

The Ten Commandments - Part 34: You Shall Not Commit Adultery - Part 1 (12/17/2022)

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/8fyxphp/the-ten-commandments-part-34>

***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.**

Shabbat shalom, everyone. We are covering the seventh commandment within the Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:14 — ¹⁴ **“You shall not commit adultery.”**

The LORD is very concise again. This commandment is five simple words in the English and only two words in the Hebrew, *lō tna’āp̄*, which means “no adultery.”

After going through the word of God many times from Genesis to Revelation, I can tell you, the LORD is very concerned about the topic of adultery. The LORD places an unusual emphasis on this commandment; it appears that the LORD is obsessed with this topic. I say that because from Genesis to Revelation, you are confronted with it over and over again. Look at the warnings God gives regarding adultery, the judgments to be rendered regarding adultery, and the stories that have been preserved regarding adultery.

This is a heavy topic; because it is so weighty, it will take a few weeks to get through. There are some things we need to hit as a community and talk about in this generation, so be patient.

I want to open up today with some commentary by Philo, a first-century, Jewish philosopher and prolific Bible commentator. He takes up the mantle of the Ten Commandments in his work known as *The Decalogue*. You need to hear the way he talks about this commandment because this sets the tone for the rest of the messages on adultery.

The Decalogue 121, Philo — **“And being about to promulgate the second (tablet of the 10 commandments) which contains the prohibitions of those offenses which are committed against men, he begins with adultery, — listen to this — looking upon this as the greatest of all violations of the law.”** (Emphasis added). Philo set this specific commandment apart from the rest of the commandments as being the greatest of any sin you can commit against your fellow man. He ranked this one at the top. Being an adamant student of the word, Philo derived something out of the word about this commandment that led him to this belief.

When you look at all the empires, nations, and peoples, including pagan and secular empires, that have existed, you see the same sentiment. This is an incredible thought. I want to share some commentaries with you. The first one is about the Babylonians:

NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible - By Zondervan, Dr. John H Walton & Dr. Craig S Keener — The Babylonians — “This sin (of adultery), sometimes referred to as — what? — **the ‘great sin,’** angered the gods. Adultery was an ‘abomination’ to Marduk in Babylon and considered a breach of trust, abandonment and failure of reciprocation.” (Emphasis added). This is a wicked pagan kingdom that served at the altar of demons and worshiped a false god. Marduk was their primary god. Even the pagans drew a line in the sand and said that adultery was too far; it's wicked. Next, we look at the Hittites:

NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible continued — The Hittites — “**In Hittite law the husband could kill his wife and paramour (if caught in the act) and go free.**” (Emphasis added). As Israel came into the land, they were to cast out the Hittites. The Hittites were a wicked pagan people, yet they drew a line in the sand concerning adultery. They implemented specific laws allowing people to take an adulterous person out, which put fear in society, so they would not cross the line. If you lived in Hittite times and planned to commit adultery, you would think, “If I do this and get caught, I'm a dead man.” These laws would hold society back from committing the egregious sin of adultery.

NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible continued — “**In Assyrian law the husband could affect castration, disfigurement or death on the guilty parties.**” (Emphasis added). The Assyrians were as wicked as wicked gets, yet adultery was going too far. They created laws to make sure people didn't cross the line on adultery.

The Pillar New Testament Commentary - The Letters to the Thessalonians - Gene L. Green — “**Sexual excesses were commonly tolerated in Greek society, even those of married men.**” — No surprise, right? The Greeks were historically known to be filled with immorality — “**However, adultery with the wife of another man was roundly condemned.**” (Emphasis added). Adultery was going too far for the wicked Greeks.

The Pillar New Testament Commentary continued — Roman Empire — “**Musonius Rufus, a conservative Stoic of the time, said, ‘But of all the sexual relations those involving adultery are most unlawful...’**” (Emphasis added). This commentary echoes the sentiments of Philo as Philo went to the word of God and placed adultery in a special category. Now, we find a Roman, stoic philosopher, which if you're not familiar with stoicism, it was a branch of philosophy. They were not Christian, but in many ways their beliefs paralleled those of the Bible. They believed in virtue ethics, which included apatheia, which meant they believed the inner passions of man (what the Bible calls “the lust of the flesh”) were irrational, and true men were called to be rational. Those men of virtue and character would war against those irrational passions. These were pagan, Roman philosophers who looked at adultery as the gravest and most unlawful of all sins.

UNRV Roman History - The Julian Marriage Laws — “**In 18 BC, the Emperor Augustus turned his attention to social problems in Rome.**” — Augustus, who became Rome's first emperor in 27 B.C., was considered the greatest emperor in the history of Rome. As he took his position of power, he recognized that his massive kingdom had some serious problems — “**Extravagance and adultery were widespread among the upper classes, marriage was increasingly infrequent and, many couples who did marry failed to produce offspring.**” (Emphasis added). If I didn't know the context of these words, I would say they are

describing America right now. We are taken over by extravagance. Adultery is widespread, and we are starting to see even the people who marry are not producing children. Some don't want children because that hurts the environment; they are a carbon footprint. Others find that financially children don't make sense anymore. This is what Augustus saw.

The Julian Marriage Laws continued — “Augustus, who hoped thereby to elevate both the morals — a pagan emperor talking about morals — and the numbers of the upper classes in Rome, and to increase the population of native Italians in Italy, — What does Augustus do with this massive problem since Rome has fallen into a state of total depravity? — **enacted laws to encourage marriage and having children, including provisions establishing adultery as a crime.**” (Emphasis added). The Bible already had that figured out. Rome called it a crime; the Bible identifies it as sin. Augustus fixed the problem by implementing some serious laws.

The Julian Marriage Laws continued — “The law against adultery made the offense a crime punishable by exile and the confiscation of property.” In other words, if you were caught committing adultery, the state would take everything you own; you would be pillaged. And not just that, you would be excommunicated and live in the wilderness as a vagabond. This was how Augustus handled this. But that wasn't the worst of it; he took it a step further:

The Julian Marriage Laws continued — “Fathers were permitted to kill daughters and their partners in adultery. Husbands could kill their partners under certain circumstances and were required to divorce adulterous wives.” This law was no joke. Augustus, a pagan emperor, recognized the only way to bring society back was to implement this. Coming against sin was the way to create a healthy society. Now, listen to how serious Augustus was about this:

The Julian Marriage Laws continued — “Augustus himself was obliged to invoke the law against his own daughter, Julia, and relegated her to the island of Pandateria.” You can see how out of control Rome was since his own daughter, knowing the laws, got caught, and he imposed the law and excommunicated her.

I show you all this so you can appreciate that all throughout history, secular and otherwise, the sin of adultery has been condemned. It was not just condemned, but we can see that it was one of the top concerns over and over. Does that mean sexual immorality or adultery never happened? No, but even pagan nations had the common sense to implement some things to push back the total depravity and total fall of their societies.

When you see the sin of adultery (the seventh commandment) running amok in your society, your society will fall. It will be ripped to shreds. How does our society look right now? I want to share some statistics with you. We read this headline:

Infidelity Statistics (2022): How much Cheating is Going On? - By Paul Brian — “Nobody wants it to happen to them, and few of us would even imagine that the person we love and care about could stab us in the back so brutally. But cheating happens. In fact, it happens a lot. Infidelity remains the number one reason that married and unmarried relationships end all across the world. **According to the General Social Survey**, ‘twenty percent of men cheat compared to 13 percent of women.’” — this next statistic is worse — “**According to the LA Intelligence Detective Agency**, the numbers are somewhat higher. They write that **30 to 60 percent** of married couples will cheat at least once in the marriage.” (Emphasis

added). If this is even close to reality, we are in trouble. We are a totally debased society. We are on the brink of collapse and judgment. This next statistic is worse:

“74 percent of men and 68 percent of women admit they’d cheat if it was guaranteed they'd never get caught.” (Emphasis added). The people interviewed were honest and admitted they would do this. The mind-blowing thing to me is there are that many people who willingly admitted this. What percentage of people felt that way in their heart but didn't disclose it? I wonder how many pastors or Christians felt that way but didn't disclose it. This number is past being troubling because there's already adultery in the heart.

“69 percent of marriages break up as a result of an affair being discovered.” (Emphasis added). We are only talking about the ones discovered. What does this statistic tell you? If you want to defile and destroy marriage, the holy sacred institution created by God, which He loves, just get one of the partners to commit adultery. Do you understand how much the devil is in the details? Can you appreciate that? This is absolutely demonic.

After God finished the creation in six days and rested on the seventh day, the first thing He did was create marriage, the holy sacred institution. Ever since God did that, the devil has gone after marriage, and you can look at his success ratio. Do you understand the damage this sin causes and the pain it inflicts? I don't want to hold another man weeping uncontrollably because his spouse committed adultery. I don't want to have to pray with another woman who's had her heart ripped out because her husband committed adultery. I can't tell you how many times I've had to do this. These statistics only confirm what I already know.

Latest Infidelity Statistics of USA — **“Statistics show that 56 percent of men and 34 percent of women who commit infidelity rate their marriages as happy or very happy. This makes the reason people cheat a little harder to dissect and comprehend.”** This is one of the most disturbing statements in this entire discussion. How do you wrap your head around this? This isn't a situation where a woman is being emotionally or physically abused by her husband. Not that it doesn't happen, but that is not the issue. When asked why they cheated, these people didn't say their marriage was bad; they were happy with their marriage. What is going on here? Something is going on when people have a good marriage, and yet somebody's being ripped out, being taken to the cleaners through deception, so the enemy can wreak havoc on what God created. It's absolutely demonic.

Latest Infidelity Statistics of USA — **“Two to three percent of all children are due to infidelity and shockingly most of these children are unknowingly raised by men who are not their biological fathers.”**

Can I share something with you? I grew up with a friend who is this statistic. His mom and dad were nice people. We were in our teens. He thinks his dad is his dad; I think his dad is his dad. He had been his dad since birth. His dad held him as a baby, walked him in his first steps, and helped him when he had health issues. His dad was there for him all the time. His dad found out later that my friend was not his son. My friend was the product of an affair. Do you think that affected my friend? It emotionally tore him up, in fact, it sent him down a path of unimaginable destruction. What do you think it did to his dad who thought his entire life that this was his son only to find out his wife cheated on him? Talk about needing counseling for the rest of your life; that'll do it.

And Satan laughs; he loves it. This is Satan's fruit of his kingdom. He builds his kingdom with this kind of vile activity. I could quote you numbers and statistics all day long, none of which are encouraging, all of

which tell you we are in trouble. You know we are in trouble when we have websites dedicated for you to commit adultery against your spouse.

Ashley Madison — I think most of you have heard of this dating service. What a tagline — “Life is short. Have an affair.” — Isn't this wonderful. On their website's front page, you can scroll down and see their story. It's a short paragraph — “As a place free of judgment, Ashley Madison revolves around the idea that consenting adults should be able to do whatever they want in private.” This is Ashley Madison's mentality. So, here you are with Satan alluring you, hissing in your ear, tempting you to commit adultery, and you find yourself on the Ashley Madison website. You read their story, and now the hook is set. They convince you that you have the right to privacy. Ashley Madison claims to be a place free of judgment, but I promise you: you will not be free of judgment. The word of God has spoken on this matter.



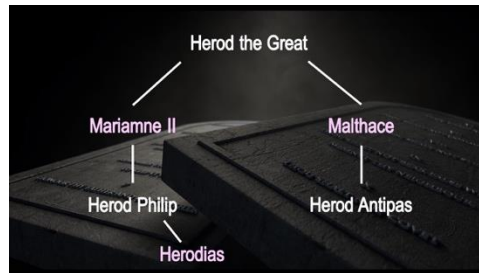
I want to share some information from the United Nations' website that is relevant today. If you want to understand where the collective (I emphasize the term “collective”) society is going, pay attention to the United Nations and what they are doing. Listen to this statement:

United Nations Human Rights - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Joint Statement by the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and in Practice — “Adultery as a criminal offense violates women's human rights.” Even though we've seen throughout history pagans who worship demons say adultery goes too far, the United Nations takes the position that adultery should not be criminalized because it is a protected right. — “Almost two decades ago, international human rights jurisprudence established that criminalization of sexual relations between consenting adults — that means male and female, not just women — is a violation of their right to privacy and infringement of article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.” (Emphasis added).

You cannot criminalize this. This is the mouthpiece of the collectivists, the entire world unified in the United Nations. They determined you have a right to privacy, so adultery cannot be criminalized. That sounds familiar because this is what we just read on the Ashley Madison website — “...consenting adults should be able to do whatever they want in private.” It's interesting that Ashley Madison merely echoes what the United Nations proclaims. You want to pay attention because this is the spirit of antichrist taking over the world. It is no joke. This topic we are delving into is as serious as it gets, especially with what we see happening in the world right now.

We will look at a particular story in the gospel of Mark that pertains to our subject. There are a couple of strong points we should walk away with.

Mark 6:14a — ¹⁴ “Now King Herod heard of Him, — Jesus, Yeshua — for His name had become well known....”



Before we look at the rest of the story, I want to clarify some things regarding the characters. Who is King Herod? This is not Herod the Great; this is Herod Antipas. It is important for you to understand the characters of the story. It will be helpful to look at the graph above.

We start with Herod the Great. He was the Herod in power over all Judea when Yeshua was born. This is the man who called himself the king of the Jews. So, you can see why he was surprised when three wise men came from the east and asked him, **“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?”** (Matthew 2:2). Herod had a problem with that as he was the king of the Jews. He came from a heritage of Edomites that had converted to Judaism. Herod was raised as a Jew. Certainly, we could debate that he was not a good practicing Jew, but he was raised as a Jew.

Let’s look at a small part of King Herod the Great’s family tree. He married Mariamne, the daughter of Simon, a high priest, and out of this marriage came a son, Herod Philip. (The region Caesarea Philippi was named after him.) Herod Philip married Herodias.

King Herod the Great, being an overachiever, married another woman, Malthace. (King Herod had ten wives. I think he fancied himself somewhat like Solomon.) Malthace was a Samaritan, and out of that marriage came a son, Herod Antipas.

The premise of our story is that the marriage of Herod Philip and Herodias began to have problems. Herodias was going to leave Herod Philip and marry his half-brother Herod Antipas.

Mark 6:14a — ¹⁴ **“Now King Herod — meaning Antipas — heard of Him (Jesus, Yeshua), for his name had become well known. And he said, ‘John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.’”**

If we were to step back and think about this statement without knowing the rest of the story, it’s absolutely bizarre. Apparently, Antipas caught wind of what Yeshua was doing. Somehow, whether by his servants or some other way, the word got back to Antipas that Yeshua was healing the sick, raising the dead, and casting out demons; the blind were seeing, and the deaf were hearing. Nobody had ever heard of someone doing these kinds of wonders in all Israel. Upon hearing this, Herod Antipas’ conclusion was bizarre. He believed John the Baptist was raised from the dead. Why would Herod Antipas come to that conclusion?

Herod Antipas had put John the Baptist in the grave. He was responsible for taking out John the Baptist. By his words, you can tell he was riddled with guilt, terrified, and had nightmares. So, the moment he heard about some great power, he thought because of his sin John had come back to haunt him.

As we continue, the author of the gospel of Mark whom we call Mark takes us back in time to the beginning of the story, so we can understand the specific events that took place:

Mark 6:17 — ¹⁷ “For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison — listen to this — **for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her.**” (Emphasis added).

We just got a significant bit of information that we need to process. We need to understand why Herod Antipas put John into prison. It wasn't of his own accord; he was influenced by his wife, Herodias. Herodias was behind this because she hated John. Why did she loathe him?

Mark 6:18 — ¹⁸ “Because John had said to Herod, ‘**It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.**’” (Emphasis added).

John told Herod that he had sinned against God and broken His law, specifically the seventh commandment, “**You shall not commit adultery, *lō tnə’āp.***” I love that John was not concerned about whether or not he sounded politically correct, or if he offended someone by speaking the truth. John was not a respecter of persons. You couldn't bribe him or pay him off. John was only concerned about speaking God's truth. That's all he cared about. His ministry was built on the premise to turn the hearts of the people back to their God.

We will continue with the story in the gospel of Mark, but first let's look at the writings of Josephus. Josephus adds a couple of details to this story that I think are important:

Josephus. Antiquities 18.136 — “But **Herodias, their sister, was married to Herod [Philip], the son of Herod the Great, who was born of Mariamne, the daughter of Simon the high priest, who had a daughter, Salome;** — The gospels don't record the name of Herodias' daughter, Salome. Then Josephus added this important detail — **after whose birth Herodias took upon her(self) to confound the laws of our country,** — Josephus was saying she desecrated the law of God, the Torah, and the decalogue. How? — **and divorce herself from her husband while he was alive, and was married to Herod [Antipas].**” (Emphasis added).

After the birth of Salome, which may have been one year, two years, or more, Herodias picked up her stuff, divorced Philip, and married Herod Antipas. Antipas divorced his wife, the daughter of King Aretas IV, in order to marry Herodias. It caused quite a stir. It was a regular Ashley Madison moment.

Mark 6:18-19 — ¹⁸ “Because John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife. — he's laying down the law — ¹⁹ **Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him....**” (Emphasis added).

Herodias wanted John taken out. She wanted his voice of reason, clarity, and truth put to death. But it wasn't John the Baptist's voice; it was the voice of the living God. It is God's commandment. Herodias hated the voice of God. Her response declared she hated God. When I think of her response, I think about Yeshua's words:

John 3:20 — ²⁰ “**For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.**”

Herodias was the essence of evil. She was the essence of someone dwelling in darkness who hated the light. What does Proverbs 6:23 say? — ²³ **“For the commandment is a lamp, — that includes the seventh commandment — and the law a light...”** John the Baptist brought light to this situation, and the darkness hated it. Herodias was enveloped in sin and wanted to continue in sin, so she was offended by the light. Yeshua added this:

John 7:7 — ⁷ **“For the world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.”**

This gives a little deeper perspective of this situation. Herodias’ loathing, burning hatred for John the Baptist, in all reality, was hatred for Yeshua. She hated the word of God. I have a saying: If you want to make friends with the world, tell them what they want to hear; if you want to make friends of God, tell them the truth.

Mark 6:19-20 — ¹⁹ **“Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; — She couldn't do it. Why? — ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.”** (Emphasis added).

Herod Antipas probably thought he was being quite crafty. On one hand, he appeased his wife by throwing John in prison and making her think he was doing something for her since he knew how much she hated John. At the same time, even though John was falsely accused and put into prison wrongly, Herod Antipas probably thought he was protecting John. Herod’s actions were not justified, but from his position, you can see how he would justify what he had done as wisdom.

Mark 6:21-22 — ²¹ **“Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee.”** — This was not just any old gathering; this was a prestigious affair; the crème de la crème came to this gala — ²² **“And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and — listen to this — pleased Herod — It must have been hypnotic; it must have been something very impressive because it didn't just please Herod — and those who sat with him, — This is very important because what follows directly pertains to what we are reading right now. Not just Herod, but his special guests, the crème de la crème, are impressed and in awe. Her dancing pleased the crowd. So, how did Herod respond? — the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you.’”** (Emphasis added).

Herod took the celebration to a whole other level. You better believe these words caught the attention of every single guest at the party. To make an offer like this was so significant, especially in the historical context, it would have garnered the attention of every single person sitting there. You probably could have heard a pin drop. As he continued, his statement got stronger:

Mark 6:23 — ²³ **“He also swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom.’”** (Emphasis added).

Oh my, this is really something! In our family devotions, we just finished reading the book of Esther. This statement is said multiple times by King Ahasuerus to Esther: **“What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you — up to half the kingdom!”** (Esther 5:3).

This is a very significant statement. Herod made the strongest statement a king could make. Do you feel the weight of what he brought to the table? This is why you could probably hear a pin drop in that room after what he just swore to her.

Mark 6:24 — ²⁴ **“So she went out and said to her mother, ‘What shall I ask?’ And she said, ‘The head of John the Baptist!’”** (Emphasis added).

Think about this situation. The king offered up to half of his kingdom to her. She could have all the riches she could imagine. She could have a monument made in her name, so all the people in the land of Galilee and Perea, which King Herod Antipas ruled over, would acknowledge and glorify her. She could have had land and an extravagant house. Anything she desired was at her disposal, but her mother, Herodias, didn't blink. Herodias' ultimate desire was to destroy John and take him out. She loathed him that much.

Herodias was filled with the spirit of Jezebel. What do we know about Jezebel? She stirred up her husband, Ahab, to do more evil than any king before him. What else did she do? She killed the prophets. And what was Herodias doing? She was having a prophet of God killed. If that isn't enough, when Yeshua spoke to the church at Thyatira, he directly associated the name Jezebel with sexual immorality, which is the same thing Herodias was guilty of. It is a Jezebel spirit that leads the charge in adultery.

Mark 6:25-28 — **“Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.’”** ²⁶ **And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and — look at this — because of those who sat with him,** — These people mattered to him. He was surrounded by the crème de la crème and their acceptance was more important to him than walking in righteousness — **he did not want to refuse her.** — so, what happened? — ²⁷ **Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.”** (Emphasis added).

Why did this entire crescendo with John the Baptist end with him being executed? John proclaimed adultery, the seventh commandment, was a sin. Process that for a second and consider the following:

Matthew 11:11 — Yeshua said — ¹¹ **“...among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist.”** I don't even know how to wrap my head around that.

John was greater than the greats: Noah, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, Moses, and even Abraham whom God made a covenant with, and his descendants would be as many as the stars of the sky; anyone who believed in Yeshua would be called a son of Abraham. So, I try to process the words Yeshua said, **“Among those born among women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist.”** You know what? This makes perfect sense because guess who was chosen to herald the light of the world? John, and he had to be the greatest, and yet John was not even worthy to unloose the sandal strap of our King. That's amazing! And John, the greatest man ever born among women, outside of Yeshua, was put to death because he stood against adultery. That is incredible, and we need to process it, especially in our generation.

Isaiah 59:14-15a — ¹⁴ **“Justice is turned back and righteousness stands afar off; — this generation was broken and totally given over to sin — for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.”** — this

is the moment antichrist came in and destroyed the truth of God and didn't allow the truth of God to go forth in society. Then we read this — ^{15a} **“So truth fails, and he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey.”** (Emphasis added).

If you do not consent and go along with society's debauchery and depravity, you will make yourself prey. If you hold the line, you might soon find yourself with your head on a platter. Will you be bold and hold the line like John the Baptist? John the Baptist heralded the coming of the Messiah, yet the days of John the Baptist were called an evil and adulterous generation. This was the condition of society when Messiah came. It will be that way again, and in reality, it already is. That's how close we are to the coming of Yeshua. He is coming soon, and you had better get ready: trim your lamps, have your staff in your hand, and your belt on your waist.

Habakkuk 1:4a — ^{4a} **“Therefore the law is powerless, — He's not saying the Torah is powerless in and of itself — and justice never goes forth.”**

In other words, the law was being rendered powerless because none of them were giving themselves over to it. It wasn't guiding them. This society would not listen to God's commandments. It really blows your mind when you see pastors and teachers telling us we don't need the law. We are in trouble.

Habakkuk 1:4b — ^{4b} **“For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds.”**

Do not think, if you're living in an evil and adulterous generation, like in the days of John the Baptist, that when you step up for righteousness, you'll be given fair judgment. Scripture warns us not to think we will be treated fairly. Don't trust the court system and expect them to make a good judgment because it won't. Christians, not just in this country, but all over the world, will be falsely accused because society does not want to hear what you have to say. Society hates the law of God. Get ready and be resolved like John the Baptist, especially in regard to this commandment.

Daniel 8:12 — ¹² **“Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn — the Antichrist — to oppose the daily sacrifices; — and what does he do — and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.”** (Emphasis added).

It's interesting because we're talking about the Antichrist. This is a prophecy of Antiochus Epiphanes. We're coming into Hanukkah. The whole premise of Hanukkah is that Antiochus Epiphanes tried to destroy the Torah by making the Jews burn their copies of the law. It was an offense to him. But the Maccabees stood up for righteousness and wouldn't bend their knees and compromise. Think about this as we celebrate Hanukkah. This is where we need to be.