

The Ten Commandments - Part 16: Keeping the Sabbath Part 2, Profaning God, Bread from Heaven (6/11/2022)

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/vbz7jzm/the-ten-commandments-part-16>

*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.

Opening Videos: Various Christian Perspectives on the Sabbath

John Piper:

What does it mean practically to keep the Sabbath day holy? It seems like it's often a matter of personal conscience how people put this commandment into practice. I think it is a matter of personal conscience and by and large probably should be a matter of personal conscience, but that doesn't mean that it has no meaning and no Biblical guidelines. The big question for the Sabbath is whether or not in the New Testament, God sees there being a commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy in the same way it was commanded in the Old Testament. The Christian Sabbath is Sunday, the Lord's Day, the Resurrection Day of Jesus, and I agree. I think those who do seventh day things are misunderstanding.

Rick Warren:

Number three. This is an important one. Limit my work to six days a week. You say, "You're kidding me." I'm saying, "If you're not doing that, you're breaking one of God's Big Ten, the Ten Commandments." When is your Sabbath? I'm telling you: it doesn't matter what day of the week you take your Sabbath. The Bible says this many times in the New Testament. What day you worship on, what day you take as your day off, as your day of rest, your day of recreation, it doesn't matter the day; you just need to do it every week. My Sabbath is not Saturday, my Sabbath is not Sunday, I'm working on those days. My Sabbath is every Monday. It's Monday.

John MacArthur:

Question from audience: Is the New Testament Lord's Day Sunday in any way a replacement for the Jewish Sabbath? And to what degree then, should Sabbath principles and also specific laws apply to how I spend Sundays?

John MacArthur replies: Very good question. First answer: No. The Lord's Day is not a replacement of the Sabbath. No. Secondly, there are no Old Testament Sabbath laws that apply to Sunday.

Dr. Gene Kim:

You know who the Sabbaths are for? Remember, it's Old Testament. So, it was for - who was God's chosen people during this time - in his capital city - where he gave his - where he dealt with priests - the sacrifice - the salvation - law of Moses? It was Jews, Jews, Jews, Jews, and Jews.

God gave the Jews the Sabbath, why? As a sign. Do you know whose signs belong? Not to saved Christians. They go to the Jew.

Yes, I acknowledge it. Everyone has to keep the Sabbath, but look at the context. It's future, at the time of the new heavens and new earth. And guess what? You do go to hell, if you don't keep it.

Unknown Speaker:

Very early on in my spiritual walk with Jesus, I was exposed to Christians who thought that in order to honor God, they had to become like the Jews, keeping the Torah, the Ten Commandments, Feast Days, keeping the Sabbaths. If we listen to Jesus, He will teach us His ways, but if we listen to the Jews, we will become deceived, and they will place heavy burdens upon us. Jesus did not say that we would find true rest by keeping the Sabbath days and by seeking out how to keep the law of Moses to a tee. He said to go to Him and that He is the rest. He never said that keeping a day of the week is the rest. Jesus is our Sabbath Day rest. We cannot achieve the rest by keeping a Sabbath Day like the Jews and clearly this is what they thought. They thought they could be holy, by keeping the law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, Torah, by keeping the Sabbath days.

Pat Robertson (CBN):

Question from viewer: This is Sandra. How should Christians observe the Biblical Sabbath, sundown Friday evening to sundown Saturday evening? Shouldn't we treat it as more holy than just the start of the weekend?

Pat Robertson replies: It's up to you, but you know we are not under various days and months. You read what the apostle Paul said, we're not subject to the old laws and that's part of the old law. But the eternal truth that you find in the Ten Commandments is that human beings need a day of rest, one out of every seven. And what we've done, in our society today is keep the commercial engine going seven days a week 24-7. It never ends. The television never ends; it's always there, so we don't have a chance to rest. The idea is the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. It was made as a day of rest, relaxation, and focusing attention on the Lord. So, whether it's Friday, Saturday, Friday is for Muslims; Saturday for Jews; Sunday for Christians. Take your day, okay.

(End of Opening Videos)

Daniel Joseph:

Think about what we just heard and what we heard last week: all these various ideas and thoughts by all these various Christian pastors, teachers and men with very powerful and influential platforms, having all sorts of different reasons and justifications as to why Christians should not even consider keeping the Sabbath or why they don't have to keep the Sabbath. We talked about this last week, in the sense that it's all over the map. Some people say that every day is a Sabbath. Some say that none of the days are; you don't have to do any of it. Others say that Yeshua did away with it; He totally abrogated it. Some people tell you that it's been changed from Saturday to Sunday. It's all over the place.

Thinking about it this week, I was drawn to a particular passage, one of the scariest passages that I know that exists in the Word of God. It's found in the book of Proverbs, and this is what it says: Proverbs 14:12 – ¹² **There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.**

Sometimes, we read Bible verses so often that we don't give them much thought, but I challenge you to give this scripture some thought. This is weighty because what's entailed here is that there is an individual who believes they are in right relationship with God. They believe the things they are doing are good. They believe the Lord is pleased with them, just as Saul fully believed that the Lord was pleased with his actions, in regard to King Agag and the Amalekites. They have this concept that they are going along, and the decisions they are making are edifying. They think they are doing what is right and proper. They are traversing in the path of life. This is the impression the individual has only to find out at the end, all he is going to find is death. He's on the path of death. That is terrifying.

This is Matthew 7 all over again, where Christians at the end are crying out, **"Lord, Lord"**. They want to get in. They proclaim to know Him. They worked ministry. They confessed Him among people. They prophesied in the name of Jesus. They did all these things. And at the end, Jesus/Yeshua tells them, **"Depart from Me."** They spent their lifetime clinging on to Him in their mind and their understanding. At the end He says, ²³ **"I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"** – you rejected my law, you practiced lawlessness.

I read these passages: Matthew 7, Proverbs 14, Proverbs 16, and Proverbs 21:2 – ² **Every way of a man is right in his own eyes.** I can read these passages a thousand times, and I actually gain the fear of the Lord with each passing time. They don't become mundane to me; they terrify me. I am terrified of struggling through this life only to find out at the end I'm not going to get in.

How do we ensure that we don't become these people? How can we make sure that we don't fall into that trap of total deception because in our own minds we're writing this narrative that Jesus/Yeshua and I are good. You know how you do it? You go to the Word of God. You confess the Word of God that became flesh. That confession of confessing the Word of God became flesh should drive you to the written Word. We need to investigate what God says because we can't be trusted. **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. Who can know it?** (Jeremiah 17:9). We're not trustworthy in and of ourselves; we need Him. We need to know what He says.

Understand this: anytime we get in a conversation and discussion about the commandments of God, it is a matter of life and death. That's the beauty. **The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword ... it is a discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart.** (Hebrews 4:12)

We need discernment. We need to know that what we think is right in the eyes of God. That's what we need. We must rely on the Word. We must rely on His commandments; not just to read them; not just to study them; but to apply them. The Sabbath is no exception.

Today, we will peel back another layer of this command found in Exodus 20:8 – ⁸ **Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.** It will take us several weeks to get through this because there's so many layers that we need to uncover, but I want to begin today by reading in the book of Ezekiel. If you've ever read this book, you know the Lord has a lot to say about the shepherds of Israel. Unfortunately, what He has to say is not so good.

Ezekiel 34:2 – ² Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! **Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?**’ (Emphasis added)

This is incredible information that we were just given by the Lord Himself regarding shepherds. We were just told the expectation the Lord places upon the shepherds. The Lord’s expectation is they must feed the flock. This is their job. The shepherds are to instruct His people. They’re to bring the wisdom and the mind and heart of the Lord. They’re to make sense of His commandments. When necessary, they bring warning. When necessary, they bring conviction. This is their job. They are called to feed the flock.

What happens, pray tell, when these shepherds stop feeding the sheep? The sheep begin to starve to death, spiritually speaking. They become totally compromised. They will not be able to know the difference between their right hand or their left. A spiritual blindness is going to come in. It will become an environment where sin will absolutely be accepted. The fear of the Lord dissipates. Sin is not just accepted, but in extreme cases, it becomes an environment where sin is glorified.

When the shepherds stop feeding the sheep, understand the impact that the shepherds can have on a community. It is second to none. Communities, *qahals* (Hebrew), *ecclesiae* (Greek), churches can rise and fall based upon whether or not the shepherd is faithful or unfaithful. This is not Daniel’s interpretation. All you need to do is go to the Word and you will see this time and time again: faithful shepherds bringing the people back to the Word of the Lord, to the Torah, to the commandments of God.

Jehoshaphat stirred revival. He brought the people back to the Lord. He was a faithful shepherd. Josiah was a faithful shepherd, tearing down the pagan altars. Yet, we have other shepherds, like what we’re reading about in Ezekiel that totally lose it. Listen to me carefully, unfaithful shepherds produce unfaithful sheep; it’s that simple. It matters. What the shepherds are teaching and what the shepherds are not teaching; it matters. Everything in scripture will tell you that.

Let’s jump to Ezekiel 22. The Lord gets very specific about the feeding of the sheep and His expectation of what shepherds are supposed to bring. This is where things get real.

Ezekiel 22:23-25 – ²³ And the word of the LORD came to me saying, ²⁴ “Son a man, say to her: – in reference to Jerusalem (*yərūšālim*, *דְּלִשְׁכָּה*), a synecdoche for His people – ‘You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.’ ²⁵ **The conspiracy of her prophets** – the prophets, the shepherds. These are supposed to be the leaders and telling the people what God says – **in her midst** – the midst of His people. Listen to these words – **is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people;** (Emphasis added) – How scary is that?

In fact, the imagery that goes on in Ezekiel likens these shepherds to wolves. You think about that. That’s the very imagery that the Apostle Paul uses in Acts 20:29-30 – ²⁹ ... after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. They will rip the flock to shreds and – ³⁰ ...draw away disciples after themselves.

That’s a scary thought. Knowing the impact that shepherds have on a flock, it’s a scary thought to me that when you’re supposed to have faithful shepherds guiding the flock, you invite a wolf to take the

pulpit. That's terrifying. Paul says in Acts 20 that they will not spare the flock. And so yes, it matters what kind of shepherds are guiding these communities.

Returning to Ezekiel 22:25 – **25 The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. (Emphasis added)**

I think of this statement, “**the conspiracy**”, and that's literally what's being expressed in the Hebrew, “**the conspiracy of her prophets**”. Listen to me carefully, and I kid you not, there is a conspiracy that is so grand in the church today, may I say that is so unbelievable, that Christians themselves can't believe that this could be possible, that this could be even real. What do I mean by that? I'm talking about the conspiracy of Shabbat, a legitimate conspiracy birthed in the depths of hell, incorporated by Satan himself, infiltrating the church. When you think about this situation, it's something that's hard to believe.

I can remember decades ago, when I first came into the Sabbath and I started keeping the Sabbath, the Holy Spirit had exploded His Word; it was on fire to me. I would read it, and I had clarity that I never had in my life. I can't explain this fire that came upon me. I would read it, and His Words were as though I was literally eating them. They were coming inside my inner being, and I was on fire.

Then I'd go to church and talk to people about the Sabbath and get various answers about what we were doing and why: this is why we don't do it, this is why it was changed, and all these different things. It was a very deflating experience.

But here's what happened. I had this fire, and I knew what God's Word said. Then when I went to church on Sunday, I'd look around at all these good Christians that I grew up with in this church that were my people and say, “They can't all be wrong.” In fact, I've been told, “Look around Daniel. Look at all the Christians. Are all these people really wrong? Are you saying the pastor is wrong on this?”

Do you understand? This is what happens. The conspiracy is so grand, Christians can't even believe that this is something that could possibly happen. We can't really believe that it is not just thousands, but millions of Christians don't know the truth! This is a grand conspiracy of epic proportions.

Listen to what it continues to say, Ezekiel 22:26a – **26 Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy thing;** – which is obviously extremely problematic because the very function of the priest, a shepherd, was to teach the Torah. That was their function. They were to bring understanding of the Torah to the people. Yes, they were to bring conviction when they needed it. They were to warn the people if they were going astray. They were to bring the warning of the Lord, “The Lord says don't do this.” This was their job. The priests were violating the very thing they were supposed to be teaching. When that happens, you know you have a problem.

But then it says this, Ezekiel 22:26b – **they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; (Emphasis added).** This is where things get real. Overlay this statement on progressive Christianity right now and you will walk away terrified, almost in disbelief.

Isn't it interesting that the priests, the shepherds of Israel, were supposed to make that distinction between clean and unclean, and today Christians are being told, “It doesn't matter what you eat. It

doesn't matter what you put into your body at all. You can eat pig. Yeshua declared all foods clean.” Never mind the fact that the whole episode in Matthew 15 had nothing to do with pig, shellfish or meat whatsoever. It was about His disciples eating bread with unwashed hands. Never mind the fact that in Acts 15, three of the four commandments that were first commanded to the Gentiles were food laws where they would have to make a distinction between that which is clean (*tahor, טהור*) and that which is unclean (*tā·mê, תָּמֵא*).

Today, what Christianity is being told terrifies me as there is no distinction being made. You get into this concept where no distinction is being made between holy and unholy. You know why? because every day is holy now, and to some people no days are holy. Who's calling the shots? Is it God or is it these shepherds that are actually being described here? How scary is it? When you overlay this statement, this should rock the church. This should rock the shepherds teaching the church knowing, we have problems if we're not making these distinctions, not from my own heart, but from the Word of God.

Listen to how Paul echoes this statement. This is incredible. Titus 1:15 – ¹⁵ **To the pure all things are pure**, – Paul is saying that the righteous, God-fearing men with pure hearts, when they read everything that God declares holy, righteous, and pure in the Word, stand in agreement with God and say, “It's pure; I accept God at face value; I accept His Word”. This is what this statement means: **To the pure, all things are pure.**

But look at what follows in Titus 1:15 – **but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.** (*Emphasis added*). In other words, a defiled and unbelieving person really doesn't see the commandments of God as something that is life and death; it's not a life and death issue. The way these defiled and unbelieving people read the Word of God is more subjective. They will say, “The Word of God can say the Sabbath is holy, but you know what? We really don't need to do it. It can say that pig is unclean: yeah, not really; we can eat anything; we're under grace; we have this freedom; we have this liberty; never mind what God literally said; never mind the fact that it predates the giving of the Torah as Noah made a distinction between clean and unclean; never mind any of that; just slide that all aside.” This is problematic.

I want you to know the difference between these two groups. The **“To the pure all things are pure”** group are those who fear God; who revere His Word; who don't just want to read it and study it, they want to apply it. This group allows the Holy Spirit, *Rauch HaKodesh*, to come in and rewrite their heart and to rewrite over all the uncleanness, all the selfish desires, all the passions, all the fleshly yearnings: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life; all these things which are ungodly. A righteous man who fears God allows the Holy Spirit to come in and rewrite that. It's called the New Covenant. That's the concept where the Holy Spirit comes and fills our hearts with His Torah, with His commandments. This group yearns for that; they want that; they don't want to traverse in sin.

Whereas the group, **“those who are defiled and unbelieving”**, do you know what they do? It's fascinating. They do the exact opposite. They don't allow God to rewrite their heart, instead they rewrite the Word of God so that it lines up with their own passions, their own desires, and the dictates of their own heart. It is a very scary thing to recognize.

Continuing to Titus 1:16, Paul says – ¹⁶ **They profess to know God** (*Emphasis added*). These defiled and unbelieving people will say, “I know Jesus. I'm in a relationship with Jesus. Do you have a relationship with Jesus? I'm a Christian.” – **but in works** – Paul goes right for their works, and you'll know them by their fruit – **they deny Him, being abominable....**

Look at the things written in the pages of the Torah that are abominable. Engaging in homosexuality, which is a very sensitive and delicate topic and such a hot point today, is abominable. Leviticus 18:22 – ²² **You shall not lie with a male as with the female. It is an abomination.** (*wə'et- zākār, lō tiškab miškabê 'iššāh tōw'êbāh hî, : (וְאֶת־ זָכָר לֹא תִשְׁכַּב מִשְׁכַּבִּי אִשָּׁה תוֹעֵבָה הִוא*). To take in and ingest the unclean, swine and pig is an abomination. How scary is this, considering where we're at right now?

Continuing in Titus 1:16 – **disobedient and disqualified for every good work.** (*Emphasis added*). Disobedient to what? The commandments of God. Overlay the words that Paul is saying upon the church today, you'll find we have some issues.

Again, read the passage in Ezekiel 22:26b – **they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean;** (*Emphasis added*). We have shepherds that according to Paul's words, are defiled and unbelieving. Now, I want you to think about that. These are shepherds that don't really believe the Word of God. That's where the rubber meets the road. It will make all the difference in the world of whether you get in line with the Sabbath, honor your mother and father, don't take advantage of your brother, and don't steal because if you believe these commandments matter. But when the shepherds stop believing that they matter, the sheep follow. It's absolutely terrifying.

Moving to the rest of this verse. Ezekiel 22:26c – ^{26c} **and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths.** He's talking about the shepherds who don't make a distinction between clean and unclean or between holy and unholy. And the one thing that comes to the table in Ezekiel 22 is the Shabbat: the shepherds hiding their eyes from His Sabbaths. You can't even make this stuff up. That's why when you overlay this passage with what's going on today, it's terrifying.

Ezekiel 22:26c continued – ^{26c} **and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths so that I am profaned among them** (*Emphasis added*). What's the problem with hiding your eyes from the Shabbat? This is the problem: God is profaned. I want you to understand that. Let that sink in. The problem with hiding your eyes from the Sabbath, not keeping the Shabbat holy and walking away from it, I don't care what excuse you want to give, is the name of Yeshua/Jesus is being profaned. That puts this subject in a completely different context.

This is not what the devil wants Christians to hear. He doesn't want them to hear that it's about Jesus because the devil has been leveraging this whole event of the Shabbat in his agenda. He's been leveraging the holy name of Yeshua to accomplish his evil will. It's absolutely diabolical. It's disgusting. People take His Holy Name and then the devil gets them to walk away from holiness, and yet, this is what is happening.

Paul says this in 2 Timothy 4:3a – ^{3a} **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine,** (*Emphasis added*). Paul is talking about the church; he is not talking about the world. He prophesies that a time is coming when the church will not continue in sound doctrine.

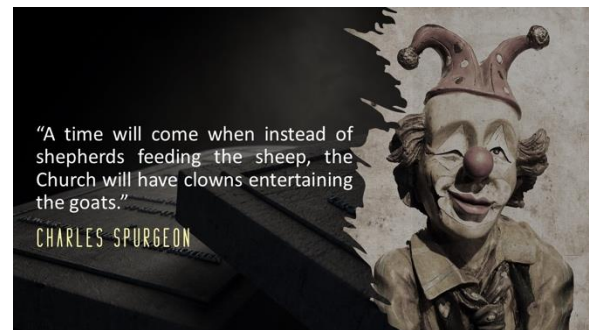
Now this is important. The phrase “sound doctrine” in the Greek is *hygiainousēs didaskalias, ὑγιαίνουσας διδασκαλίας*. Why is this important? I want you to understand that Paul uses this phrase explicitly in the context of the law. This is not Daniel's interpolation. I'm not reading something into the text that's not there. This is how he uses it.

In 1 Timothy, chapter 1, sound doctrine (*hygainousēs didaskalias*, ὑγιαίνουσῆς διδασκαλίας) is used of the law. So, when Paul says a time is coming when they're not going to endure sound doctrine, he is saying they're not going to endure God's law. They're not going to endure His commandments. We were warned by Paul himself.

Then it say in 2 Timothy 4:3b – ^{3b} **but according to their own desires**, – it's not the desires of the Lord; it's not the heart of the Lord, but it is their own desires – **because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and – what? – they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables** (*Emphasis added*). Scripturally what is truth? Psalm 119:51 – ⁵¹ **You are near O LORD, and all your commandments are truth** (*Emphasis added*).

Paul said that they will turn their ears away from His commandments. Do you know why? because they want to believe the lie. They want to believe what Eve believed in the garden. Eve chose to believe the words of Satan over the Word of the Lord. This is the problem, and it is not okay. We have serious issues.

On the heels of this, I want to quote my favorite passage by Spurgeon, who brings this passage to life with some modern-day terms: **A time is coming when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the Church will have clowns entertaining the goats.**



This is what the church wants. They don't want shepherds. They don't want conviction. They don't want to change. They want their fleshly desires. They want to be told that the Lord wants them to prosper and be rich according to the world standards. This is what they want. They want the clowns. Bring in the clowns and tell us what we want to hear. It blows my mind, when you have the church of Yeshua/Jesus asking for the wolves to come in and guide them. How does that go? Nature tells you that between a wolf and a sheep, it's not going to go well.

I've seen with my own eyes what a wolf can do to a sheep. It was a scary moment. The wolf got a hold of a sheep and just ripped it to shreds. This is what's happening to the church right now.

Jeremiah 5:31 – ³¹ **The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and – guess what? – My people love to have it so.** – They love the lie and would rather embrace the lie than the truth. – **But what will you do in the end?** (*Emphasis added*). In other words, the Lord warns them that there's a time coming when they will be weighed in the balance and will have to answer for their decisions.

Going back to Proverbs 14:12 – ¹² **There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.** I'm going to say something. I understand what's going on in the world. I understand how many of these things are upsetting. We're talking about World War III where Russia and China could be attacking the United States. Our economy is falling apart. Inflation is out of control. Gas prices are ridiculous. We're talking about food shortages coming. We're talking about all these things.

Listen to me carefully. When you stand at the judgment, nobody will be talking about anything that you see happening right now. Do you know the only conversation that you will be having with Yeshua

and that He will have with you? He's going to bring His commandments to the table, and He's going to say either, **“Well done, good and faithful servant.”** or **“Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”** That is the only conversation that matters.

As we go through the Ten Commandments, I'm telling you that this is an end time message. This is all that matters. Everything that you see regarding material objects is going to burn. Nothing will be left except the Word of the Lord. The only thing that matters is whether you chose to accept His Word, walk it out, live it, or rejected it. Nothing else matters.

Let's go to the Torah, Exodus 16. God has brought Israel out of the land of Egypt. They came into the Wilderness of Sin. They noticed that there was no food, and they're not happy about this. They complained against Moses and Aaron. They started reminiscing about the point of coming out of Egypt. Why were they brought to a God forsaken wilderness: “How can God be with us? He's coming out to kill us with hunger. Why did we come out of Egypt?” They reminisced about how they sat by the pots of meat and ate bread to the full. And you brought us out here where there is nothing. They were livid.

Exodus 16:4a, the Lord responded, – ^{4a} **Then the Lord said to Moshe/Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you.”** (*Emphasis added*). The way the Lord is going to sustain Israel is to do something totally supernatural. He is going to rain bread from heaven. This is how Israel would be saved. This is how they would live. This was their sustenance.

This term, “bread from heaven” is very significant. To help you appreciate why, let's read John 6:32-33 – ³² **Then Yeshua said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”**

Yeshua takes you back to the wilderness, to the story we were looking at in Exodus 16. He directly connects Himself to the manna, the bread from heaven, and He identifies Himself as the bread from heaven.

This connection is critical. You are going to need to appreciate this connection. Let me build on this. In Revelation 2:17, Yeshua says to the church at Pergamos – ¹⁷ **He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.** (*Emphasis added*). Amazing!

We know God fed, not Moses, but God fed Israel in the wilderness with this heavenly bread that came down from heaven. Yeshua again connects Himself and says, “I give the manna.” because He is the manna. He's the one that gives life. Do you understand the connection?

Let me take it a step further. The first time Israel was exposed to manna, they didn't know what to do with it. In fact, manna in the Hebrew is *mān*, מן and it means, “What is it?” They had no clue what it was.

This is fascinating when you consider the following from Mark 1:27 – ²⁷ **They were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.”** (*Emphasis added*).

The bread from heaven came down and did what nobody had done, and they didn't know what to do with it. **What is it?** Israel had the exact same reaction to manna in Exodus 16 as they had to Yeshua in Mark 1. Incredible!

John 8:53 – ⁵³ **Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do you make Yourself out to be?** (Emphasis added). They didn't know. They were looking at something they had never been exposed to. What is it? Who is He? He's the bread from heaven. That's who He is.

Let's continue in Exodus 16:4b – ^{4b} **And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, –** The quota is one omer. No more, no less. Each person was to grab one omer for the day. But then it says this - pay close attention – **that I may test them whether they will walk in my law or not.** (Emphasis added).

Now, that's an interesting conversation because Israel doesn't have the law. We're in Exodus 16. Mount Sinai hasn't happened yet. It doesn't happen until later in Exodus 20. How is it that the Lord came, and the first thing Israel received was the Shabbat long before they received the Torah?

They had an experience that God constructed specifically with the manna. This manna, which we know what it represents, was specifically intertwined with the Shabbat. God gave them specific commandments regarding gathering the manna, and they needed to follow these requirements. As they followed this structure of obeying Him, in regard to the collection of the manna, which included observing Shabbat, God would know whether or not they would walk in His Torah. This was the test of all tests! Amazing!

Exodus 16:5 – ⁵ **“And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”** (Emphasis added).

The days of the week start with Sunday and end with Shabbat. They were required to gather one omer each day of the week from Sunday through Thursday. They had to gather two omers on Friday, the Preparation Day, Yom Shishi. On Shabbat, they weren't to gather any. The Lord allowed them to gather twice as much on Friday; this was more than any other day of the week.

| EXODUS 16:5 | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SABBATH |
| 1 OMER | 1 OMER | 1 OMER | 1 OMER | 1 OMER | 2 OMERS | NONE |

Exodus 16:18-20 – ¹⁸ **So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.** ¹⁹ **And Moses/Moshe said, “Let no one leave any of it until morning.”** ²⁰ **Notwithstanding they did not heed Moshe. But some of them left part of it until morning and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.**

Remember, they were commanded to collect one omer for the first five days. On Friday, they could collect two. They were not doing that. They were not heeding His Word or His counsel. They were not keeping His commandments. Why would some of these people not keep the commandments? They're worried about provision, right? They're actually concerned.

I'm just making this up in my head. I try to put myself in the historical context and wonder how many wives were telling their husband, "Get out there! Do you want our children to starve? There's no food here. You need to get as much as you can, so take extra." Men took extra despite God saying not to.

It's a matter of faith. You had an issue of faith among these men believing that God would not provide for them. Despite everything they had experienced, despite everything God had done in their life, they didn't believe God could provide. They took matters into their own hands at the expense of the Word of God, at the expense of the commandment of God.

The prelude to the Our Father prayer is Matthew 6:9-10 – ⁹ **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** That's the opener. When you approach the Lord, He wants to be glorified and honored. We need to revere Him so you have this opening statement.

But the first thing that Yeshua teaches is how to pray. The first petition listed is Matthew 6:11 – ¹¹ **Give us this day our daily bread.** Yeshua doesn't teach us to pray for enough bread for next month, the month after, and the month after that. This is an interesting prayer. The whole construct of the prayer beginning with "**Give us this day our daily bread**" really sets the tone for the whole prayer. The whole concept is that we must be codependent, reliant, and believe that God will provide all our needs.

How many of you actually pray, "Oh Lord, just give me enough today?" Or how many of you are praying a month out or two years out? You're way ahead of the game. You are not praying, "**Give us this day our daily bread**". You have a wish list, and you just start going through it. Yeshua taught us to pray exactly what God was trying to get Israel to understand in the wilderness in Exodus 16. Nothing changed. Yeshua is teaching the same principle: just give me enough for today. This is about trusting in the Lord.

Exodus 16:21-23 – ²¹ **So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need.** – which is one omer per person – **And when the sun became hot, it melted. ²² And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses/Moshe, ²³ Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, – now listen to this – a holy Sabbath to the Lord. (Emphasis added)**

Not a holy Sabbath to you; not a holy Sabbath to me; this is not my Sabbath. The Lord takes possession. This is His Sabbath. When we observe it, it's to Him.

Unfortunately, Shabbat has been reduced to a crust of bread where the whole concept of Shabbat is just simply so that you can have physical rest. That's not the whole concept of Shabbat. That's a part of it. It's way more than that. It's about reverence, honor, declaration, testifying, and believing in the God who created heaven and earth in His Word. So, it's way beyond that. We're to keep a holy Sabbath to the Lord.

Exodus 16:23-24 – ²³ **Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil;** – In other words, it's the Day of Preparation. Prepare for the Sabbath. – **and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.' " ²⁴ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses/Moshe commanded;** – Look at this. It's a miracle. – **and it did not stink, nor were there worms in it. (Emphasis added).**

Any other day, if they had stored up extra, it was plagued. But not on the day that the Lord commanded to gather twice as much because His commands come with blessings. And then as they came to Shabbat, it's a miracle that they had enough, which at any other time of the week would not have happened. You want to talk about the Lord putting all this Emphasis in showing us that He will take care of us. Just listen to Him, keep His commandments, and He will see that our needs are met.

Exodus 16:25-26 – ²⁵ Then Moses/Moshe said, “Eat that today, for today – in case you missed it the first time, today – **is a Sabbath** – not to me, not to you, but – **to the LORD**; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, – oh – **but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.** (Emphasis added).

In other words, the Lord commanded them to cease and desist from going out and gathering food. This was not to happen on the Shabbat. This goes back to that Latin phrase we learned last week, “*imitatio Dei*” which means “imitate God”. Notice God didn't rain manna on the Shabbat. He ceased; He stopped. “*Imitatio Dei*”. We should be emulating and connecting with God. As He rests, we rest with Him. Incredible lesson.

Exodus 16:27, this where it begins to get real. – ²⁷ Now it happened that **some of the people** – In the Targums, it actually says the wicked – **went out on the seventh day to gather but they found none.** (Emphasis added).

Why are these people going out to gather manna? They were just commanded not to go out on the seventh day. I'm going to tell you why. First, they didn't put a whole lot of stock in the commandment of the Lord. It wasn't that important to them. Secondly, you can see that they were moving out of fear. If you had lived in that time and had a true historical context of looking at the barren land, where there was no agriculture, no farms, and no food, you would see why fear was being cultivated.

The enemy will leverage your fear and convince you that if you don't go out, you will starve. He will say things like: “Do you want to really starve your kids? Do you want to starve your wife? Do you want to starve your family? You need to go out and break the Shabbat.” This is sad. We know this happened thousands of years ago, and it's still happening today. We just don't want to admit it.

How does the Lord respond? And this is where we hit a crescendo. Exodus 16:28 – ²⁸ And the Lord said to Moses/Moshe, “How long do you refuse to keep – what – **My commandments and My laws?** (Emphasis added).

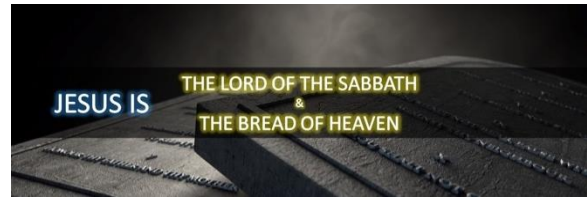
My commandments and My laws in the Hebrew is *mišwōṭay wəṭōwrōṭāy*, מִצְוֹתַי וְתוֹרָתִי. Looking at the Hebrew, understand that—**My commandments and My laws**—is in the plural. Think about this statement. All they did was break the Shabbat, and I even shudder by saying it that way - “all they did”. They broke the Sabbath, and God responded as though they had broken the whole Torah. That is an incredible statement of perspective.

Again, God could have picked any commandment to test Israel even before they were given the, and He chose one; He chose the Sabbath. Now, do you think that's significant? Absolutely. This is something that we should be picking up on today.

As we look at this incredible story and put all the pieces together, we see the whole construct of God testing Israel, specifically in regard to the collection of manna and whether or not they would observe

His Sabbath. It's interesting that the manna is representative of Yeshua, and these things are interconnected with the Shabbat.

Think about this. Jesus is both the Lord of the Sabbath and the bread of heaven. These two elements are literally woven together into the tapestry in Exodus 16. Jesus is all about the Sabbath; the Sabbath is all about Jesus. That's an incredible thought!

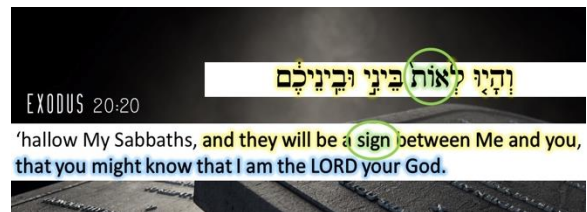


I want to finish up today by reading Ezekiel 20:19-20 – ¹⁹ I am the LORD your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments and do them; ²⁰ hallow My Sabbaths, – Keep them holy, and notice He says, “My Sabbaths.”

In the intro video, one gentleman said, “My Sabbath is not Saturday, my Sabbath is not Sunday, I’m working on those days. My Sabbath is every Monday.”

Since when do we play God? Only God can declare a Sabbath. Only God can declare that which is holy. Man can't do that. People don't understand what's going on. When men declare, for example, “Tuesday is my Sabbath”, said who? That's something only God can declare. I think about the pride, the arrogance, and the foolishness. We are not God. We don't dictate. They are His Sabbaths. You have one of two options. You can stand in agreement with the Word of the Lord, or you can walk away. And yes, you can keep all “your Sabbaths” all you want, but how is that going to work for you? Not so well, not according to the Word.

Continuing in Ezekiel 20:20 – ²⁰ hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, (*Emphasis added*). I want to focus on the Hebrew word for “sign”; it's *lā'ōwt, לְאוֹת*. When you see God delivering signs in scripture, you want to pay attention.



The first time a sign is recorded in scripture is in Genesis 1 regarding the luminaries. They're called *lā'ōwt*. These are the signs. In other words, we're supposed to look at the luminaries. We know the stars, the sun, and the moon are signs. The prophets explain this to you: that before the coming in the great day of the Lord, the sun will turn black as sackcloth, the moon is going to become as blood and the stars will fall from heaven. You will know His coming is at hand when these things happen. It's interesting, we've been having all these blood moons recently. They are a sign. There is a purpose. This is my point: when God gives a sign, there's a purpose.

The second time we read in scripture that a sign is given, it's a mark on Cain. That's what it is. It's a sign. It's a mark. God puts a mark on Cain lest anyone find him and kill him. There was a purpose to the sign.

The third time you find a sign is in Genesis 9. It's in regard to the rainbow. God put this covenantal promise in the clouds for all humanity, making a promise to the world that He would never flood it again. There was a purpose to this sign. It was very real and significant. It exuded covenant.

The fourth time a sign is used is in Genesis 17 regarding circumcision, what Paul calls the seal of the righteousness of the faith. It was a covenant.

As you look at the Shabbat in that it is to be a sign between us and Him, that He is our God, and we are His people, it is very significant. There is a purpose, and we're given it.

Here's your purpose. Ezekiel 20:20 – ²⁰ **'hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you might know that I am your LORD your God.** (*Emphasis added*). Exodus 31:13 adds three words, **"who sanctifies you"**.

God said **"that you might know"**. The Hebrew word for "know" is *lāda'at*, **יָדַעַתְּ**. It's the term where Adam knew Eve intimately, and then they had a son. This is an intimate knowledge of God. You are to keep the Sabbath that you might know and confess that He is your God, the one who sanctifies you. This is the essence of Him being your God and you being His people.

In Leviticus 20 when God talks to His people, He says that He has separated or sanctified you away from the rest of the world. What is Shabbat? Shabbat is doing that: the Lord pulls you out of the world and sets you apart from the world. What is going to happen when Yeshua comes back at the Sabbath millennium? He's going to separate us from the world. Highly prophetic and has everything to do with Jesus. Everything!

We're going to end here and continue over the next several weeks to peel back layer after layer. You will see how much Jesus is involved in this the further we go into it.