

The Commandments Of יהוה

Eternal Guidelines For Living

A Compilation By David Fister

The Commandments Of יְהוָה

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The Commandments Of יְהוָה

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Introduction

Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am יהוה. **Leviticus 18:5**

O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Deuteronomy 5:29

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as יהוה my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as יהוה our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? **Deuteronomy 4:5-8**

There are two groups of people working overtime to destroy faith in the ancient scriptures. The first group are atheists who debate the authenticity and utility of the writings, and point out the inconsistencies in how those writings are applied by Christians. The second group are Christians who pay lip service to the divine inspiration of the Bible, but do not follow its rules. This group is more dangerous to the faith, because it is to them that young, uninitiated people look for guidance.

The inconsistencies that the atheists complain of are real. Many Christians will agree that putting someone to death for working on the Sabbath, which is the punishment prescribed by scripture, is too severe. The same Christians will tell you with a straight face that smoking, drinking alcohol, and taking drugs will result in eternal torment

in a lake of fire, though the Bible does not prohibit these things. Amazingly, they will all agree that יהוה spoke the former law directly, but the preferred modern rules come from men. It is my position that the ancient laws lead to certainty and justice because they do not change. Modern church rules are developed arbitrarily and capriciously by committees. There is the greatest danger of tyranny when human beings make rules that bind the souls of others.

In spite of the threat of eternal damnation (which is not a penalty given in the old testament), modern Christians claim that יהוה's grace has set them free from the necessity of keeping the law given to Moses. In my view, they have simply traded one set of laws for another, and soothe their consciences by rationalizing that the chosen law is better and somehow less harsh than the rejected one. And because the chosen rules must be created anew for each denomination, we end up with whole groups of Christians condemning other groups to hell because they favor a different set of man-made rules. This book was written to challenge this state of affairs and provide simplicity, certainty, and reliability.

To that end, I give no commentary on what the law says. Instead, I present the bare scriptures, organized by topic, so that each person can interpret the words for him- or herself. When it comes to personal spiritual growth, every person will voluntarily endure self-imposed disciplines beyond the letter of the law. This is good, and creates diversity of experience. But let everyone be loathe to impose strictures on his neighbors which יהוה does not require. As it is written,

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of

Introduction

יהוה your God which I command you.
Deuteronomy 4:2

What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. **Deuteronomy 12:32**

This is not to negate יהוה's grace, but grace is misunderstood. Grace allows fallen men, who by committing transgressions have incurred upon themselves the wages of sin which is death, to be mercifully granted the ultimate gift, eternal life with the Father. The law convicts us of transgression. Grace offers us forgiveness. The law, based as it is on unchanging human nature, is forever useful.

Some will object that the law of Moses was formulated to account for the culture of the time. Our culture is different (read: better and smarter), therefore we do not need outdated and outmoded rules. On the contrary. The law was not given to accommodate Hebrew culture. The law was given to define the society that יהוה wanted. It is written,

After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.

Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am יהוה your God.

Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am יהוה. **Leviticus 18:3-5.**

יהוה was starting from scratch with the Hebrews. He could have given them any laws. We may not understand why some rules were

given, but we can be certain that what he told them to do was exactly what he wanted them to do. He did not cater to the culture surrounding his people, nor to that of the Hebrews themselves.

One might question the relevance of ancient laws today. Biblical law provides a framework for justice, as well as worship. It is a complete code of conduct for personal relationships. If there are ambiguities they can be resolved by arbitrators (judges). The law is a profitable personal discipline. It is also useful for community justice. Where it conflicts with existing legal authority, the existing law should be changed. I don't advocate a particular method of change, but encourage creativity.

Some will object that freedom of religion cannot exist under Biblical law. This is untrue. The law can only regulate what we do, not what we think. The law may forbid certain expressions of religion, but that is true of modern secular laws as well. Many laws forbid such things as smoking hallucinogens, sacrificing animals, and polygamous marriages, even though there are certain religions that require those things. Again, Biblical law is not worse than modern law. It is just different and unfamiliar.

In this book, I use the Hebrew names for the Hebrew gods. This is to emphasize that these gods are personal beings and not nameless corporations. They have feelings, and it is possible to have personal relationships with them. To be perfectly clear, יהוה is the father, יהושע is the son, and רוח הקודש is the holy spirit.

David Fister

Outline of this Book

Texts from the King James Version

And יהוה spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am יהוה your God. After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am יהוה your God. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am יהוה . **Leviticus 18:1-5**

The Glory of יהוה's Law

The Covenant of יהוה

What is Sin?

1. The First Great Commandment

"And thou shalt love יהוה thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." **Deuteronomy 6:5**

A. Commandments in Stone

I **"Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Before Me" Exodus 20:3**

II **"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image**, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I יהוה thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Exodus 20:4-6

III **"Thou shalt not take the name of יהוה thy God in vain**; for יהוה will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." **Exodus 20:7**

IV **"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy**. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of יהוה thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days יהוה made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore יהוה blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." **Exodus 20:8-11**

B. Commandments on Paper

- **"If a man vow a vow unto יהוה**, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth." **Numbers 30:2**

- **"Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy**, and forbid not to speak with tongues." **1 Corinthians 14:39**

- **"This is the law of the Nazarite who hath vowed**, and of his offering unto יהוה for his separation, beside that that his hand shall get: according to the vow which he vowed, so he must do after the law of his separation." **Numbers 6:21**

Outline of this Book

- **"And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;" Leviticus 10:10**
- **"And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations." Exodus 40:15**
- **"This is the law of the burnt offering, of the meat offering, and of the sin offering, and of the trespass offering, and of the consecrations, and of the sacrifice of the peace offerings;" Leviticus 7:37**

2. The Second Great Commandment

"Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am יהוה ." **Leviticus 19:18**

A. Commandments in Stone

- V **"Honour thy father and thy mother:** that thy days may be long upon the land which יהוה thy God giveth thee." **Exodus 20:12**
- VI **"Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13**
- VII **"Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14**
- VIII **"Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15**
- IX **"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Exodus 20:16**
- X **"Thou shalt not covet** thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." **Exodus 20:17**

B. Commandments on Paper

- **"Unto these the land shall be divided for an inheritance** according to the number of names." **Numbers 26:53**
- **"יהוה is a man of war: יהוה is his name." Exodus 15:3**
- **"When thou art come unto the land which יהוה thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;" Deuteronomy 17:14**
- **"Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters,** and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." **Titus 2:9,10**

3. The Weightier Matters of the Law

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." **Matthew 23:23**

I **"Learn to do well; seek judgment,** relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." **Isaiah 1:17**

II **"Thus speaketh יהוה of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:** And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart." **Zechariah 7:9,10**

III Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: **but the just shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4**