

The First Commandment

NOTE: My comments are in curly brackets as such {...}.

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

(Exodus 20:3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

OF FIRST IMPORTANCE

In both ancient and contemporary history, Israel’s defiance to YHWH is ultimately traced back to her transgression of the First Commandment. Israel has and still is *flagrantly* breaking Yahweh’s other commandments but this rebellion always finds its *root cause* in placing other gods before Him. In other words, in His face.

When man places another god before Yahweh, that god becomes his lord or master. These gods exact lordship by imposing laws and requiring obedience. Yeshua explains this relationship:

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not practice what I tell you?”

(Luke 6:46, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“21 Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me on that day [when I judge them], ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name, and done many miracles in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them publicly, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me [you are banished from My presence], you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands which is lawlessness].’ ”

(Matthew 7:21-23, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Whoever is god in a person’s life inevitably determines the laws by which he or she lives. When Yahweh has been made Lord of someone’s life, their innermost desire becomes one of obeying His commandments and statutes. There is no such motivation for the person who has rejected Yahweh as his or her God. Thus, out of all of the Ten Commandments, the First Commandment is the most consequential.

PLURALISM

At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Benjamin Franklin urged his fellow participants to call upon the “*God [who] governs in the affairs of man.*” Although he did not refer to Him by His name, Yahweh, there was no doubt as to which God he was referring to. Mr. Franklin went on to advise his countrymen:

I therefore beg leave to move that, henceforth, prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business....¹



It was vividly evident how far we had fallen when on June 25, 1991, at the recommendation of Congressman Nick Rahall (Democrat, West Virginia), Congress called upon a Black Muslim to offer prayer to Allah on behalf of American affairs. This was a giant step in America's departure from Yahweh, a defection that will not go unpunished.

A contrast of America's early history (whose citizens generally served Yahweh and observed His commandments) with contemporary America (whose citizens generally serve other gods and transgress Yahweh's commandments) reveals that rather than being blessed, America is being cursed as prophesied in Deuteronomy Chapter 28.

Many well-meaning non-Christians and Christians alike have been *brainwashed* into believing that a pluralistic society was the intent and aim of America's founding fathers. Such people have fallen prey to intense anti-Christian propaganda. An honest person needs only to read this country's founding charters and documents to ascertain that our nation was established upon the Christian Bible and the laws of Yahweh. The term "*freedom of religion*," so often employed by America's forefathers, meant something altogether different from how those promoting pluralism today use this same term. To those who founded this great nation, "*freedom of religion*" meant "*freedom of Christianity*," with no tolerance for non-Christian religions or their gods. Consider the following declarations from some of America's early pastors quoted by John Wingate Thornton in his introduction to *The Pulpit of the American Revolution*:

[Pastor] John Norton, in the Election Sermon of 1661, said that they [America's early settlers] **came "into this wilderness to live under the order of the [Christian] gospel;" "that our polity [government] may be a gospel polity, and may be compleat according to the Scriptures, answering fully the Word of God: this is the work of our generation, and the very work we engaged for into this wilderness; this is the scope and the end of it ... written upon the forehead of New England ... the compleat walking in the faith of the gospel, according to the order of the gospel."**

The venerable [John] Higginson, of Salem, in his Election Sermon of 1663, stated ... **"It concerneth New England always to remember that they are originally a plantation religious, not a plantation of trade.... Let merchants ... remember this: that worldly gain was not the end and design of the people of New England, but [the Christian] religion...."**

¹ Benjamin Franklin, quoted by James Madison, *The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787*, Max Farrand, ed. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991) Vol. I, pp. 450-452, June 28, 1987, quoted by David Barton, *The Myth of Separation* (Aledo, TX: Wallbuilder Press, 1992) p. 109.

In the [Harvard University] election Sermon of 1677 ... [Pastor] Increase Mather uttered these words; **“It was love to God and to Jesus Christ which brought our fathers into this wilderness.... There never was a generation that did so perfectly shake off the dust of Babylon, both as to ecclesiastical and civil constitutions, as the first generation of Christians that came into this land for the gospel’s sake....”**²

In *Magnalia Christi Americana*, Cotton Mather, one of Boston’s early ministers, testified to the same:

I WRITE the WONDERS of the CHRISTIAN RELIGION [Mather’s capitalization] flying from the [religious] depravations of Europe, to the American Strand....³

In the year 1643 ... several colonies of New-England became in fact, as well as name, UNITED COLONIES [Mather’s capitalization]. ...having declared, “That we all came into these parts of America with the same end and aim - namely, to advance the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, and enjoy the liberties of the gospel....”⁴

The design of these [European] refugees, thus carried into the [North American] wilderness, was, that they might there “sacrifice unto the Lord their God:” it was, that they might maintain the power of godliness and practice the evangelical worship of our Lord Jesus Christ, in all the parts of it....⁵

On December 22, 1820 Daniel Webster quoted the Puritans’ aim and design upon landing at Plymouth Rock, and in so doing, reminded his audience of this nation’s early Christian character and intent:

...if God prosper us, we shall here begin a work which shall last for ages; we shall plant here a new society, in the principles of the fullest liberty and the purest religion ... we shall fill this region of the great [North American] continent ... with civilization and Christianity; the temples of the true God [Yahweh] shall rise, where now ascends the smoke of [non-Christian] idolatrous sacrifice....⁶

Finally, let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our [European] fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the

² John Wingate Thornton, Introduction, *The Pulpit of the American Revolution: Political Sermons of the Period of 1776*, 1860 edition reprinted (Boston, MA: Da Capo Press, 1970) pp. xviii-xix.

³ Pastor Cotton Mather, D.D., *Magnalia Christi Americana; or, The Ecclesiastical History of New-England*..., 1702 and subsequent editions reprinted (New York, NY: Russell & Russell, 1967) Vol. I, p. 25.

⁴ Mather, Vol. I, p. 160.

⁵ Mather, Vol. I, p. 240.

⁶ Daniel Webster, discourse at Plymouth Rock on December 22, 1820, *The Works of Daniel Webster* (Boston, MA: Brown and Company, 1858) Vol. I, p. 10.

Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary. Let us cherish these sentiments, and extend this influence still more widely; in the full conviction, that that is the happiest society which partakes in the highest degree of the mild and peaceful spirit of Christianity.⁷

America's Christian foundations and designs could not be affirmed more emphatically than they were by Patrick Henry:

It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ!⁸

There have been three Supreme Court decisions [Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States, 143 U.S. 457 at 471 (1892), Zorach v. Clauson, 343 U.S. 307 at 313 (1952), and McGowan v. Maryland, 366 U.S. 420 at 561 (1961)] declaring that the United States of America *is a Christian nation*. In an address at Harvard University in 1905, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice, David J. Brewer, quoted from Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States:



This Republic is classified among the Christian nations of the world. It was so formally declared by the Supreme Court of the United States. In the case of HOLY TRINITY vs. UNITED STATES ... that Court ... added, “these and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation....”⁹

Justice Brewer went on to further establish this undeniable fact of American history:

In several colonies and States a profession of the Christian faith was made an indispensable condition to holding office. ...of still more significance ... there are no contrary declarations. In no charter or constitution is there anything to even suggest that any other than the Christian is the religion of this country. In none of them is Mohammed, or Confucius, or Buddha in any manner noticed. ...there is no charter or constitution [in America] that is either infidel, agnostic or anti-Christian.¹⁰

⁷ Webster, Vol. I, pp. 48-49.

⁸ Patrick Henry, quoted by David Barton, *The Myth of Separation* (Aledo, TX: Wall Builder Press, 1992) p. 25.

⁹ Associate Justice David Josiah Brewer, address at Harvard University, 1905.

¹⁰ Brewer, address at Harvard University, 1905.

In the 1811 court case of People v. Ruggles, New York's Chancellor James Kent rendered a similar opinion:

Nor are we bound ... in the [United States] constitution, as some have strangely supposed, either not to punish at all, or to punish indiscriminately the like attacks [of blasphemy] upon the religion of Mohamed [Islam], or of the Grand Lama [Buddhism], and for this plain reason, that the case assumes that we are a Christian people, and the morality of the country is deeply engrafted upon Christianity and not upon the doctrines or worship of those imposters.”¹¹



The French Historian Alexis de Tocqueville in his momentous history of America, Democracy in America, testified to just how emphatic early American legislators were in their allegiance to Yahweh and their intolerance of false gods and non-Christian religions:

The legislators of Connecticut begin with the penal laws, and ... borrow their provisions from the text of Holy Writ. “Whosoever shall worship any other God than the Lord [Yahweh],” says the preamble of the Code, “shall surely be put to death.”¹²

Had the intent of America's founding fathers been polytheistic, it would not have mattered because Yahweh's design for America has always been monotheistic. Otherwise, Yahweh Himself would have been fostering first commandment transgression. The pluralism being advocated by today's secularists and many Christians alike cannot be found in either the Old or New Testament. It simply does not exist. Instead, Moses sternly warned the Israelites against polytheism.

“13 You shall fear [only] the Lord {Yahweh} your God; and you shall serve Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect] and swear [oaths] by His name [alone]. 14 You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, 15 for the Lord {Yahweh} your God who is among you is a jealous (impassioned; see Deuteronomy 6:15 and Deuteronomy 4:24 i.e. intolerant of unfaithfulness.) God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]—otherwise the anger of the Lord {Yahweh} your God will be kindled and burn against you, and He will destroy you from the face of the earth.”

(Deuteronomy 6:13-15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Additionally, Yeshua admonished us:

¹¹ Chancellor James Kent, “People v. Ruggles, 8 Johns (NY) 290 (1811),” quoted by Leo Pfeffer in Church State and Freedom (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1953) p. 665.

¹² Democracy in America, translated from French by Henry Reeve (New York, NY: The Colonial Press, Alexis de Tocqueville 1899) Vol. 1, p. 37.

“Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written *and* forever remains written, ‘**You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.**’ ” ”

(Matthew 4:10, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“Jesus said to him, “**I am the [only] Way [to God] and the [real] Truth and the [real] Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**” ”

(John 14:6, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Yahweh is indeed a God of love and mercy; but do not be mistaken, Yahweh can also be jealous and intolerant. Consider carefully the following admonitions:

“[The king ended by saying,] ‘**But as for these enemies of mine [Yeshua’s] who did not want me to be king over them, bring them here and kill them in my presence.**’ ”

(Luke 19:27, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“**29** How much greater punishment do you think he will deserve who has rejected *and* trampled under foot the Son of God, and has considered unclean *and* common the blood of the covenant that sanctified [All believers are sanctified, that is, set apart as holy/dedicated for YHWH and His purposes.] him, and has insulted the Spirit of grace [who imparts the unmerited favor and blessing of God]? **30** For we know Him who said, “**Vengeance is Mine** [retribution and the deliverance of justice rest with Me], **I will repay** [the wrongdoer].” **And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” 31 It is a fearful and terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God** [incurring His judgment and wrath].”

(Hebrews 10:29-31, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“**for our God is [indeed] a consuming fire.**”

(Hebrews 12:29, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Yahweh is uncompromising and He is intolerant when it comes to worshipping other gods and He expects His people to be the same. He expects His followers to drive out or eliminate the worship of all false gods from their land:

“**13 But you shall tear down *and* destroy their [pagan] altars, smash in pieces their [sacred] pillars** (obelisks, images) **and cut down their Asherim** [Symbols of the mother-goddess Asherah, usually a tree or pole dedicated to her and placed near her many shrines.] **14 —for you shall not worship any other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous (impassioned) God** [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His].”

(Exodus 34:13-14, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“**then you {Israel} shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you and destroy all their sculpted images, and destroy all their cast idols and completely eliminate all their [idolatrous] high places,**”

(Numbers 33:52, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“You {Israel} shall tear down their [the heathen’s] altars and smash their [idolatrous] pillars and burn their Asherim [Wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah.] in the fire; you shall cut down the carved and sculpted images of their gods and obliterate their name from that place.”

(Deuteronomy 12:3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Consequently, when America, as a nation, returns to Yahweh and His laws, the synagogues, mosques and the temples of other gods found throughout our land will have to come down. He is jealous for His people, His children, and we should likewise be jealous for those things He wants. Is anyone home?

STORMING THE GATES OF HELL

With the previous Scriptures readily available, why was it that America’s preachers did not storm “*the gates of hell*” on June 25, 1991 when Congress allowed prayer to be offered to Allah on behalf of this nation? Where were they? Perhaps, they have become “*mute dogs, they cannot bark*” in fulfillment of what the prophet Isaiah wrote as a consequence of rejecting the laws of Yahweh.

“10 Israel’s watchmen are blind, They are all without knowledge. They are all mute dogs, they cannot bark; Panting, lying down, they love to slumber. 11 And the dogs are greedy; they never [Literally, they do not know satisfaction.] have enough. They are shepherds who have no understanding; They have all turned to their own way, Each one to his unlawful gain, without exception.”

(Isaiah 56:10-11, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The first mistake that was made by congress is when preachers and Christians in general permitted Muslims (and adherents of other non-Christian religions) to reside in our land. That prayer to Allah was simply the consequence of a prior first commandment transgression:

“32 You shall not make a covenant with them or with their gods. 33 They [non-Israelite heathens - verses 23-28] shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it is certain to be a trap for you [resulting in judgment].”

(Exodus 23:32-33, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

A natural outgrowth of the first commandment violation is the election of foreigners as rulers over us. Anyone who has been paying attention to what has and is happening in our government since Muslims have been elected to both houses of our government can see the damage “they” have and are still doing to our nation. They are serving their pagan gods and not the One and True Mighty One, Yahweh. Yahweh does not tolerate this deviation either:

“you [Israel] shall most certainly set a king [or ruler] over you whom the Lord your God chooses. You shall set a king over you from among your countrymen (brothers); **you may not choose a foreigner** [non-Israelite to rule] **over you who is not your countryman** [Israelite kindred].”

(Deuteronomy 17:15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

With this in mind, it should not surprise anyone to discover that Congressman Nick Rahall is half-Lebanese.

FIRST COMMANDMENT STATUTES

Yahweh’s law consists of three integral components:

“Now this is **the command; the statutes and the judgments** (precepts) which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you might do (follow, obey) **them in the land which you [Israel] are crossing over [the Jordan] to possess,**”

(Deuteronomy 6:1, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Consequently, a thorough study of the first commandment requires that its statutes and its judgments be examined as well. The following statutes specify and clarify the first commandment transgression.

Fear

“**1** Now this is the command; the statutes and the judgments (precepts) which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you might do (follow, obey) **them in the land which you are crossing over [the Jordan] to possess,** **2** so that **you and your son and your grandson may fear and worship the Lord your God** [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], to keep [and actively do] all His statutes and His commandments which I am commanding you, all the days of your life, so that your days may be prolonged. **3** Therefore listen, O Israel, and be careful to do *them*, that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly [in numbers], as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing [This phrase referred to the abundant fertility of the land of Canaan. Milk (typically that of goats and sheep) was associated with abundance; “honey” referred mainly to syrups made from dates or grapes and was the epitome of sweetness. Bees’ honey was very rare and was considered the choicest of foods.] with milk and honey.

4 Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one [the only God]! **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart *and* mind and with all your soul and with all your strength [your entire being]. **6** These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be [written] on your heart *and* mind. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children [Literally *sons*, impressing God’s precepts on their

minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths] and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. **8** And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand (forearm), and they shall be used as bands [Or *phylacteries*. This is originally a Greek word meaning “safeguard.” In Jewish tradition these are also called *tefillin*, and are understood to be small leather boxes tied to the forearm and to the top of the head with leather straps. The boxes contain small parchment copies of the passage found here and three others.] (frontals, frontlets) on your forehead. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts [Hebrew *mezuzoth*, which—like *tefillin* (v 8)—also have special significance in Jewish tradition. The (singular) *mezuzah* is a piece of parchment on which is written this passage (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and Deuteronomy 11:13-21. The parchment is encased to protect it, and is attached to the right doorpost. By Jewish law, all rooms where people live or sleep (excluding bathrooms) are required to have *mezuzoth* on the doorposts.] of your house and on your gates.



10 Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore (solemnly promised) to [give] your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give you, [a land with] great and splendid cities which you did not build, **11** and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn (excavated) cisterns (wells) which you did not dig out, and vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are full and satisfied, **12** then beware [Literally take heed to yourself.] that you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **13** You shall fear [only] the Lord your God; and you shall serve Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect] and swear [oaths] by His name [alone]. **14** You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, **15** for the Lord your God who is among you is a jealous (impassioned) God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]—otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled and burn against you, and He will destroy you from the face of the earth.

16 You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah. **17** You shall diligently keep [foremost in your thoughts and actively do] the commandments of the Lord your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you. **18** You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, so that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore to [give] your fathers, **19** by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken.

20 When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and statutes and judgments (precepts) which the Lord our God has commanded you?’ **21** then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **22** Moreover, the

Lord showed great and terrible signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; **23** He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to [give] our fathers.’ **24** So **the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear** [and worship] **the Lord our God** [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect] **for our good** always and so that He might preserve us alive, as it is today.”

(Deuteronomy 6:1-24, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Not only is the fear of Yahweh the beginning of knowledge and wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10), but it also determines whether Yahweh is our God. Whom a person fears is almost always whom he or she obeys and whom one’s obedience goes to is the primary determinant in demonstrating who is his or her god. Thus, Yahweh demands that we fear only Him:

“Now, therefore, **fear the Lord** and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; **remove the gods which your fathers served** on the other side of the [Euphrates] River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.”

(Joshua 24:14, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“and I said to you, “I am the Lord your God; **you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites** in whose land you live.” But you have not listened to *and* obeyed My voice.”

(Judges 6:10, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“**34** To this day they act in accordance with their former [pagan] customs: they do not [really] fear the Lord, nor do they obey their statutes and ordinances, nor the law, nor the commandments which **the Lord commanded the sons** (descendants) **of Jacob, whom He named Israel**; **35** with whom the Lord had made a covenant and commanded them, saying, “**You shall not fear other gods or bow yourselves to them nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them.** **36** But the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, and to Him you shall bow yourselves down, and to Him you shall sacrifice. **37** The statutes and the ordinances and the law and the commandment which He wrote for you [by the hand of Moses], you shall observe and do forever. **You shall not fear** (worship, serve) **other gods.** **38** The covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget; **you shall not fear other gods.** **39** But **the Lord your God you shall fear** [and worship]; then He will rescue you from the hands of all your enemies.”

(2 Kings 17:34-39, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Additionally, we are not to fear men, men’s governments, the media or any other man-made entity:

“**The fear of man brings a snare**, But whoever trusts in *and* puts his confidence in the Lord will be exalted *and* safe.”

(Proverbs 29:25, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“1 The Lord is my light and my salvation—Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the refuge and fortress of my life—Whom shall I dread? 2 When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though an army encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, Even in this [in Yahweh] I am confident.”

(Psalm 27:1-3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“11 For in this way the Lord spoke to me with His strong hand [upon me] and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people [behaving as they do], saying, 12 You are not to say, ‘It is a conspiracy!’ In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, And you are not to fear what they fear nor be in dread of it. 13 It is the Lord of hosts whom you are to regard as holy and awesome. He shall be your [source of] fear, He shall be your [source of] dread [not man].”

(Isaiah 8:11-13, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“Listen to Me, you who know righteousness (right standing with God), The people in whose heart is My law and instruction; Do not fear the reproach and taunting of man [such as from today’s media], Nor be distressed at their reviling.”

(Isaiah 51:7, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; but rather be afraid of Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

(Matthew 10:28, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“Fear nothing that you are about to suffer. Be aware that the devil [a false accuser] is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested [in your faith], and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful to the point of death [if you must die for your faith], and I will give you the crown [consisting] of life.”

(Revelation 2:10, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The apostles were admonished to *beware* of men and their governments; however, they were not to be *fearful* of them:

“16 “Listen carefully: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be wise as serpents, and innocent as doves [have no self-serving agenda]. 17 Beware of men [whose nature is to act in opposition to God], for they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues; 18 and you will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you within that [very] hour;”

(Matthew 10:16-19, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

King Solomon provided a similar warning:

“If the temper of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your post [showing resistance], because composure and calmness prevent great offenses.”

(Ecclesiastes 10:4, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Refusing to fear anyone or anything other than Yahweh is a demonstration of faith and it is our faith that overcomes the world.

“If the temper of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your post [showing resistance], because composure and calmness prevent great offenses.”

(1 John 5:4, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Moreover, the Apostle Paul described the absence of fear as a “*sign of destruction*” to our enemies.

“And in no way be alarmed or intimidated [in anything] by your opponents, for such [constancy and fearlessness on your part] is a [clear] sign [a proof and a seal] for them of [their impending] destruction, but [a clear sign] for you of deliverance and salvation, and that too, from God.”

(Philippians 1:28, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The fear of Yahweh is also one of the Biblical prerequisites for both religious and civil leadership - Exodus 18:21, Deuteronomy 17:19, 2 Samuel 23:3 and 2 Chronicles 19:6-7. We are, thus, commanded to fear leaders who fear Yahweh:

“My son, fear the Lord {Yahweh} and the king [or the ruler who fears Yahweh]; And do not associate with those who are given to change [of allegiance, and are revolutionary],”

(Proverbs 24:21, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The fear of God-fearing leaders, rather than being contrary to the previous passages, is essentially an expansion of fearing Yahweh Himself.

Love

“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear [and worship] the Lord your God [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], to walk [that is, to live each and every day] in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul [your choices, your thoughts, your whole being],”

(Deuteronomy 10:12, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His precepts, and His commandments [it is your obligation to Him].”

(Deuteronomy 11:1, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“1 If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, **2** and the sign or the wonder which he spoke (foretold) to you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us follow after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve *and* worship them,’ **3** you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; **for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart *and* mind and all your soul** [your entire being]. **4** You shall walk after the Lord your God and you shall fear [and worship] Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], and you shall keep His commandments and you shall listen to His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cling to Him.”

(Deuteronomy 13:1-4, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“For the [true] **love of God is this: that we** *habitually* **keep His commandments** *and* remain focused on His precepts. And His commandments *and* His precepts are not difficult [to obey].”

(1 John 5:3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The *fear of Yahweh* is where the First Commandment observance begins; nevertheless, under the New Covenant *love for Yahweh* should be our primary incentive for keeping not only the First Commandment but all of the other commandments as well.

Worship

“for you shall not worship any other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous (impassioned) **God** [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His].”

(Exodus 34:14, Amplified Bible (AMP))

“16 Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away [from the LORD] **and serve other gods and worship them** [other gods], **17** or [else] the LORD’s anger will be kindled *and* burn against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the land will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.”

(Deuteronomy 11:16-17, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty and majesty of His holiness [as the creator and source of holiness].”

(Psalm 29:2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“7 You hypocrites (play-actors, pretenders), rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said, **8 ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is**

far away from Me. 9 But in vain do they worship Me, For they teach as doctrines the precepts of men.’ ”

(Matthew 15:7-9, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory and majesty and excellence of the immortal God for an image [worthless idols. Paul’s indictment of idolatry (images) is logical and devastating. He emphasizes that idols are essentially copies of living creatures, whether in human form (as, for example, in ancient Greek myth) or otherwise (as in Egyptian idolatry and metaphysics). These lifeless images are clearly powerless, and even the living creatures which they supposedly represent are either nonexistent hybrids and monsters, or else ordinary creatures on earth who could hardly create so much as a grain of sand.] in the shape of mortal man and birds and four-footed animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their own hearts to [sexual] impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them [abandoning them to the degrading power of sin], 25 because [by choice] they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

(Romans 1:22-25, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“for we [who are born-again have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, set apart for His purpose and] are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory and take pride and exult in Christ Jesus and place no confidence [in what we have or who we are] in the flesh.”

(Philippians 3:3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Love for Yahweh generates worship. Thus, those who hate Yahweh worship other gods. Astrologers, evolutionists, humanists and Jews are some of the people who transgress this First



Commandment statute by replacing worship of the Creator with worship of His creation. It is obvious how astrologers, evolutionists and humanists transgress this statute but it may not be so obvious how today’s Jews are guilty of this same transgression. The Jews adhere to the Talmud (which perverts the laws of Yahweh) rather than the Torah; therefore, most Jews do *not* worship Yahweh as their God. Furthermore, many Jews look to themselves as their own god. Dr. Alfred M. Lilienthal expounded upon the way in which his fellow Jews have replaced the worship of Yahweh with the worship of themselves:

“In contemporary Judaism the worship of the state of Israel and its symbols has been gradually and unfortunately crowding out the worship of the One God [Yahweh].”¹³

¹³ Dr. Alfred M. Lilienthal, [The Other Side of the Coin](#) (New York, NY: The Devin-Adair Company, 1965) p. 62.
The First Commandment

“...the Jews ... became abject idolaters of the new polytheism - nationalism. Their relationship to God was subordinated to their relationship toward one another.”¹⁴

In an address delivered in 1910 before the New York Free Synagogue, Jacob H. Schiff was more pointed:

“ ‘Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord our God is the only God’ has a living meaning ... the day will come ... when the Unity of God and the brotherhood of man will be universally recognized, is a Jew.”¹⁵

It was probably in the Jewish Cabala that the blasphemous idea of Jewish divinity first originated:

“The Jew is the living God, God incarnate: he is the heavenly man. The other men [non-Jews] are earthly, of inferior race. They exist only to serve the Jew. They are the cattle seed.”¹⁶

In his book [*The Messianic Idea of Israel*](#), Joseph Klausner provided the Jewish concept of the Redeemer:

“...the whole people Israel [the Jews misnamed] ... gradually became the Messiah of the world, the redeemer of mankind.”¹⁷

True Christianity recognizes that the Messiah {Yeshua/Jesus} is God, or that a part of God resides in the Messiah. Consequently, any person or group claiming to be the Messiah is also claiming to be God and is essentially worshiping the creature rather than the Creator.

Serve and Obey

“32 You shall not make a covenant with them [the heathen non-Israelites - verses 23-28] or with their gods. 33 They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it is certain to be a trap for you [resulting in judgment].”

(Exodus 23:32-33, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“13 You shall fear [only] the Lord your God; and you shall serve Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect] and swear [oaths] by His name [alone]. 14 You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, 15 for the Lord your God who is among you is a jealous

¹⁴ Lilienthal, p. 64.

¹⁵ Jacob Henry Schiff, quoted by Rabbi Stephen Samuel Wise, [*Free Synagogue Pulpit: Sermons and Addresses*](#) (New York, NY: Bloch Publishing Company, 1910) Volume II, p. 127.

¹⁶ "Cabala," quoted by Dr. Edward R. Fields, [*Judaism: The World's Strangest Religion*](#) (Marietta, GA: The Truth at Last, Publishers) p. 8.

¹⁷ Joseph Klausner, Ph.D., [*The Messianic Idea in Israel*](#) (London, England: Bradford & Dickens, 1956) p. 163.

(impassioned, i.e. intolerant of unfaithfulness.) **God** [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]—otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled and burn against you, and He will destroy you from the face of the earth.”

(Deuteronomy 6:13-15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“12 And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear [and worship] **the Lord your God** [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], **to walk** [that is, to live each and every day] **in all His ways and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul** [your choices, your thoughts, your whole being], **13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes** which I am commanding you today for your good?”

(Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord; anything that replaces Yahweh].”

(Matthew 6:24, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Anyone refusing to serve Yahweh and keep His commandments does *not* love Yahweh:

“If you [really] **love Me** {Yeshua/Jesus}, **you will keep** *and* **obey My commandments.**”

(John 14:15, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“For the [true] **love of God is this: that we** *habitually* **keep His commandments** *and* remain focused on His precepts. And His commandments *and* His precepts are not difficult [to obey].”

(1 John 5:3, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

No Other Names

“Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be on your guard; do not mention the name of other gods [either in a blessing or in a curse]; **do not let such** [them] **speech be heard** [coming] **from your mouth.**”

(Exodus 23:13, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

In other words, the names of other gods are not to be a part of our everyday language. They certainly should not be employed so as to put them on equal footing with Yahweh. Ancient Israel often transgressed this statute even to the point of calling Yahweh “Baal”:

“It shall come about in that day,” says the Lord, **“That you will call Me Ishi** (my husband) **And will no longer call Me Baali** (my Baal) [This was a loaded term meaning “owner,” “lord,” or “husband,” and as “lord” it also became a word for

pagan gods. Some or perhaps most of the idolatry in which Israel engaged probably were attempts to represent the true God as an idol, such as a Baal.]).”

(Hosea 2:16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The Apostle Peter applied this statute when he made the following proclamation:

“And there is salvation in no one else; for **there is no other** [than Yeshua’s] **name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved** [for God has provided the world no alternative for salvation].”

(Acts 4:12, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

No Covenants with Non-Israelites and/or Non-Christians

“**You** [Israel] **shall not make a covenant with them** [non-Israelites] **or with their gods.**”

(Exodus 23:32, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“**and as for you, you shall not make a covenant with the** [non-Israelite heathen] **inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed** [Literally *paid heed to My voice.*] **Me; what is this that you have done?**”

(Judges 2:2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“**14 Do not be unequally bound together with unbelievers** [do not make mismatched alliances with them, inconsistent with your faith]. **For what partnership can righteousness have with lawlessness? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony can there be between Christ and Belial (Satan)? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said: “I will dwell among them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”**

(2 Corinthians 6:14-16, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

This statute applies to treaties, pacts, alliances, coalitions, federations, partnerships, marriages, et al. America, as a nation, has no business making treaties such as GATT and NAFTA with heathen nations, and we, as individuals, have no business entering into partnerships with or marrying non-Christians or non-Israelites.

As for crossbreeding/interbreeding, that is, marriage to non-Israelites, Yahweh’s law declares that the descendants of such crossbreeding’s/interbreeding’s were not to be permitted to abide in the same geographical land area as Israel:

“**A person** {*bastard*: KJV– Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance #H4464 *mamzer* (mam-zare’); from an unused root meaning to alienate; a *mongrel*, i.e. *born of a (Israelite) father and a heathen mother*} **of illegitimate** [That is, one who was

born from incest, an adulterous relationship, or a mixed marriage (a Jew or a Jewess and a Gentile).] **birth shall not enter the assembly of the Lord** [a term in the Bible primarily applied to Israel's geographical land area]; **none of his descendants, even to the tenth generation** [a Hebrew idiom meaning forever].”

(Deuteronomy 23:2, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“Kind after kind” has been Yahweh’s law from the very beginning as we see in Genesis Chapter 1.

No Integration with Non-Israelite Heathen

“They [non-Israelite infidels - verses 23-28] **shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me** [Yahweh]; **for if you serve their gods, it is certain to be a trap for you** [resulting in judgment].”

(Exodus 23:33, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“17 “So come out from among unbelievers and be separate,” says the Lord, “And do not touch what is unclean; And I will graciously receive you and welcome you [with favor], 18 And I will be a Father to you, And you will be My sons and daughters,” Says the Lord Almighty.”

(2 Corinthians 6:17-18, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Christians who identify and connect with Israel, not Judaism, cannot allow foreigners serving spurious gods to abide in her midst without suffering horrific consequences. If anyone has their eyes open, they will see the bad fruits of allowing the heathen into the land of America. Ever since this started, America has slowly been declining. The following principle applies as much to nations as it does to individuals:

“Do not be deceived: “Bad [Paul quotes this one verse maxim from the writings of the Greek dramatist Menander (342-291 B.C.E.). “Bad company” in this case undoubtedly refers to the teachers who were denying the truth of the resurrection.] **company corrupts good morals.”**

(1 Corinthians 15:33, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

In 1776 there were approximately 2.5 million people in America. Less than one percent of the population at that time was represented by 20,000 Catholics, 3,000 non-Israelite Jews¹⁸, and a few Deists; more than ninety-nine percent were white Christian Israelite¹⁸ Protestants. In light of these demographics, it is an illuminating fact that the more non-Israelite heathen immigrants allowed to remain in this country, the less Christian this nation becomes. Our tolerance for other religions is destroying America. It is undeniable that the more multicultural America has become, the more religiously pluralistic she has become and the more pluralistic America has become the more heathen and ungodly she has become as well. In a chapter entitled “Most

¹⁸ [*God's Covenant People: Yesterday, Today and Forever*](#) by Evangelist Ted R. Weiland.

Americans Claim Religious Affiliation” in her book [*The Official Guide to the American Marketplace*](#), demographics specialist Cheryl Russell confirmed this paganizing of America:

Immigration will slowly change the nation’s [America’s predominately Christian] **religious affiliation.... Because most of the nation’s immigrants are from Mexico ... the Roman Catholic church is likely to gain adherents. The influx of Asian immigrants should boost the share of Americans who are Buddhist or Hindu.**¹⁹

Martin E. Marty, a nationally acclaimed demographics expert and director of the Public Religion Project has also confirmed this demographic reality:

“No one noticed it at the time, but the biggest event affecting [non-Christian polytheistic] **pluralism was in 1965, when immigration quotas that favored Europeans were altered.**”²⁰

Yahweh warned Israel that if they allowed foreigners to settle in the Land of Israel that it would become snares and thorns to them:

“50 Then the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, saying, 51 “Say to the children of Israel, ‘When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 52 then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you and destroy all their sculpted images, and destroy all their cast idols and completely eliminate all their [idolatrous] high places, 53 and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess. 54 You shall inherit the land by lot according to your families; to the large tribe you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the small tribe you shall give a smaller inheritance. Wherever the lot falls to any man, that shall be [the location of] his [inheritance]. According to the tribes of your fathers (ancestors) you shall inherit. 55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants [non-Israelite] **of the land from before you, then those you let remain of them will be like pricks in your eyes and like thorns in your sides, and they will attack you in the land in which you live. 56 And as I [the Lord] planned to do to them, so I will do to you.’ ” ”**

(Numbers 33:50-56, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“11 So be very careful and watchful of yourselves to love [The word *love* is sometimes used to express the covenant relationship between Israel and God. Everything depended on whether or not Israel would continue to be faithful to the covenant established by God. Joshua knew the trap the pagan nations would be to Israel, so he proposed three guidelines: first, there must be obedience to God’s

¹⁹ Cheryl Russell, “Most Americans Claim Religious Affiliation,” [*The Official Guide to the American Marketplace*](#) (Ithaca, NY: New Strategist Publications, Inc., 1995) p. 252.

²⁰ Martin E. Marty, quoted by Tom Heinen, “Scholar sees strength in abundance of faiths,” [*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*](#), Monday, April 26, 1999.

word (23:6); second, there must be a diligent separation from the Canaanite nations (23:7); finally, there must be a dependence on the Lord with heartfelt love (23:8-11).] **the Lord your God. 12 For if you ever turn back and cling to the rest of these nations, these that are left among you, and intermarry with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, 13 know and understand with certainty that the Lord your God will not continue to drive these nations out from before you; but they will be a snare and trap to you, and a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the Lord your God has given you.**"

(Joshua 23:11-13, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

Certain non-Israelite Jewish²¹ authors have been honest enough to admit that they (among others peoples) are a modern fulfillment of these two passages:

The Christian nations, you believe, would have perhaps less objection against the restoration of the Jewish State, since they would hope through this to be rid of **an alien population which was always a thorn in their side.**²²

Every synagogue we Jews build in Christian countries is a finger of scorn we point at our hosts, a sore finger we stick into their eyes, like the leering of a senile old woman who does all sorts of foul mischief before you, and feels safe in the knowledge that you will not lay hands on her to remove her, for fear of contamination.²³

The Israelites who returned with Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem understood that this First Commandment statute must be implemented if the Kingdom of YHWH was to be restored:

"3 When the Jews heard the law, they separated from Israel all who were of foreign descent.

Tobiah Expelled and the Temple Cleansed

4 Now prior to this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and was related [It is not clear whether this was a family relationship or just some sort of an alliance.] **to Tobiah [our adversary], 5 had prepared for Tobiah a large room (chamber) where previously they had put the grain offerings, the frankincense, the utensils, and the tithes of grain, new wine, and [olive] oil which were given by commandment for the Levites, the singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. 6 But during all this time I was not at Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes [Persian] king of Babylon I went to the king. Then after some time I asked for a leave [of absence] from the king, 7 and I came to Jerusalem. Then I discovered the evil [thing] that**

²¹ *God's Covenant People: Yesterday, Today and Forever* by Evangelist Ted R. Weiland.

²² Moses Hess, *Rome and Jerusalem* (New York, NY: Philosophical Library, Inc., 1862) p. 77.

²³ Samuel Roth, *Jews Must Live* (New York, NY: The Golden Hind Press, Inc., 1934) p. 129. *Jews Must Live* can be obtained from Mission to Israel Ministries, PO Box 248, Scottsbluff, NE 69363. Suggested donation, \$6.00.

Eliashib had done for Tobiah by preparing a room for him in the courtyards of the house of God. **8** It was very displeasing to me, so I threw all of Tobiah's household furnishings out of the room. **9** Then I gave an order, and they cleaned the rooms; and I put back there the utensils of the house of God with the grain offerings and the frankincense.

Tithes Restored

10 I also discovered that the portions due the Levites had not been given *to them*, so that the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone away, each one back to his own field. **11** Then I reprimanded the officials and said, "Why is the house of God neglected?" So I gathered the Levites and singers together and restored them at their posts. **12** Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, the new wine, and the oil to the storehouses. **13** I appointed [as treasurers] over the storehouses: Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites; assisting them was Hanan son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered faithful and reliable, and their task was to distribute [supplies] to their brothers (fellow Levites). **14** O my God, remember me concerning this and do not wipe out my loyal deeds *and* kindnesses which I have done for the house of my God and for its services.

Sabbath Restored

15 In those days I saw some in Judah who were treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves *or* sacks of grain and loading them on donkeys, as well as wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. So I protested *and* warned them on the day they sold the produce. **16** Also men of Tyre were living there who brought fish and all kinds of merchandise, and they were selling them to the people of Judah on the Sabbath, even in Jerusalem. **17** Then I reprimanded the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What is this evil thing that you are doing—profaning the Sabbath day? **18** Did your fathers (ancestors) not do the same, and did our God not bring all this trouble on us and on this city? Yet you are adding to the wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath.

19 Now when it began to get dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath [began], I commanded that the doors be shut and not be opened until after the Sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates so that no load [of merchandise] would enter [Jerusalem] on the Sabbath day. **20** So once or twice the merchants and sellers of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem. **21** But I warned them, saying, "Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do so again, I will use force [Literally *send a hand against*.] against you." From that time on, they did not come on the Sabbath. **22** And I commanded the Levites to purify themselves and come and guard the gates to keep the Sabbath

day holy. O my God, remember me *concerning* this also and have compassion on me according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness.

Mixed Marriages Forbidden

23 In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. **24** As for their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them knew how to speak [Hebrew] the language of Judah, but only the language of his own people. **25** So I contended with them and cursed them and struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, “You shall not give your daughters [in marriage] to their sons, nor take [any of] their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. **26** Did not Solomon king of Israel sin [greatly against God] regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin [by turning to other gods and so, judged by God, he lost his kingdom]. **27** Do we then hear about you that you have done all this great evil, acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign (pagan) women?” **28** One of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite, so I chased him away from me. **29** O my God, remember them, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

30 Thus I cleansed and purified them from everything foreign (pagan), and I defined the duties of the priests and Levites, each one in his task;”

(Nehemiah 13:3-30, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

FIRST COMMANDMENT JUDGMENT

“**1 If a prophet** [or your brother, son, daughter, wife, friend or neighbor, verses 16-18] **arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder which he spoke** (foretold) **to you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us follow after other gods** (whom you have not known) **and let us serve and worship them,’ 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams;** for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart *and* mind and all your soul [your entire being]. **4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and you shall fear [and worship] Him [with awe-filled reverence and profound respect], and you shall keep His commandments and you shall listen to His voice, and you shall serve Him, and cling to Him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the Lord your God** who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to draw you away from the way in

which the Lord your God has commanded you to walk. So you shall remove the evil from among you.”

(Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

“2 If there is discovered among you, within any of your cities, which the Lord your God is giving you, **a man or a woman who** does evil in the sight of the Lord your God, by transgressing (violating) His covenant, **3 and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host**, [doing these things] which I have commanded not to do, **4 and if it is told to you and you hear about it, then you shall investigate thoroughly** [all the charges]. **If it is confirmed beyond** [Literally *the word is certain.*] **doubt that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, 5 then you shall bring that man or that woman who has done this evil thing to the gates** [of your city] **and you shall stone the man or the woman to death. 6 On** [Literally *By the mouth of.*] the evidence of two or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of [only] one witness. **7 The hand of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall remove the evil from among you.”**

(Deuteronomy 17:2-7, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The First Commandment transgression requires [the death penalty](#). For those Christians who identify themselves with Israel, not Judaism, who love their God, it takes little more than a suggestion from Yahweh to get them to do what He desires if they truly love Him. However, for the vast majority of people living in America today, those described by Yeshua as walking in the broad way, commandments enforced by their respective judgments are mandatory to secure a more comprehensive adherence to Yahweh’s laws and to ensure a functioning Christian society. This idea is conveyed by the Apostle Paul in Romans Chapter 13:

“3 For [civil/Christian] **authorities are not a source of fear for** [people of] **good behavior, but for** [those who do] **evil**. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? **Do what is good and you will receive approval and commendation. 4** For he is God’s servant to you for good. **But if you do wrong**, [you should] **be afraid; for he does not carry the** [executioner’s] **sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an avenger who brings punishment** [the judgments of God] **on the wrongdoer** [who breaks one or more of the commandments of Yahweh]. **5 Therefore one must be subject** [to civil authorities], **not only to escape the punishment** [that comes with wrongdoing], **but also as a matter of principle** [knowing what is right before God].”

(Romans 13:3-5, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

A person is provided three options under this form of government:

- obedience to the laws of Yahweh as an outcome of a good conscience,

- obedience to the laws of Yahweh as a result of fear of the sword, i.e., the judgments of Yahweh, or
- the judgments of Yahweh as the consequence of disobedience to Yahweh's laws.

Paul elaborated upon the latter two options in 1 Timothy Chapter One:

“8 Now we know [without any doubt] that the Law [specifically the judgments] is good, if one uses it lawfully and appropriately, 9 understanding the fact that law is not enacted for the righteous person [the one in right standing with God], but for lawless and rebellious people, for the ungodly and sinful, for the irreverent and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, 10 for sexually immoral persons, for homosexuals, for kidnappers [i.e. those who exploit other people for evil or selfish reasons.] and slave traders, for liars, for perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,”

(1 Timothy 1:8-10, Amplified Bible (AMP), emphasis added)

The commandments and statutes alone have proved futile for the type of person described in this passage. Consequently, Paul was referring to the judgments of Yahweh. Such criminally-minded people will either keep the commandments and statutes out of fear of “*the sword*,” or they should be put under “*the sword*” for their disobedience, and thus wickedness would be purged from among us. Under a government that administers the judgments of Yahweh, such wickedness would be the exception rather than the rule.



Our quest toward restoring Yahweh's laws begins with the First Commandment. Let us return to Yahweh as our God and King and love and serve *only Him*. For His Word is Absolute. He loves all of His children and He wants His children to obey Him. His Laws given to us in the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) are for His children's benefits. After all, did He not Create you in your mother's womb? As the TV series many years ago said, “*Father Knows Best*.”

I hope this study on the First Commandment has been helpful. If only America would have following His Ways, we would not be having all these problems today. It just goes to show us that if we do things His Way, all will be in order and there would be no room for chaos like we see today. Let all of His children seek Him and repent of their sins and draw close to Him because He wants a one-on-one personal relationship with all of His children.

Continue to test all things and may Almighty YHWH bless all who study His Absolute Written Word.

Shalom,

I am One Crying In The Wilderness!

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[*Rome and Jerusalem*](#) by Moses Hess.

[*Jews Must Live*](#) by Samuel Roth.