moral living for His people to live by. In the Book of Deuteronomy we also read about these ten areas that make up God’s Commandments. They are all about loving God and loving each other. God tests us often like teachers who test their students to see what they have learned.

**Deuteronomy 8: 2-3** says, *“And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to **the test**, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you go hungry, and fed you with the manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, in order to make you understand that man shall not live on bread alone, but man shall live on everything that comes out of the mouth of the Lord.”*

God wanted to know if in their hearts, they would truly be His possession, if they would truly in their hearts, love God totally without doubt or question. Many people today think that they are free from the law. How can we be free from loving God and loving our neighbor?

### **The Ten Commandments**

We know that every government, local to federal, all have their laws. So why shouldn't God's Kingdom have its own laws? This is what the Ten Commandments are all about. Yeshua is our King and we are citizens of His Kingdom.

**Ephesians 2: 19-22** tells us, *"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Yeshua Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the entire building, tightly framed together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God through the Spirit."*

**Philippians 3:20** also says, *"For our citizenship is in heaven, and from there we eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Yeshua the Messiah."*

When it comes to the commandments **Matthew 5:17-20** says, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

For Yeshua to come and do away with the Commandments would be God cancelling the covenants. For Yeshua to abolish any part of God's Word would make Him a false prophet and teacher and would label Him a false Messiah. His life was to fulfil the Word of God. As believers we too, can not do away with any of God's

Word either, just the opposite. It now shows us that we too must live by all of God's Word.

Yeshua tells us in **Matthew 7:12-14** this, *"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."*

And this in **Matthew 7:21-23**, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness.'"*

Workers of lawlessness are those who want to be free from God's law. We find this with the Antichrist who also will be lawless. Yeshua Himself added to the Commandments. In fact, there are over 1,000 new Commandments in the New Testament.

**Matthew 5:21-26** is one of Yeshua's expanded commandments. *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny."*

And again in **Matthew 5:28-30**, *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than*

*that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."*

Today we want a seeker friendly gospel, an easy quick sermon, a life free from convictions.

**Mark 12:28-31** says this, *"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Yeshua had given them a good answer, he asked Him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' 'The most important one,' answered Yeshua, 'is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*

If we are God's children then **1 John 4:7** tells us, *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."*

Love is also the first fruit of the Holy Spirit and we too, are the first fruits as

**James 1:18** tells us, *"In the exercise of His will He gave us birth by the Word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures."*

**1 John 4:16-17** says, *"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world."*

**1 John 4:20** says, *"If someone says, 'I love God,' and yet he hates his brother or sister, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother and sister whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."*

The commandments of God which are scattered all throughout the Hebrew Scriptures and the Apostolic Scriptures are all about loving God and your neighbor.

**John 14:15** says it all, *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."*

This is what it means to be a child of God, This is what it means to be a royal priesthood before God's altar. This is what the result of our salvation should be, to look like God and speak like God, and we must first act like God, this is what the commandments are all about.

**1 Peter 2:9-10** says this to us, to those who have been grafted in, *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*

If God showed us mercy then we must show others mercy. Remember this, Yeshua is the Word of God. That means He encompasses God's commandments.

Let's look at this once again in **Exodus 19**. *"Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."* God made a covenant with the people, a covenant that He would be their God and they would be His people. God, King, Ruler of a kingdom, and a Father to His people, tells them that they would be a kingdom of Priests worshiping at His altar if they obediently followed His covenant. He starts off by saying *"I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other God."*

We know that the people sinned right from the start. They broke their word to God when they made the golden calf and worshiped it. But if that was not bad enough, they refused to go into the land. After all that the people had seen, the destruction of Egypt by the plagues and Pharaoh's army destroyed and the parting of the water, food and water provided for them and their livestock, but their unbelief topped it all.

**Romans 11: 19-22** says, *"You will say then, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off."*

So God had to punish them severely. Instead of just passing through the wilderness, they were in the wilderness forty years because of their refusal to obey the covenant God made with them. While Israel was in the wilderness they made the sanctuary to remind them of the day when God met them at the mountain of Sinai and made a covenant with them. But even with this constant reminder, they still did not believe.

**1 John 2:3-6** says, *"By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever follows His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says that he remains in Him ought, himself also, walk just as He walked."*

**1 John 5:3** also says, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."*

### **The Sabbath**

But we say that the commandments are for the Jews, especially keeping the seventh day Sabbath. When God set apart the seventh day as holy at Creation, there were no Jewish people. We say that when God gave the commandments to the Jewish people at Mt. Sinai, there were only Jews, but this is not true. There was a mix of people who left with Israel and some of them were God Fearers who even believed in the One True God.

**Genesis 2:1-3** says this, *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, along with everything in them. On the seventh day God was finished with His work which He had made, so He rested on the seventh day from all His work which he had made. God blessed the seventh day and separated it as holy; because on that day God rested from all His work which He had created, so that it itself could produce."*

**Exodus 20: 8-10** says this, *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male slave or your female slave, or your cattle, or the foreign person who stays with you."*

Even the animals were not to do any work. Actually most believers did keep the Sabbath till the Fifth Century. It was people like Emperor Constantine of Rome who changed many of the dates and times.

The Bible speaks of Noah's righteousness in **Hebrews 11:7**, *"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*

Noah and his family rested in the ark knowing that God would care for them. When we keep God's Commandments, we too, become the heirs of righteousness by faith. When we keep the seventh day Sabbath we by faith know that God will take care of us and we also become a witnesses that says, My God is the Creator of heaven and earth and the sign is in the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath, as He rested, we also rest, like father, like children. Let us put away our foreign gods and stop worshiping the golden calf like they did in the wilderness after they told God that they would do all that He has said. We can not be like the world.

**James 4:4** says, *"You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the **world** is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the **world** makes himself an enemy of God."*

**1 John 2:15** also says, *"Do not love the **world** nor the things in the **world**. If anyone loves the **world**, the love of the Father is not in him."*

**1 John 2:17**, *"The **world** is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues to live forever."*

We must be holy and set-apart and one of the ways to be set apart is to keep the commandments and live for the One True God. We can only be holy if we ourselves do as He did and rested on the seventh day, for He set it apart and made it holy. Yeshua never told His people to no longer keep the Sabbath. Paul never told his people to now begin keeping the first day. Yeshua came to keep the commandments and He even expanded them. No, none of these people ever changed one letter of God's Word, but Emperor Constantine did. So how do you keep the Sabbath? Well, to begin with, we must remember the Sabbath. We must

remember the Creator and we must spend some time praising Him and blessing His name, even doing good on the Sabbath. There are so many people in need one way or another. In time you will come to enjoy the Sabbath and it will be a blessing to you and the Holy Spirit will guide you till you will be looking forward to the Sabbath. Yet we say that Paul kept the Sunday Sabbath, but did he?

**Acts 20:7** says *“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.”*

You must understand that when the sun goes down on the Lunar Calendar it becomes the next day, but not so on our calendar. Paul and the people with him would have celebrated Havdalah which is a service to end the Sabbath and that is why they were gathered. But because Paul was leaving, he continued to speak with them. We say that Yeshua rose from the grave on the first day of the week. Yeshua did rise, but after the Sabbath had ended. They had to rush to bury Him before the Sabbath began and they couldn't even prepare Him until after the Sabbath as

**Matthew 28: 1-7** says, *“Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. And His appearance was like lightning, and His clothing as white as snow. The guards shook from fear of him and became like dead men. And the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Yeshua who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”*

But Yeshua tells us this in **Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28, and Luke 6:5**, *“The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”*

The Sabbath, like Sukkot, represents our eternal home. It is our faith in God that allows us to rest (trust) in Him. Remember Noah's name meant rest, and that is what they did on the ark, through faith they rested in the Lord Yeshua, (salvation)

and were saved. We have been grafted into Israel and that means the covenants also. When we come into God's presence we must come with that in mind, because even though Yeshua's death tore the curtain that does not mean that this place was made less holy. So if the Ten Commandments were kept in the most holiest place, then we must ask ourselves, "if the keeping of God's Commandments makes us holy (set-apart), then shouldn't we be careful to keep them?"

**1 Peter 3:15-16** says, *"Your heart should be holy and set apart for the Lord God. Always be ready to tell everyone who asks you why you believe as you do. Be gentle as you speak and show respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Messiah may be put to shame."*

**Deuteronomy 4: 4-8** says, *"But you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today. See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?"*