

The Ten Commandments (Part 3). The First Commandment: You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me (2/5/2022)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/kj3x6wb/the-ten-commandments-part-1>.

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

Last week we broke into the very first words that all of Israel (every man, woman and child) heard come forth from the mouth of God. And what they were was a declaration, a declaration of grace. We read this in Exodus 20:2 - *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."*

Before God declares anything; before He tells them what they should and shouldn't do, He draws all of Israel's attention to, *"Look to me, I am your God, I set you free, I broke the pride of Pharaoh's power. My grace has come upon you and because of this I am now going to bring you into My Word. I'm going to bring you into My righteousness, into these Commandments."* And God's expectation was that they would immediately obey; that they would cling to his word, without fail, without compromise. This is God's expectation, and interestingly God revealed this expectation in the front end of this as He sent Moses and Aaron to talk to Pharaoh. We are told this in Exodus 9:1, *"Then the Lord said to Moshe; 'Go into Pharaoh and tell him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews,'"* and He says, *"Sal-lah 'et 'am-mi" -- "Let my people go."*

Pay attention here because this is the reference God is going to deliver. He is not asking Pharaoh's permission. This is going to happen; He is commanding it. God is commanding His grace to fall upon his people. But it's interesting, God even revealed to Pharaoh *why* He is going to pour his grace on his people. He says this: *"That they may serve me."* That is why. And you want to talk about an amazing revelation here. Let this sink in for a moment: the fact that God has brought them to the mountain and He poured out His grace -- it was for a purpose. It was for them to serve Him. The way that's articulated, the way we understand it, is The Ten Commandments. That is what it means to serve the Lord. This is an amazing thought because now you can start to do your own little audit on whether or not you're really serving the Living God. You just start going through the Commandments asking, *"Am I in line with the Word?"*

The apostle Paul picks this up in Romans, chapter 6. And he says, *"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."* Romans 6:14

This passage is unfortunately mutilated in today's progressive Christianity. As many Christians look at this they believe (and they will attempt to convince you as well) that what's being spoken here is that Paul is antinomian, that he is anti-law. That Paul's interpretation of grace and the truth is that because God's

grace has come, now we are to rebel, if you will. We are to reject the Torah; we are to reject the Commandments of the Living God (this is the thought). Now, it is interesting as we look and break this down for a moment, **“For sin shall not have dominion over you”**.

Paul gives us the very definition of what it means to be under Law. It means sin has dominion over you, that you are in bondage. So, if you want to truly understand what it means to be under Law, it means you are habitually sinning and you're not free from doing that, and Paul recognizes this. But that's the beauty of Yeshua, His faithfulness and compassion, He is the grace of God. He breaks the pride of the power of HaSatan over you. So we are now under Yeshua, we're now under grace.

But does that mean we reject the Law? Is that the calling of grace? Well, Paul goes on and he says this in Romans 6:15, **“What then? Shall we sin...”** What's sin? The actual definition, the biblical definition we're given in 1 John, is it is **“lawlessness”**. Okay, it is a rejection of the law. So, think of this when he says, **“What then?” Shall we [reject the Law] because we are not under law but under grace?”** The devil would say **“Absolutely! That's exactly right! That's the point of grace, to run away from the Law.”** But Paul says, **“Certainly not!”** That's the exact opposite. See, he throws this anchor. He knew what he said in verse 14 could be taken and twisted and brought to an area it was never intended to go, that men would twist these words. So, he throws this anchor statement in, and now he continues in verse 16 and says in Romans 6:16, **“Do you not know that to whom you present yourself slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin”** (again lawlessness= rejecting the law) **“leading to death,”**.

I'm going to tell you right now, if you want to reject the Commandments of God, if you want to reject his voice, I promise, it will lead you to death. But interestingly, he goes on and says, **“...or of obedience leading to righteousness.”** Obedience to what? The very thing we're covering in this series; obedience to The Commandments of God. So, what he's expressing here is a very elementary concept. What he's telling us is, whoever you obey, that's the one you serve.

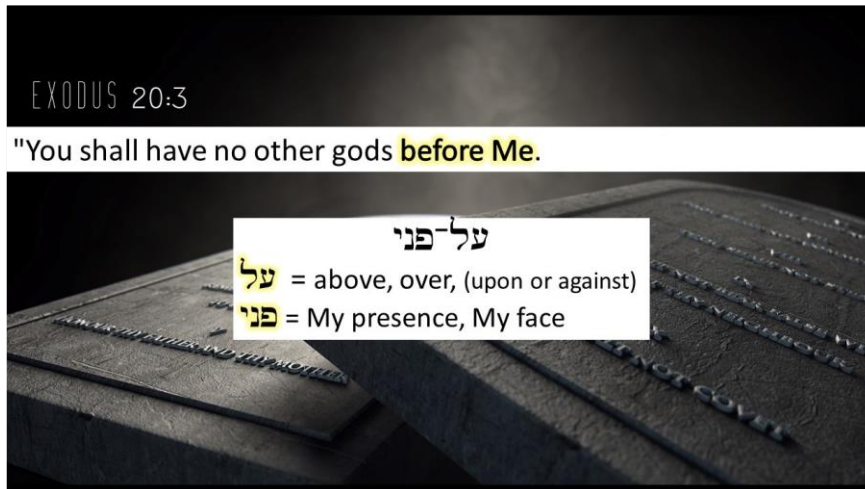
Again, if you do an audit and you start going through, looking at your life and matching it up against the Word, and find out who you are in the Lord (because I'm going to tell you, it's a scary thing once you put this book up against your life, you don't feel so big anymore) and you can find the answer to, **“Who am I really listening to?”** because I can tell you, if you're not listening to God, if you're not listening to his words, (make no mistake) you're not serving Him. You do not serve God, you serve another -- another master. And there's only one other, it's the devil -- the god of this age. That's a reality (let's be honest) none of us want to believe, none of us want to be confronted with. It's our human nature to sweep our ugly stuff under the rug and pretend it doesn't exist. But the Word of God brings that out. That's the importance of these Commandments -- to keep us in line.

And so, I think of Matthew 7. We referenced this just briefly last week. Here you have this great deception of all these Christians -- they're sitting before the Lord (Yeshua) at the end of the age, and they're expecting to get in. That's their expectation. **“Hey, we were sold out and radical for the gospel; we (probably) proclaimed the name of Jesus to all; we went out, we cast out demons in the name of Jesus; we prophesied in the name of Jesus; we did many wonders in the name of Jesus; we did all these things.”** And they are calling on him, **“Lord, Lord, let us in,”** and He said they're not going to get in. **“Depart from Me, I never knew you.”** **“Because you practiced lawlessness; your interpretation of grace was totally perverted and twisted; you thought that I came to die so that you could go sin; that's not why I came. I came for you so that you could have life; have it more abundantly; so that you would walk in My Commandments; and that you would seek Me -- that you would follow Me.”**

And think of John 8, another great radical revelation for a group of Jews that are having a discourse with Yeshua. And in that discourse, in their own mind, they have no identity crisis. They literally declare to Him and they say, "God is our Father." Furthermore, they say "We are descendants of Abraham, we know who we are, this is who we are." Yeshua's response was, "If you're descendants of Abraham, you would do the works that Abraham did." He totally flipped their whole world upside down and then exploded it when he told them that God isn't their Father, (actually) your real Father is the devil.

Can you imagine being a religious Jews? In their minds they are God-fearing Jews who loved the God of Israel, who they (themselves) see as the representatives of the God of Israel here on planet earth. This is how they see it. Then suddenly, you have this radical Jew coming out, who many people are following, and say "You are of your Father the devil." He said that because the desires that your father wants to do, you want to do also. It always comes down to the works, to the obedience, to discover who you are, who your identity is.

Now with that said, I want to break into the First Commandment here. And I'm going to tell you, you know what we're embarking on right now with Commandment Number One -- this is a massive topic. This particular Commandment has many masks that it wears, there are many layers that need to be peeled back. And so, we're going to have to be a little patient with this particular Commandment. We're going to peel back layer after layer because there are different aspects to this that we need to appreciate if we're really going to fully embrace what is being commanded in verse 3, which is the following: Exodus 20:3, "You shall have no other gods before Me." In the Hebrew it's, "al- pa-na-ya" as you look at "before Me."



And I want to talk a little bit about this because I want to make sure that you understand what this is *not* saying. You know when you look at the preposition "al-" (it's placement right) -- it's a particular placement. It's "above". It could be "upon". It could be "over". But you're not to have any gods *over* me or *above* me. I want you to understand what God is *not* saying. He is not saying, "Hey, as long as you have Me, Yahweh, above all the other things in your life, above all the other gods -- it's okay that you have other gods in your life, just as long as I'm number one." Understand this: that is *not* what is being communicated here.

I want to take you back to the first century Josephus -- first century Jewish historian/pharisee; expert in the Law, who knew his Tanakh well. Looking at this First Commandment, look at how he understands the words we're reading right on the screen here: "The First Commandment teaches us that there is but one

God, and that we ought to worship Him only," Josephus Antiquities. Josephus is very clear; I agree with these words. What is being conveyed: you're not to have any other gods before me. No, there is only one God, there is no one else. It's Him alone and only. He gets worship. He's not going to share it.

I think of the Septuagint, the translation of this very verse: "You will not have other gods except Me." LXX. God is not willing to share His glory. He's not. He says in Isaiah 45:22, "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."

And this is what God wants you to realize. Do you want salvation? You have to come to God. If you want hope; you want grace; you want healing; you want truth; and you want favor -- you have to go to Him alone. No one else. You can trust in Him, and that's why I love what is said in Jeremiah 17, "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord." Where we (even) can make gods out of other human beings, God is not okay with that. He is not going to share His glory; He wants you to trust in no one else. Isaiah 42:8 says. "I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images." He's not going to do it. He will not share His glory.

You want to take that in, because if we're out-of-step on this Commandment (and you'll get a sense of it today), you're going to find out this is not the place you want to be in relationship with God -- being out of step in this Commandment. This is as serious as it gets. In Exodus 34:14 we read, "For you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

And this is my point, you want to push God's buttons. He has certain buttons you can push that He doesn't take kindly to. If you want to drive Him into an inferno of rage, this is the best way to do it. Start to give glory to another god, start to trust (even) in other human beings rather than God, and find out what happens. I think of Asa in 2 Chronicles 16. Asa is diseased in the feet. Asa is a man that had God work in his life and deliver him. But it says when he became diseased, he went and put his trust in the physicians. And the next thing you read is, well, Asa died. That's what happens. When we don't get a response from God, you want to put your trust in someone -- in another god. This is dangerous. We will put this into context. Proverbs 6:34, "For jealousy is a husband's fury; therefore, he will not spare in the day of vengeance."

He is known as El Qanna, the God who's jealous. He is a jealous God and jealousy, understand (we've talked about this maybe in the last year or two), is in a category all its own. In fact, I'll put this up here, in Proverbs 27:4, "Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?"

Okay, wrath is bad, cruel, and it is horrible. When you think about wrath and cruelty, it's horrible. Jealousy is above that. How do you even comprehend that? It lays this out so that you understand. You want to mess with the Lord; you want to have an adulterer's heart -- because that's what it is -- that's what the Lord likens idolatry to (putting other gods before him). It is an adulterous act and drives Him insane. There's no wiggle room here.

I think about married couples. Wives, could you imagine you and your spouse? You guys are going to a big group of people and all sudden you see your husband walk off, he's calling another woman his wife, and he's putting his arm around her and laughing with her. You would lose your ever-loving minds! The same thing with husbands. If you saw your wives do the same, it doesn't even calculate. It's insane! You're supposed to be *my* bride, or (for you wives), you're supposed to be *my* husband. This is what you see. Do you not understand how jealous God is for you, how possessive He is of his church? He's very protective.

He does not want to share, and He wants our full attention. He wants our full heart. And so, you see right at the front end of the Ten Commandments, you see the heart of the Lord. The Lord is bearing his heart. We'll get more into that probably next week, but this is a heart thing. We get to know Him, and He is sensitive. The Lord is sensitive in this area.

Now, with that said, I want to begin to peel back some of these layers that I'm talking about, and I want to do this (at least to begin with), in a very unorthodox way. And what I want to do is take you back into ancient documents and ancient inscriptions, as to how the pagans viewed their gods (the expectations that the pagans put upon their gods), so that you can see this discourse -- how the prophets, the priests, the followers of these pagan idols (which drive the Lord insane), how they interacted with them. I have a purpose in doing this. Part of that purpose is to get some real perspective as to what God feels and what God's doing, and there are a few other things that I want to bring to the table.

What I want to open with is what is known as The Prayer to Marduk (or in Hebrew "*Merodak*"). This guy is mentioned in the book of Jeremiah. There's an allusion (indirect reference) to him in Isaiah. He is what is known as (and this is going to be important that you hear me out here) a "chief god" -- meaning a god above gods. Listen to how his followers, this god of Babylon (who may make you think of Nebuchadnezzar) worshiped him and what they thought, "*O warrior Marduk, whose anger is the deluge, whose relenting is that of a merciful father.*"

Now, this is just the start. There are three things that you will notice right on the front end. Number one: "*O warrior Marduk,*" Here is what I know, when I go to scripture, when I go to Exodus 15:3, is that "*Adonai 'ish mil-cha-Mah*" "*The Lord is a man of war.*" Yahweh is a man of war. Interesting how this begins with that Marduk is a man of war.

We move on: "*...whose anger is the deluge,*" This is attributing the flood (the great flood) to this false god Marduk. Okay, so he's a man of war; he's responsible for the flood, and then it says, "*...whose relenting is that of a merciful father.*"

Everything you just read can be found in scripture, but it is of Yahweh. Are you starting to pick up why the Lord would turn into a raging inferno? These statements are to be reserved for Him alone, and yet this is being exalted to a demon. That's exactly what Satan wants. And put this into context, we continue the insanity, "*Oh great lord Marduk, merciful lord,*" All these terms are explicitly biblical.

We move on: "*Forget what I did in my youth, whatever it was, let your heart not well up against me! Absolve my guilt, remit my punishment!*" What does that sound like? It sounds like I'm in the Psalms. If I were to take the Marduk off the page some of you would think I'm reading something in the Bible. Actually, Psalm 25:7 does say this. David comes out, "*Do not remember the sins of my youth.*" It literally says what we're reading here. And looking for mercy -- the followers of this Marduk were looking to be forgiven; they were looking for grace. That is an amazing, shocking thing.

We move on: "*Let me stand before you always in prayer, supplication, and entreaty, let the fruitful peoples of a well-ordered land praise you!*" These followers were committed! These followers of this Marduk were fully committed. And look at these words, the cry is: "*Let me stand* (it is a privilege to stand) *before you always in prayer,*" What does Yeshua say? Men ought to always pray? Paul says, "*Pray without ceasing.*" I mean, these are biblical! Every single thing in here is 100% biblical. However, in the wrong context unfortunately.

One of the things that I want you to appreciate right here is this: there is something (clearly as you comb through history in humanity) in human nature that is driven to worship a higher power. There's something innate.

The other thing I want you to appreciate is this: the servants of Merodak (or Marduk) -- they were fully committed. And the thing that makes me gasp as I read this (and you can read other literature in ancient history -- we'll look at a few others), the thing that makes me sick, is that I have to witness pagans worshipping demons with more commitment than Christians are willing to give to the One True God. That is disgusting.

How many of you heard John Ramirez's testimony? One of the things that he will tell you, as a satanist who worships Satan, is that he spent all night in prayer and fasting to the devil to worship him, to draw close to him. And it blew his mind when he came and found out how weak Christians were, where they can't even go to church for an hour; they can't pray for an hour. It was pathetic. Yet, you have satanists on their knees worshipping with greater commitment. It is disgusting. Do you understand why the Lord is losing it; why he would lose it over idolatry? This whole world's upside down. That commitment is to belong to Yeshua. That commitment belongs to the God of Israel (Amen).

I'm going to move on, this is Prayers to the Gods of Night: [“Gods of the land, goddesses of the land, Shamash, Sin, Adad, Ishtar are gone off to the lap of heaven.”](#) Now the one thing I want you to draw your attention to is this is taking you into the heavens. Shamash is the sun, it's the sun god. Sin is the moon god. Adad is the weather in the heavenlies. Then you have Ishtar, who is the queen of heaven and considered to be the stars of Venus. So, you literally have the heavenlies and you have this situation where this move, this Akkadian move, to worship the heavenlies.

In light of that, let me put up Deuteronomy 4. This is what we read in the Torah: Deuteronomy 4:19, [“And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun \(Shamash\), the moon \(as known here is Sin\), and the stars \(which would Adad and also Ishtar\), all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them.”](#)

Why, pray tell, is this even included in the Torah? Why does God have to include a warning that you don't dare be compelled; don't be drawn in to worship the sun and the moon and the stars if there wasn't a threat? Do you understand? The Lord knows. There is a draw, your flesh and blood (which will not inherit the Kingdom of God) has a natural move to move away from the Lord and to grab hold of other things, of idols. It's natural. And then you add the compelling sophisticated deception that the enemy sows, and makes everything look beautiful, just as he turned Eve to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil -- to look at it, to gaze upon it, to suck her in to partake of its fruit. There is a real threat.

It is not a coincidence that God begins the Ten Commandments with, [“You should have no other gods before Me.”](#) Here's the deal, if you listen to that Commandment, everything else will fall into line; you would never be in this predicament. You'd never be calling on demons. You would never be making gods out of things that the Lord himself spoke into existence out of His breath. You would never do it, but yet he has to start there because there's a real threat. Humanity has something within them, and that is their driving to worship that which is not the Lord. This is scary, scary stuff.

It goes on in Prayers to the Gods of Night: [“The true judge, father to the orphaned, Shamash has gone off his bedchamber.”](#) I keep showing this, these are biblical terms. The true judge is Yahweh. End of discussion. That's the truth, this is a biblical reality -- He's the true Judge/Father to the orphaned. Have

you read Psalm 27 where David says, “When my mother and father forsake me, Yahweh will take care of me,”? He's a father to the orphan, and now this demon is getting the glory that belongs to God alone, and that's exactly what the devil wants.

I'm telling you right now, you can peel back all the interesting biblical discussions, and what it comes down to is this very simple thing: the battle for worship. God wants to be worshipped. Why do you think he gave the Ten Commandments? He wants to be worshipped, and it is an outline of how to worship the Lord. Guess what? The devil wants to be worshipped, and he will take what God desires, and attempt to take it for himself to turn you away from the one true God. That is demonic, and it's deadly. He knows what it's going to mean for you.

Going to this Shamash hymn - Prayers to the Gods of Night -- The Shamash Hymn, “Illuminator of all, the whole heaven, who makes light the darkness for mankind above and below, Shamash, illuminator of all, the whole heaven!”

Again, we find biblical terms, because you just need to go to scripture, and what you find is Yeshua comes in the world and says, “I am the light of the world.” When you go to the end of Revelation, we find out the New Yerushalayim, the age to come, needs no sun or moon because the Lord God and The Lamb illuminate it. That's the true light of the world. However, here the devil is taking that glory that belongs only to God and moving it to focus on him

Continuing, Prayers to the Gods of Night -- The Shamash Hymn, “You heed, O Shamash, prayer, supplication, and blessing, obeisance, kneeling, whispered prayer, and prostration.” This is unbelievable. While I'm showing this, you have to understand something: these people that were worshiping these false gods, they were serious, they were dead serious. These were people of faith; the problem is they were putting their faith in demons. But they were people of faith, and they acted upon it. They served them, and you could see that they served them in their actions.

I think of these words, “O Shamash, prayer and supplication”. This is in the very same order; this is what Paul says in Philippians 4:6 -- that we're to continue in prayer and supplication, but to the Lord.

I'm going to show you one more, and then I can't take any more -- I mean that. But this one we're going to bring into the New Testament, and this is where we're going to hit a crescendo. In Cleanthes, Hymn Of Praise To Zeus it states, “Most glorious of immortals! Many-named, almighty and forever, thee, O Zeus! Sovereign over nature, guiding with thy hand all things that are, we greet with praises. Thee 'Tis meet that mortals call with one accord, for we thine offspring are, and we alone of all that live and move upon this earth, receive the gift of imitative speech.”

Soak in what is highlighted here, because we're going to go to the New Testament. Paul is going to visit Athens, and he's going to be provoked in his spirit because he sees the men of Athens are completely given over to idols. And Paul, ironically enough, is going to start quoting their own poets, their own Greek philosophers, and their own priests who are the ones that would write this very stuff. To name a couple: Cleanthes, and we could add Epimenides to the list. Paul is going to draw this out and literally bring this to the table. Look what he says in Acts 17, verse 28, “For in Him” (not *in Zeus*, Paul is bringing correction - he is saying *in the God of Israel*), “...we live and move and have our being.”

Okay, exactly what is said here in the green from Paul is the exact same statement made by Epimenides. Paul brings it to the attention of the Athenians, **“As also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’”** Acts 17:28

It is such a beautiful thing that Paul does, and this is why this is the crescendo. Paul is saying, *“Your words are good, the words are right -- in the right context.”* And so, he shifts them over to the God of Israel, and he continues and says this, **“Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.”** Acts 17:29

And then we have the crescendo, **“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,”** Acts 17:30

Do you see it? Do you see what I see? Notice, we came to a specific time in history, **“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked,”** You just looked at all the ignorance, I just put up on the screen one after another of these hymns and these praises unto false gods. Paul comes on the scene and says, **“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked,”** but something happened because now he commands all men everywhere to repent. Put it all together, what happened? **“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”** The grace of God was poured out, and now what does He command? Note that He doesn't ask -- this isn't a suggestion. He commands all to repent, as in, move to the Commandments. And the very First Commandment Paul lays out is idolatry -- turn from your wicked idols. Paul goes to the very First Commandment. This is repentance; repentance is the Commandments of God. For us to embrace the Commandments, we must go to His Commandments.

I want to take this discussion to a whole other level and show you what happens when idolatry takes another form. I mean, everything we just covered that is straight-forward idolatry. It's very simple: you're worshipping a demon. It's not complicated. But Satan is much too sophisticated to leave it at that, because if he can't get you to do that, he will come in and rework the situation. What happens when you take a whole lot of good, and you begin to mix it with a little that is not so good? What do you have then? You have what they call *“syncretism”*.

I want to take you back to 800 B.C. around the time of Joash, when Joash was King of Israel. In that time there was a particular temple-like area that people would visit. And we know this because in 1975 an archaeologist from Tel Aviv University, Institute of Archaeology, Ze'ev Meshel, went out to a place known as *Kuntillet 'Ajrud*.



Kuntillet 'Ajrud

He's leading this expedition, and what he found was incredible. He found this ancient sight, but within this ancient site he found ancient inscriptions in early Hebrew, and there were a few in Phoenician. But many of the inscriptions were ancient Hebrew, and he discovers these pithoi, these big storage jars, and on them were two inscriptions that will blow your mind. The first is from Pithos A, which is just how they label this first storage jar. This is what it says, I hope you're sitting down, ["I have blessed you to Yahweh of Samaria and His Asherah."](#) [The Inscriptions - Pithos A](#)

I want to be clear on one thing for you to truly appreciate what this is saying. Scholars across the board do not debate the meaning of this. When you see the Yod-Hay-Vav-Hay used all the way from ancient Hebrew, or ancient Egypt, all the way as Israel is going into that time of the Promised Land -- every single time *"Yahweh"* is explicit and exclusively used only of the God of Israel. No other god has taken that name, and you can see how God would defend his Holy Sanctified Name, Amen.

Now when you understand that this puts this into a completely different context because we're not talking about a pagan god. This is not Zeus, this is the God of Israel. This is Israel's God *"Yahweh,"* and now a blessing is being commissioned in the name of Yahweh and his *Asherah*. When you understand who Asherah was (this goddess who was worshiped, a pagan goddess), then this statement gets taken to a whole other level. What do I mean? Asherah was a consort of the chief deity, the first chief deity. Who she was a consort of was *El*. El was the *"god of gods,"* so you have to understand that Asherah is always paired with the chief, the highest god, the god of gods. When El fell out of favor, a new one (Asherah and El's son -- one of the sons, they had 70 apparently -- one that you know by name: *"Baal"*), rose up. And as Baal comes to prominence in the land, guess who becomes his consort, because he's the chief god above all gods? It is Asherah.

Do you understand what that means? When you see this, and I'm going to tell you what it means, it means Israel, in their mind (and totally convinced and compelled) were upholding Yahweh as the chief deity. He is the God of all gods -- it says it in the Torah. He's the God of gods and the Lord of lords, so therefore, it's okay if we bring Asherah in because it's always natural for her to be the consort of the one true god. You can see how in their mind they would think, *"We're still exalting Yahweh, but we're just getting a little politically correct; we're getting a little progressive."* We thought that this was unique to our generation, but oh, no. Can you imagine how Israel is being surrounded by all these pagan practices? Asherah was very much so being worshiped, and they still upheld Yahweh to the highest of heights. They were probably thinking: *"Can you just think of the peace that this will bring between all of us, as we introduce a little bit of the bad and bring this in?"*

Let me show you what the second one says, this is even crazier, ["I have blessed you to Yahweh of Teman and His Asherah. May he bless you and keep you"](#) [The Inscriptions - Pathos B](#) So they sang the priestly blessing over them in the name of not just Yahweh but his Asherah. That's deception my friends. And just to be clear that they're talking about the Yahweh of scripture, let's put up Habakkuk 3:3, **"God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran,"** He came from Teman -- this is in scripture. The prophets record this: *"He came from Teman."* So, we are seeing Yahweh of Teman and His Asherah bless you. There's no debate we're talking about the one, true Yahweh. That is what's so debilitating about learning about this. It's insane.

What is going on? How does this stuff happen? I'm going to tell you how this happens. It's the same way it happens today: the Word of God loses its luster in your life. There's a time when you start looking at the Word of God as more suggestive than instructive. There's a time when you start to read the Word of God and there are things in there that you really don't appreciate, so you spend less time in it. It speaks less to

you while the world speaks louder. There comes a time in your life when you just start to doubt it. That's how this stuff happens. It's when you don't cling, when you don't hang on, to that. Why does the Lord say you're to talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up?

Why am I always supposed to do this? It's supposed to be in the forefront of my mind; we need to keep it there. You need to do these things because your flesh, if given a moment on its own, is gone. It will lead you right into the gates of hell. It is demonic. Your flesh is bent on going to hell unless you fight it. Unless you fight that fight and you stay here, you're going to get whipped -- you're not going to make it.

Let me build on this because this to me is one of the scariest forms of idolatry that you'll ever come across. I want to take you to the Book of Jeremiah, chapter 7. This is what we read, **“Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit.”** Jeremiah 7:8 The verse says that you are trusting in a lie. What did Eve do? How did Satan get Eve to screw up and get Adam and Eve to die? He got her to trust in the lie by telling her it's okay to break the Commandment of God. *“You can eat of the tree; you will surely not die; there's no judgment; don't worry about it.”* Yet in this verse, the Lord is making it known that you are trusting in a lie right now.

What is the lie? We find out as we continue in Jeremiah 7:8, **“Will you steal”** (What is that? That's the Eighth Commandment), **“will you murder”** (Sixth Commandment), **“will you commit adultery”** (Seventh Commandment), **“swear falsely”** (Ninth Commandment), **“will you burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know”** (First and arguably Second Commandment).

He just went through the whole, almost all, Ten Commandments. He lays out the whole Ten Commandments. He says, you're trusting in a lie. They're not keeping them. This is the issue the Lord has. And again, the Lord could have brought anything to the table at this time in His rebuke to Israel, but He goes to the *Aseret Ha'Devarim*; to The Ten Commandments. But then He says this in verse 10: **“And then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations?’”**

In other words, you're breaking My Ten Commandments freely, but you're coming into My house to worship me. You keep coming in as though there is nothing wrong. And then the Lord adds something that is absolutely mind-blowing, He says this, **“We are delivered to do all these abominations?”** The Lord gives you insight into what they're thinking, into their heart, and why this is happening. It's because they literally believe, and are telling themselves, *“We're under grace because we've been delivered. You brought us in.”* We could go to the Targums where I can prove this interpretation. The Targums uphold it; there's no debate. But all you have to do is keep reading in Jeremiah, and you will find out what I'm saying to you is true.

The very discussion that Yeshua is having with a particular group of Jews in John, chapter 8 is a discussion He has already had before. He had it back in Jeremiah 7. In fact, as you go on in Jeremiah, there will be ones coming out against Jeremiah. They're saying, *“How dare you speak against us, against our nation, and against this temple? God brought us into this land, and God will deliver us.”* False prophets rose up and said, *“Yahweh is on our side.”* Is this not concerning? So here you have this whole situation where they really believed they are fine because *“We are under grace; we're delivered to do all these abominations. It's okay if we do these things.”* You know, that's one of those moments where I say, you can't make that stuff up.

Moving to Jeremiah 7:11, “Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it, says the Lord.”

When I read this, I think of Paul's words in Galatians 2:17, “For if while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not!” Paul sends that warning out; that warning is the very echo of what happened here and in Jeremiah 7. You’ve got Christians flooding into church every Sunday, week after week, who honestly believe they’re under grace -- but they’ve rejected the Grace of God. They don't testify to it because they’re not heeding his Commandments. They've thrown them out and said, “*We don't need them.*” We've seen this play out before, and it doesn't play out well.

The scariest part of this is that when you see God's people who call upon Him, who call upon His name, living like this saying, “*We're under grace so that we can live like hell,*” when you see that -- judgment is at the door. Judgment is at the door in Jeremiah 7. You will want to see how this is going to play out. All hell is about to break loose. It's about to break loose; this is as serious as it gets.

We jump to Jeremiah 7:17, “Do you not see what they do in the cities of Yehuda and in the streets of Yerushalayim? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the woman knead dough, to make cakes” (for what?), “for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger?” She also goes by the name Astarte, Ashtoreth, and Ishtar. They were calling upon the Queen of Heaven. Do you know why they added the Queen of Heaven to Yahweh like Israel had added Asherah to Yahweh? They wanted the blessing; they wanted favor. They began to put their trust in a pagan goddess in addition to Yahweh.

This is the deception: if you have Yahweh as the chief God, it is all good. We can then also lift up the Queen of Heaven. To say the deception is thick here is an understatement. Even scarier than all of that is when you look at what is literally going on here, and you look at particular churches today, you can see the exact same thing literally happening that we see unfolding in Jeremiah 7.

And what do I mean? Well let's jump into the Roman Catholic realm. Let me preface: we love our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters. I have family who belong to this church; we love these people. But here is a system that HaSatan has corrupted. One of the things you will notice, unfortunately, that our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters have been deceived in is this practice of the worship of Mary. They pray to Mary; they depend upon her for intercession. This is a reality. My dad's side of the family is Roman Catholic, and so I kind of grew up in in this environment. What's going on there is they hold Mary in the highest regards, and they depend upon her. Do you know what she's called? “*The Regina Caeli.*” I could just think of my dad's side in Italian saying, “*The Regina Caeli*”. She's literally called “*The Queen of Heaven.*”

I'm going to share with you a prayer that is said. There are a lot of prayers that are recorded for Mary that Catholics all over the world will participate in together. This one is *The Regina Caeli*; this is *The Queen of Heaven Prayer*. Before I get into it, let me add something here: it boggles the mind knowing that historically we know the Queen of Heaven is Ishtar. Did you know that this particular prayer I'm going to show you replaces *The Angelus Prayer*, which is the regular prayer that you would normally say day after day as a Catholic? The Angelus Prayer gets replaced by The Regina Caeli on Easter/Ishtar. This prayer replaces the regular Hail Mary prayer that most of you have heard. Isn't that interesting that it would replace it during the Easter Season? We are talking about this specific prayer regarding the Queen of Heaven, who is Ishtar. With that in mind, check this out, “[Queen of heaven, rejoice alleluia. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia. Has risen as He said, alleluia.](#)” Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven) Prayer

Can I ask you something? Did Yeshua rise as He said he would? He prophesied He would rise. Where am I going with this? Satan loves to mix the beautiful truths with the unholy lies; this is what we're going to see. The beautiful truth is Yeshua has risen, but then this is the call, this is to Mary: ["Pray for us to God, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia. Regina Caeli \(Queen of Heaven\) Prayer"](#) This Prayer of The Regina Caeli replaces the regular prayer at the time of Easter/Ishtar. This is beyond nuts.

Let me show you another prayer, ["O sinner, be not discouraged \(why?\), but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities."](#) (As if to say, *"You're a sinner, you have an answer: The Queen of Heaven,"*). ["Call her to your assistance, for such as the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity."](#) [Saint Basil the Great \(Prayer\)](#)

Regarding that prayer, Saint Maximilian Kolbe says, ["Prayer is powerful beyond limits."](#) I feel like we're going back to the poems to Shamash here, because prayer is truly powerful. Would anyone dispute that? It's powerful beyond limits, but look at how they finish this off" ["When we turn to the Immaculata, who is queen even of God's heart."](#) [Saint Maximilian Kolbe](#)

This stuff that we saw back in Jeremiah 7 is happening in Christian churches today! And, this stuff was happening hundreds of years before Jeremiah 7. I can't even believe this is happening! We are taking the blessed Yeshua, the Holy One of God, and we are joining an Asherah to Him. That's demonic.

You know this: The Ten Commandments. This is where we need to be. We need to be talking about this stuff. We need to talk about God's glory, His holiness, His righteousness and things like that. We need to trust Him, and we need to pray for the people that are under this broken and perverted system that does not glorify the Lord. There are many good people in there that we love. Many are leaving Catholicism right now. Why? Because the Pope has absolutely lost it, and I praise the Lord for that, Amen.

We need to stop here. We'll pick it up next week. We will be in this area for just a little bit of time because there's many layers that we still need to go through in regard to idolatry. So, with that said, let's go into prayer.