

# The Ten Commandments - Part 4: The First and Second Commandments, How They Fit Together, Idolatry (2/12/2022)

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 preserving 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.

Shabbot Shalom

We are going to be pressing even further into this study. We are looking at the First Commandment within the aseret ha'varîm **Exodus 20:3- You shall have no other gods before Me**. This is Hebrew for The Ten Commandments (aseret ha'varîm). You're to have no other Gods except the Lord God of Israel, period. He's not going to share his glory, he's not going to share you, the Lord is very possessive over us. He doesn't want your love, your faith, your trust, your cares, or your concerns being given to someone else instead of him.

Today we're going to continue to reveal some more about this specific commandment. Remember there are a lot of situations that fall under the umbrella of this commandment. We're going to continue to peel back some layers of this commandment.

The first thing I want to do today is bring the second commandment into the discussion. In some Jewish traditions, even some Jewish writings, you will find that the first and second commandments in the ten commandments are even considered to be echad (one in Hebrew).

Let's look at the second commandment found in **Exodus 20:4—5—You shall not make for yourself a carved image- any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth, <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God....** He's El Kanna, (The Hebrew name for God meaning consuming fire, jealous God).

As you look at this you find that whether you're dealing with the luminary, which are something that God himself has made and men feel driven to worship, or you're worshiping the work of your own hands, it doesn't matter because it all falls under idolatry. You're worshiping something else, and you're given something else whether it be the luminaries, or a piece of wood, or metal, something that only belongs to the Lord God himself.

I will say there's much more to the second commandment that we are not going to get into right now. I just want to bring this in for simplicity's sake as we continue to unpack idolatry rather than try to compartmentalize these two.

I want to open today by taking you to the Apocrypha. Specifically, to the book called The Book of the Wisdom of Solomon. Typically, it's just referred to as the Book of Wisdom. This is a prolific book. This is a book that reads very much like the book of Proverbs. It has a lot of kick to it. It covers a lot of ground. It gets into eschatology, it gets into justice, and it gets into all this wisdom.

One of the things he also gets into is idolatry. It has multiple chapters dedicated to this topic. There's really one reason I want to take you here. There is something that is embedded within the passage that is mind-blowing. You need to have this perspective, and what I want to do is take you to this book.

Before we jump into this, I want you to understand anytime someone's taking you outside of the bible there should be some credibility. Before we jump in, I want to talk about the legitimacy of this book and how this has always been a part of Christianity where Christians, generation after generation, were immersing themselves in this book. For example, this book has been found in numerous copies of the Septuagint. Why is that important? The Greek Septuagint was the bible in the apostle's day. Even with the following generations, that was their bible.

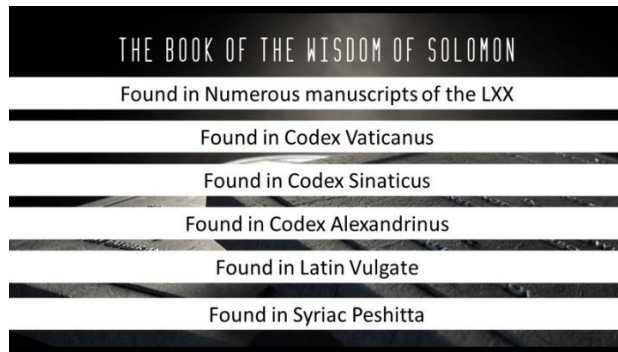
Think about Acts 17 when he comes out and it says, hey these Bereans were more noble than those in Thessalonica. Why? Because when they heard the gospel they went home and they searched the scriptures to make sure these things were so. What scriptures were they searching through? They were searching the Septuagint.

Keep in mind this is the first century church, and this is the only bible they had. Now granted, there was also the Hebrew text. As they were bringing the gospel to all the nations, including to other Jews in the diaspora (**Diaspora is the dispersion of Israelites or Jews out of their ancient ancestral homeland.**) they are reading the Septuagint. One out of every two statements made in the New Testament are directly from the Septuagint. The wording of the Septuagint is different than that of the Hebrew text. We know this for certain, and this book was included in the first bible. So that's really saying something.

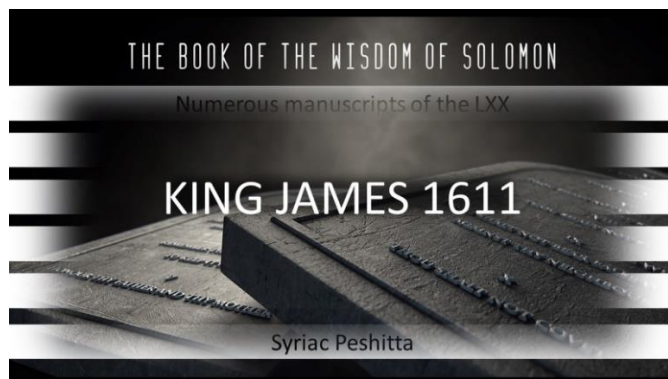
The other thing in addition to that is as you get outside the New Testament, in the first century, you have early church fathers like Clement of Rome. This guy lived in the first century. Clement of Rome would have obviously been a byproduct of Paul bringing the gospel to Rome. Clement of Rome literally quotes it as he's writing to the Corinthians, and so, it has great attestation.

Let me continue with credibility. It is found in the Codex Vaticanus; this dates to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Then you can move from the Septuagint from even the earliest of church fathers Clements of Rome. You can see it as you study the development of the lineage of Christianity going to the 4th century; this book was still being read.

We find it in The Codex Syriac, also a 4th century book, and in Codex Alexandrinus, which is about 5th century. It is also found in the Latin Vulgate, which was the reigning bible for about a thousand years in Christianity. This book was included amongst all the 66 books [of the Bible] that we read today. We find it in Syriac Peshitta, which goes back to the second century.



Then we have the Magnum Opus. You have the King James, which is probably the most prolific well-known bible in history. Right? This book was included in the 1611, the original King James Version.



So, to say that this book has some serious attestation is an understatement. This has always been read by Christians.

With that said, let's break into this. **Wisdom of Solomon 14:12-For the idea of making idols was the beginning of fornication....** I want to stop there. The idea of making idols was the beginning of fornication. In other words, think of it like this (I'll use this metaphor): through idolatry, immorality, perversion, and fornication came into the world. So, think of idolatry as the mother, and she gave birth to a daughter known as fornication. What this daughter does is she goes out into the world, and everyone who will embrace her she embraces.

Do you know what she does? She brings them back to her mother. This is the most incredible relationship. It really is, you see this relationship throughout scripture. I'm going to give you some examples. I'm going to first take you to the 25th chapter of Numbers, and many of you are familiar with the story of Balaam and Balak. Balak calls Balaam this sorcerer; he's a witch and warlock who practices witchcraft. He has great power because whoever he blesses is blessed, and whoever he curses is cursed. Balak calls him because Israel has come into his land, and he wants them to be destroyed. Balaam has the power to do it. Balaam gets there and says, "guess what? I can't do it. How can I curse that which God has blessed? They're untouchable."

He couldn't get at Israel through witchcraft. This is what is horrifying. There was another way he got to Israel. Balaam ends up counseling the women of Moab to go out and seduce Israel.

So, how did that play out? We find our answer in **Numbers 25:1-Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab.** When you read the text, it's very straightforward, very simplistic. You must appreciate the reality of how this unfolded. Israel is in the wilderness, and it is painful for them because of all the trials and tribulation they are going through, right? Then suddenly, they come up against these beautiful women of Moab. You can imagine what some of the Israelites might have been thinking, finally a blessing. Beautiful women are coming to us. Guess what? They're telling us how handsome and amazing we are. They're attracted to us. Can you blame them? They're so attracted to us; this is just amazing.

We have no idea the events that led up to Israel's compromise in having relationship with foreign women. One thing we know for certain is they got Israel's hearts, and that's what this whole message today is about. If I was to title this, it would be, Pulling on Your Heart Strings. The Moabite women got into Israel's hearts.

The enemy was plotting, he was scheming the whole time, and they didn't see it in the spiritual realm. They're looking through the eyes of flesh. They did not recognize the principle that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against power, and against spiritual host of wickedness. We're at war, and they didn't see any of it.

So, these women come out and join themselves to the men of Israel. What is the very next thing we read. **Numbers 25:2-They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.** This is what happens. Remember what I was saying in that idolatry is the mother; she gave birth to fornication and fornication (this daughter) goes out and collects everyone who will embrace her. And what does she do? She brings them all back to her mother.

It's interesting. In other words, you're going to learn something about the reality of sexual immorality and fornication; it will lead you to the land that the devil has prepared for you. And believe me, the devil has prepared a place for you.

We know Yeshua has prepared a place for us that is beautiful, holy, and eternal. Unfortunately, the devil has also prepared a place for you that is not eternal. It is a place that is cursed, and it will be condemned and judged by the living God. That is the place that the devil wants to take you. He wants to take you to the land of idolatry.

Could you imagine if the Moabites had come out and invited us saying, "Hey, why don't you guys come and sacrifice to our gods and enjoy the feast with us; sit down and we'll feed you. Just bend down and worship." That would never have happened but, when you add the elements of the women coming in to win the hearts over of these men, that's when Satan got access to bring them into a place of idolatry.

If there is one thing I've learned in the study of the word over all these decades, it is that the devil is a brilliant, military strategist; he's a brilliant tactician in the art of war. You know he is constantly scheming on how to bring you to this very place constantly, and we need to be aware of it.

Let me build on this to give you another really good example of this unique and bizarre relationship between idolatry, fornication, and immorality. As you come to 1 Kings chapter 11, we're told that

Solomon ends up taking all these foreign women as wives, and there were a lot of women. We are told he had about a thousand wives; 700 wives, 300 of them had concubines, and many of them were pagans.

Now here's the interesting thing about it; God had already warned his people that when they came into the land they were not to dare take the pagan wives to be theirs. Do not touch the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittite women. He told them not to touch them.

The beauty of it is he gives us the reason why in **Deuteronomy 7:4**— **For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods.** That is the problem. He warned them what was going to happen. They have special access to your heart; they're going to take you out. Where are they going to go? Where is this fornication? Where is this going to lead? It is going to lead to idolatry. You will serve other gods; you will compromise your faith in me. This is where it's going—the **anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.** What does the devil want? He wants to destroy you. This is how to get it done.

So, think about this. Solomon was warned; “Hey, don't do this. Don't take pagan wives because you know what, they'll turn your heart away.” And then we read this in **1 Kings 11**- **For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods.** Read this carefully, it wasn't when he was young, it was when he was old.

Now this is where you really need to pay attention to the details. This is after years of being with his wives, this is after years of interacting, really caring for them, and truly loving them. When you go back to the beginning of chapter 11 and look at the very first verse, do you know what it says? It doesn't just simply say that Solomon took pagan wives. That's not what it says, it says that he loved them! The Hebrew word is אָהַב 'āḥab. Hebrew has only the word אָהַב 'āḥab, which has been translated into English as "love". He loved many foreign women. He loved them.

Do you know the first time that term was used? It was Abraham's love for Isaac. The second time it was used is for Isaac's love for Rebecca. Then it is used with Solomon. Solomon loved them, he truly cared for them, and this is where the devil is absolutely ruthless. He utilized that in Solomon's old age.

All of you husbands who have been married 10, 20, or 30 years should recognize that you should love your wives now more than you've ever loved your wives. Am I correct? Absolutely. So why would Solomon be different?

Can we talk about something? Solomon was the most anointed man on the earth. He was the wisest man; the guy was anointed as king. God showed himself to him twice. This is the man people were coming from all over the world to check out his wisdom. Are there people coming from all over the world to check out your wisdom? It's not happening to me. (Everyone laughs). None of us are experiencing this.

So, let's put this into context. You want to talk about an anointed, righteous man who is close to God, and God is close to him. He takes all these wives; and then later in his years, in his old age, he turned to idolatry. Satan was patient. It just boggles the mind how crafty our adversary is. He is absolutely vile.

Moving on to the rest of **1 Kings 11:4-** **and his heart was not loyal to the lord his god, as was the heart of his father David.** This is important because idolatry is a matter of the heart; it's a matter of loyalty. Loyalty is what God wants.

Again, you know Ephesians 5 makes it very clear that our relationship to Yeshua is a marriage. What's required in marriage is loyalty, pure and simple. And when a bride fails in that area, that's an adulterous heart. It is absolutely vile.

**1 Kings 11:5-** **For Solomon went after Ashtoreth,** we learned about the wicked goddess last week, **the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.** Now I need to stop here before we continue. One thing you need to appreciate right now is the Temple that was in Yerushalayim (Jerusalem) which Solomon built did not turn into the Temple of Milcom. It did not turn into the Temple of Ashtoreth. Solomon doesn't cease the temple services; he continues to go to service there. The Temple of Yahweh continues to function as it always had. This goes back to what we talked about last week. It goes back to that whole concept of adding to the Lord, which is way more deceptive.

Think about Zephaniah the Prophet. Zephaniah the Prophet goes out to prophesy the destruction of Jerusalem. Over 300 years after this (1Kings11:5), what does Zephaniah say? This is amazing. He says this in **Zephaniah 1:5b ...those who worship and swear oaths by the Lord....** In other words, the people in Jerusalem were calling upon the one true God of Israel. They were calling in the name of Yahweh. Then it continues, **but who also swore by Milcom....**

Do you see that one of the things we just failed to do is recognize the true deception that is involved in this. It's not simply throwing out Yahweh, throwing out our faith, or throwing out the things that we've learned. No! It's just adding to it. And the devil tells us that it is harmless; there's no harm that's going to come from doing that.

Moving on to **1 Kings 11:7a-Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab.** We just got done reading Numbers 25. What did Israel do? They got caught up with Moabite women. How did that go? Here is Solomon hundreds of years later doing the exact same thing. The most anointed man on the earth is doing the same thing! Try to process that.

And then it says this- **on the hill that is east of Yerushalayim.** Again, this is further proof that the temple didn't get overridden by Milcom, Chemosh, and other gods. That's not what happened. Solomon set up a special little area just to the east on the hill. What would that be? The Mount of Olives. And you want to know how close this is? I'm going to give you a perspective here. This is a picture of the area.



This picture is taken from the Mount of Olives, and you're looking at the temple mount. You can clearly see the temple mount. Think about this; as the worshipers of the temple are going up to worship Yahweh, and Solomon is going up to worship and offer the sacrifices that he needs to offer, he can look out and see his wives' making offerings to all these pagan gods.

Do you see this? It's a literal picture of Yahweh and his Ashura (Ashura is a day of commemoration in Islam.) It is a picture of adding these gods. It's right there; it's so close, but it wasn't put on the temple.

So, you can see how twisted the mind of flesh is and how the enemy could compel you by telling you, this is okay because you're keeping the temple. The temple is holy; this is just for Yahweh. But we will just add this over on the Mount of Olives and everything will be fine. (This is said sarcastically.)

Continuing in **1Kings11:7a- Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8 and he did likewise for all his foreign wives who burned incense and sacrifice to the gods....** In other words, what the text is alluding to is that there are many other gods who are not named that Solomon was honoring.

If you think about this, it is insane. And then this begs the question. The troubling thing for me is right here—**and for Molech**. Do you know that there's one expression of the worship of Molech. You know what that one expression is? That expression is very strong in scripture. In fact, there are two passages that it's mentioned: in Leviticus 18 and Leviticus 20. That's the only time Molech is mentioned in the Torah. And both times it is explicit; don't you dare give your descendants to Molech. Why did God say this? Because the worship of Molech demanded your offspring. I wonder how many of Solomon's children were offered to Molech? We don't know. Scripture doesn't tell us. One thing we know is if he set up a high place for Molech that was based upon the women that he had married, make no mistake, it is certain children were offered on those high places. It is so demonic.

Again, do you understand this is what the devil was planning? He wanted Solomon to marry all these foreign women. Why? What was Satan's ultimate goal? It was to bring Solomon to the place that the devil had prepared for him, which is worshiping false gods. It is idolatry. That is the ultimate place he wanted to bring him. Do you see that the war is all about worship?



With that said, I want to jump back to the Apocrypha. We have a lot to cover here. In the **Wisdom of Solomon 14:12**, this is what we already read—**For the idea of making idols was the beginning of fornication**, and then it says, **and the invention of them**, it brings them together in the plural, **was the corruption of life....**

Do you know what is kind of interesting when going back to what I just said about Molech being mentioned specifically in Leviticus 18 and 20? Do you know what Leviticus 18 is all about? It is all about sexual immorality. How do you define sexual immorality? It's Leviticus 18. Then in the midst of it, there's this phrase talking about idolatry. What a coincidence, this is a very bizarre relationship.

Moving ahead to **Wisdom of Solomon 14:13-14**- **for they did not exist from the beginning, nor will they last forever. 14 for through human vanity they entered the world, and therefore their speedy end has been planned.** He tells us here how Idolatry entered the world and obviously gave birth to fornication. How did that happen? He says it was through human vanity. What does that mean? Well, here's where we come to the crescendo. This is the moment, the very reason, why I brought you to the Apocrypha. You're going to want to pay close attention because what he's about to lay on us is incredible. He says in the **Wisdom of Solomon 14:15**- **For a father, consumed with grief at an untimely bereavement, made an image of his child, who had been suddenly taken from him; he now honored as a god what was once a dead human being, and handed on to his dependent secret rights and initiations.**

This guy just tells us the history and the birthing of Idolatry in the world. And how did it come in? A father lost his child. Let this sink in for a second so that you can appreciate what we're up against when we're dealing with the devil. He lost his child, which is the most painful, excruciating, sorrow you're going to experience in this life. In that moment, you would think that the devil would be okay with the horrific suffering this person was going through. You would think that Satan might say, "I am not going to mess with this person right now because of the suffering they are going through. Instead, I'll mess with somebody else." Oh, no, no, no. Satan is coming after you while you are in your worst pain and sorrow, and he's coming to exploit that situation. He will do it.

Try to wrap your mind around this. So, this father wants to memorialize his child because he is hurting and grieving. Instead of memorializing in an appropriate way, he immortalizes the child. Through seduction, he is now making an image of this child. In addition to that, he tells his whole family that they are all going to honor this great loss. He tells them that this is what we're now going to do for my lost child.

This is the birth of idolatry. Do you understand what we're being told here? Do you understand that the enemy will prey on your emotions? The most grievous and the most painful moments are the moments Satan is going to take advantage of. And he's going to twist your emotions and flip you upside down. And before you know it, he's going to try to take you to the land of idolatry, which is the place that he has prepared for you.

So, when we're dealing with this concept of idolatry, this is very serious. How the devil works through this stuff is disgusting. You wouldn't think somebody could be that evil. He is that evil, and he is patient waiting for the perfect opportune time.

Yes, we have a very scary foe. None of us has a chance against it without a true relationship with Yeshua and without clinging to his word. If this gentleman had clung to the first commandment, none of this would have happened. He could have still honored his child in a non-idolatry way because you never



stop loving the child whether they're with you or gone. But the enemy came in and totally twisted this whole situation. It is absolutely demonic.

**Wisdom of Solomon 14:16-** Then the ungodly custom, [had] grown strong with time, and was kept as a law and at the command of the monarch's, carved images were worshipped.

I'll give you a perfect example of this. In the time of the Roman Emperors, images would be made. Rome was huge, obviously taking over the world, it was the world superpower. To make sure that the proper honor was given to Caesar, to the Roman Emperor, whom they can't see, an image would be brought to all these different parts of Rome. The expectation was that you're going to fall on your knees and worship it. That's how you pay homage.

We have little examples in history coming together with Christianity. A perfect example is Pliny's letter to Trajan. This is a secular document that has been put into power over a certain province by Emperor Trajan, and Pliny is confronted with a situation of Christians. He's got the problem of Christianity, and it's growing. He's writing to Trajan to make sure that he is in line with Trajan's mode of thinking. He wants to make sure what he is doing is okay. He expresses to him that we have these Christians, and we are making them denounce Christ; to curse the name of Jesus. We're making them curse the name, and we're making them bow down to your image. If they do that, then we're setting them free; we're going to let them live, but if they don't, then we are going to kill them. This is an actual historical document. It is not a Christian document; it is a secular document. This is a perfect example of what was being said and being practiced.

Now dropping down to **Wisdom of Solomon 14:27- For the worship of idols, not to be named, is the beginning and cause and end of every evil.** Think about what was just said. Idolatry is the beginning and the end. In essence, of all evil, this is evil's birth. It's the beginning and the end.

Now it appears that the Apostle Paul believes this. What do I mean? Well check this out. He says this in **Colossians 3:5- Therefore put to death your members which are on earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness which is idolatry.** Think about that and let it sink in!

Let's look at the ten commandments. This first commandment is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."



The last commandment is, “thou shall not covet.” According to Paul, “Thou shall not covet is Idolatry.” Isn't that fascinating? The Lord is giving us his little inclusion, if you will, (In biblical studies, inclusio is a literary device based on a concentric principle, also known as bracketing.) where the beginning of his commandments is about Idolatry, the end of it is about Idolatry, and everything in between all relates to it. This is absolutely amazing.

So, when you look at this statement, you find it is the beginning and the end of every evil. Let that sink in! And do we think it's an accident? I don't. It's not a coincidence that the Lord begins there. This is the first command the Lord had given.

I want to take you back to the Torah, and we're going to build on this whole thought of the enemy utilizing your heart, pulling on your emotions, twisting them inside and out, and deceiving. He is going out to bring you to the place that he has prepared for you. That is the land of Idolatry.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-** “if there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder.... Here we have a situation where a prophet rises. Let's be clear about something, we're not dealing with a pagan prophet. This is not a pagan. This is not a Balaam. This is a prophet from what? From among you. This is within the Assembly of God, or as we would say today, it's within the Church. This prophet is rising in the church.

And on top of that, what does it say? This prophet is going to give you a sign or wonder. Do you understand the level of deception that we're up against right now? Imagine a prophet rising up in the church today, and he is working awesome miraculous, signs, and wonders. What do you think that would do? Christians would be flocking from everywhere.

We all want to be a part of an anointing of God. What we're seeing here is literally reverberated in the New Testament as Yeshua in Matthew 24:24 says many false Christ's and false prophets will rise up showing great signs and wonders, if it were possible, even to deceive the elect. So, you need to understand that this kind of deception, if it were possible, could even deceive the elect. We're talking about men the likes of Paul and Peter. Or in a situation we've already looked at, Solomon. This is the kind of deception that is happening in the church.

Then it goes on and says this in **Deuteronomy 13:2-** and the sign or wonder comes to pass. Again, let's double down on this. When you go to Deuteronomy 18, what do you read? The question arises. How do we know if a true prophet is speaking, or a false prophet is speaking? How are we supposed to know? We are given the answer, “If the prophet speaks, and the things that he speaks come to pass, he's a true prophet, but if what he says doesn't come to pass, he's not a true prophet. Don't listen to him, don't worry, don't fear him.”

So, you're in a situation where this prophet has spoken, and it's come to pass, this is the level of deception. But here's the thing: that's not all they do; something comes in addition to this. They have more words to add as found in **Deuteronomy 13:2-** of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘**Let us go after other gods-- which you have not known—' and let us serve them,'**

And so, this prophet does something inspiringly miraculous. But then because of this display of power, he now communicates to the assembly that they were supposed to go over here a little bit. We're supposed to be paying homage to xyz gods. And all the power that I just displayed to you, and everything I said to you, is evidence and proof that this is the will of God. This is the right way. This is

where we're supposed to go. Do you understand how cunning and deceptive that can be? It can be very compelling.

**Deuteronomy 13:3-** “you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or the dreamer of dreams, for the lord your god is testing you. So, the most violent, seductive, and compelling situations that are designed to take us out, to destroy us, are something the Lord allows to happen.

Think about that. Think about Job. The Lord allowed Satan to unleash hell on this guy. Why? The Lord wanted to know what would happen. It was a test. Joseph rotted in prison for years. We're told in Psalm 105 he was tested. The Lord wanted to test him. What exactly is the Lord looking for? This is what he's looking for: **Deuteronomy 13:3- to know whether you love the lord your god with all your heart and with all your soul.**

We have unbelievable deception through miracles and powers, and Prophets rising up from the church are speaking things. And then things come to pass, and everyone's in awe. But then they say, ah, but we need to go this way oh little flock, who are totally amazed. Come this way because we need to start paying homage to these false gods. God is testing those who love him.

Interestingly, we now understand that the Commandments beginning with the first one all the way through 10 really are all about love. They're about loving God. They are our obedience. Grabbing hold of them, being diligent, and to walk in them is proof of our love for the Lord God.

Think about Yeshua's words in **John 14:15—if you love Me, keep My commandments.** This is a product of love. If you love something, God will see it and know. Make no mistake, he will test you. You will be tested. The enemy is looking for every opportunity to have the Lord allow him to come and destroy you. And so, this is just a reality that we're dealing with today.

When I look at the statement right here: **to know whether you love the lord your god with all your heart and with all your soul**, we find it is all about love. This becomes very problematic for the pastors, teachers, preachers, and all those other Christians who are out attempting to convince us that if we keep the commandments, if we hold a theology, and that they are not a suggestion, and we must keep the commandments, then we are somehow earning our salvation and rejecting the grace of God. We're rejecting the love of God. That is actual scriptural nonsense. The Lord is testing you.

Right now, in this generation, false prophets and teachers are rising up. And it is amazing to me that the very thing they're trying to do is take you away from the Commandments; yet we're called to love God. And that expression is through keeping them. Unbelievable! We live in crazy times.

**Deuteronomy 13:4-** “You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve him, that's what this is about. We already talked about this, this is what it means, **to serve him and hold fast to Him. Deuteronomy 13:5-** “But the prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order, to what? **to turn you away from the Lord your God.**

Anyone who comes to you and is trying to convince you to walk away from the commandments of God by telling you that you don't need to keep them because they have been done away with, and this is the old school way of thinking, walk away from that person. If they tell you that we are under a new school,

walk away from that person because they're trying to turn you away from Yeshua and from loving him. It's all about love.

What are we told in First John? We love him because he first loved us. Why are we still sinners? Because Christ died for us. Because of that sacrifice, because he first loved us, we're called to keep the commandments. We're called to express our love. That is his love language. The Lord lays out these ten commandments. He's speaking to you, his love language. He is telling us, "This is how you love me, oh my people."

Moving on to **Deuteronomy 13:5b- who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage.** There's that statement again. We're supposed to keep his commandments. We're supposed to love him. Why? Because he poured out his grace. That is the response. Again, we love him because he first loved us. He poured out his love. This is where we should be.

Then it says in **Deuteronomy 13:5b-to entice you seduce you beguile you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So, you shall put away the evil from your midst.**

**Deuteronomy 13:6- "If your brother, listen to this because this is the crescendo, if your brother the son of your mother, the son of your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you...."**

The devil is patient; he is twisted, and he is evil. And he will use those that are closest to you; the ones that you have let into your heart. Do you see how this works? And where does he want to bring you? To the land of idolatry. Which is exactly what it says as we continue.

**Deuteronomy 13:6- saying, " Let us go and serve other gods; which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers...."** The devil knows you're more apt to listen to a close confidant and someone that you trust in and love. You love your son and daughter. You love your spouse; you love them. Just as Solomon ahav (loved) his wives. (Ahav is love in Hebrew). The Lord warns you because he knows how vile and to what degree the enemy is willing to go to take you out. There's no line for the devil. He doesn't say, "Well, that's too far, I'm not going to cross that line." He even used Peter against Yeshua, right? We talked about where Yeshua's goes and tells his Apostles, "I must go up [to Jerusalem], and I need to be sacrificed; I need to be crucified, and Peter rebukes and says, "Not so my Lord. Far be it from you that anything like this should happen to you." And Yeshua turns around and says, "Get behind me Satan." You're an offense. You're not mindful of the things of God. You're mindful of the things of man.

The Lord knew Satan was trying to go through Peter who was one of the closest ones to Yeshua. He was in the innermost sanctum. Peter, James, and John were in the innermost sanctum to the disciples of Yeshua. And Satan tried to use him.

Job's wife, his own wife, said, "Curse God and die." Do you see what's going on here? This is not a game. When you get into this idolatry, what Satan is trying to do is to take you to the land he's prepared for you.

I want to show you just how deceptive what is being presented here is. I don't want you to think this is the situation that is being articulated here in the Torah. It's a situation where were sitting on the front porch sipping our coffee. Then your son, your daughter, or your spouse says to you, "You know what? I've really been thinking a lot about Tophet or Milcom, and there are some amazing things there that I'm

wondering about. Maybe we should just check it out.” (Topeth is a region outside Jerusalem where children were sacrificed to Molech.)

That's not the situation. Let me show you what this situation looks like in real life by taking you to the book of Jeremiah. And watch this in **Jeremiah 44:17**- “**But we will certainly do whatever the Lord has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah So, we're dealing with Judah and Jerusalem here. and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, we were well off, and we saw no trouble.**

In other words, here's the backdrop. Jeremiah comes on the scene telling them they better repent and turn away from this wickedness. Keep in mind we already covered this a couple weeks ago. Judah and Yerushalayim were in the habit of worshiping Yahweh along with other gods. This is where they were at. But now Jeremiah is telling them to cast off the gods. They need to get rid of the queen of heaven. Their response is like, “Hold on. No, no, no because we're being blessed. We're being blessed here.”

And we continue in **Jeremiah 44:18**- it will come full circle. “**But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.**” All hell has come against us when we haven't gone to the queen of heaven. So, you Jeremiah are telling us to stop doing this when we know this works. Ever since we've gone to the queen of heaven, we have been blessed. Do you understand what

Deuteronomy 13 is really talking about being careful that you're not going to be seduced by your spouse or your children? It's when your life is in hell and you're most vulnerable, Satan's patiently waiting for the opportune time. Then he's going to hit you when you're desperate and in despair. And then he's going to suggest to you that your pain and suffering can be alleviated. Just do this.

This is a spirit of antichrist bringing you to the place that he has prepared for you. And the message is: don't go. Hold fast to the commandments of God. If anyone, me included, tries to compel you and convince you that you don't need to keep the commandments of God, run for your life. It's for your own safety. Cling to the word! Amen!