

Audio Transcript of Sermon

April 26, 2025

Ten Commandments-The First Commandment

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. It's been said that they are known as the ten commandments because they are not the ten suggestions. Today, we'll start a look at the ten commandments understanding that these are indeed the ten commandments and not suggestions. Four of the commandments are directed at our relationship with God and six are directed at our relationships with other people. Let's start by reading the account found in Exodus twenty starting in verse one.

**Exodus 20:1-21**

- 1. And God spake all these words, saying,**
- 2. I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**
- 3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**
- 4. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:**
- 5. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord 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;**
- 6. And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**
- 7. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**
- 8. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
- 9. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:**
- 10. But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord 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:**
- 11. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**
- 12. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.**

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- 13. Thou shalt not kill.**
- 14. Thou shalt not commit adultery.**
- 15. Thou shalt not steal.**
- 16. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.**
- 17. 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 anything that is thy neighbour's.**

When God spoke, it scared the people of Israel. By this time, this was God who had delivered them from Egypt. This was God who brought the plagues upon Egypt. When the firstborn of Egypt were killed, the firstborn of Israel were spared. This was God who worked it out so when Israel left Egypt, the Egyptians gladly gave them of value whatever Israel wanted. This was God who when the army of Egypt was just about to overtake them, God came between Israel and Egypt hiding Israel from Egypt. This was God who then parted the waters of the Red Sea so Israel could cross on dry ground. This was God who when Israel was safely on the other side caused the waters to come crashing down on the army of Egypt killing them all. With all this protection, this was God of Whom they were afraid. They saw the power of God on display in a way that made sense to people, through thunder and lightning. They heard a trumpet and the mountain smoking, what today might have looked like a volcano billowing smoke. The people didn't understand that the power they saw on display before them was the power of God, the very same God Who protected them and led them out of Egypt. Having seen God spare them multiple times and having seen God bring death to their enemies, the Egyptians, somehow the people feared God and thought that God was getting ready to kill them also. When the people feared, Moses bravely approached the power of God in the blackness surrounding God, knowing the commandments would prove who truly were His people and if truly God was their God. Verse eighteen.

- 18. And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.**
- 19. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.**
- 20. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.**

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**21. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.**

The very first commandment not only reminded the people that it was God Who had led them out of Egypt, out from their house of bondage, but also taught them they were to have no other gods, with a small “g” before God. Let’s reread Exodus twenty starting in verse two.

### **Exodus 20:2-3**

**2. I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**

**3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

In the passage we just read are two key words we need to consider, house and bondage. House is translated from the Hebrew *bayith*, Strong’s Hebrew word 1004, and while it can mean a house, it also implies a dungeon and prison. Bondage is translated from the Hebrew *ebed*, Strong’s Hebrew word 5650 meaning anything from a household servant to a slave, a person sold into slavery, and the term was broadly applied sometimes including family members.

When Joseph was in prison because of a false accusation made by the Potiphar’s wife he was in a *bayith*. Let’s review what happened to Joseph in Potiphar’s house leading up to his imprisonment starting in Genesis thirty-nine verse six.

### **Genesis 39:6-18**

**6. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.**

**7. And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.**

**8. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;**

**9. There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**

**10. And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.**

**11. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.**

**12. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.**

**13. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,**

**14. That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:**

**15. And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.**

**16. And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.**

**17. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:**

**18. And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.**

Even though the ten commandments are not enumerated until later in the Bible, we need to take note that Joseph would not commit an act of adultery with Potiphar's wife because it would be a great wickedness and cause him to sin against God. Paul explained to the Romans that there can be no sin where there is no law. The fact that Joseph would not commit an act of adultery because it would be wickedness, and sin tells us that Joseph was aware of the commandment to not commit adultery. Romans four verse thirteen.

#### **Romans 4:13-15**

**13. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.**

**14. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:**

**15. Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.**

Going back to the account in Genesis, after Potiphar heard the lie of his wife, he had Joseph thrown into prison or, *bayith*. Even in a bad situation, God worked things out to further the promise made to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. Genesis thirty-nine verse nineteen.

#### **Genesis 39:19-23**

**19. And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.**

**20. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.**

**21. But the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.**

**22. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.**

**23. The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand; because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.**

Generations earlier, the senior servant to Abraham, called himself the *ebed*, or servant of Abraham, when he was trying to negotiate to have Rebecca marry Isaac. Let's read Genesis twenty-four verse thirty-four.

#### **Genesis 24:34-52**

**34. And he said, I am Abraham's servant.**

**35. And the Lord hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses.**

**36. And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.**

**37. And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell:**

**38. But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.**

**39. And I said unto my master, Peradventure the woman will not follow me.**

**40. And he said unto me, The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:**

**41. Then shalt thou be clear from this my oath, when thou comest to my kindred; and if they give not thee one, thou shalt be clear from my oath.**

**42. And I came this day unto the well, and said, O Lord God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:**

**43. Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;**

**44. And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the Lord hath appointed out for my master's son.**

**45. And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.**

**46. And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.**

**47. And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter art thou? And she said, The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands.**

**48. And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.**

**49. And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.**

**50. Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the Lord: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.**

**51. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the Lord hath spoken.**

**52. And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the Lord, bowing himself to the earth.**

Going back to Exodus twenty verse three we read,

## **Exodus 20:3**

### **3. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

We can look at this verse and some may wonder if it is acceptable to have other gods, *elohiym*, as long as they are not before the *Yhovah Elohiym*. Let's explore what the phrase before me means. The word before was inserted by the translators to make sense in the English language of the Hebrew, and it is the word me that has the Hebrew word *paniym*, Strong's Hebrew word 6440, and this particular word is translated into more than ninety different English words, but is mostly translated as the word before. Unless we are talking of Jesus Christ who sits at the right hand of God in heaven, there is no other beside, behind, or before God whom we worship as a god. Even the angels who are before, beside, and behind God in heaven will not be worshipped, knowing that belongs to God the Father and Jesus Christ, and there are verses in Revelation that show the angels worshipping God and refusing to be worshipped by people. Let's start in Revelation nineteen verse seven.

## **Revelation 19:7-10**

**7. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.**

**8. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

**9. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.**

**10. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

The angels have eternal life, but they see themselves as a fellow servant with people, meaning they see themselves as an entity that is not to be worshipped. Let's now look at verses from the same book showing the angels worshipping God. Revelation four verse one.

### **Revelation 4:1-11**

- 1. After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**
- 2. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**
- 3. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.**
- 4. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.**
- 5. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**
- 6. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.**
- 7. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.**
- 8. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**
- 9. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,**
- 10. The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,**
- 11. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

Jesus taught we are not to serve two masters, and explained that our focus needs to be on God, focusing on God's righteousness, and the Kingdom of God.

Matthew six verse twenty-four.



#### **Matthew 6:24-34**

**24. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

**25. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?**

**26. Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?**

**27. Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?**

**28. And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:**

**29. And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.**

**30. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?**

**31. Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?**

**32. For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.**

**33. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

**34. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

When He was challenged by the Pharisees about what was the great commandment in the law, Jesus told them to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind. He then added the second commandment was like it, to love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew twenty-two verse thirty-four.

#### **Matthew 22:34-40**

**34. But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.**

**35. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,**

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- 36. Master, which is the great commandment in the law?**  
**37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**  
**38. This is the first and great commandment.**  
**39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**  
**40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

Jesus was referencing what was written in the Book of Deuteronomy. Israel was reminded of all that God had commanded them so that when they possessed the promised land, that they would do what God had commanded so that they would have a great life in their new home. By doing what God expected, they were told that they would love the Lord their God with their heart, soul, and might. Deuteronomy six verse one.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:1-25**

- 1. Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:**  
**2. That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.**  
**3. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.**  
**4. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:**  
**5. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

These were not something to be done out of necessity or just because of a desire to avoid a consequence for non-compliance, but these were to be done because they were in their heart. What God commanded was something that was to be done because it was as much of who they were as was their very personality and being, and what God commanded was to be taught from generation to generation and within their communities. Verse six.

#### **6. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:**

**7. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.**

**8. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.**

**9. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.**

Israel was also told not to go after other Gods. When God said in the commandment to have no other gods with a small “g” before Him, God meant no other gods whatsoever, even if neighboring countries had gods that might be interesting to worship. They were to solely focus on what God taught them, to worship Him, and to diligently keep all that God taught them. Verse ten.

**10. And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,**

**11. And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;**

**12. Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.**

**13. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.**

**14. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you;**

**15. For the Lord thy God is a jealous God among you lest the anger of the Lord thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.**

**16. Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.**

**17. Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.**

**18. And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers,**

**19. To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the Lord hath spoken.**

When Jesus taught to seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness, righteousness is defined for us in Deuteronomy as doing what the Lord our God commands us. Verse twenty.

**20. And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you?**

**21. Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:**

**22. And the Lord shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:**

**23. And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.**

**24. And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.**

**25. And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us.**

Israel was also told that when making any type of decision there was to be no unrighteousness in judgment. Everything that was to be done and decided upon was to be done and decided upon based on what God commanded. In God's view, the poor are not to be given special favor because they are poor nor are the rich and powerful to be given special favor because they are rich and powerful. All are to be treated equally through all that God commands. Leviticus nineteen verse fifteen.

#### **Leviticus 19:15-18**

**15. Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.**

**16. Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the Lord.**

**17. Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.**

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

Moving forward in the Bible to Revelation, we see Jesus in different words criticizing different churches of Revelation for “going after other gods.” The church in Pergamos was criticized for holding the doctrine of Balaam, who sought personal gain in a way that also compromised the faith. When we compromise what God commands, we place other gods with a small “g” before God. The church at Pergamos was also criticized for adopting pagan rituals. Revelation two verse twelve.

### **Revelation 2:12-29**

**12. And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;**

**13. I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.**

**14. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**

**15. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**

**16. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

**17. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.**

Similarly, the church at Thyatira was criticized for allowing a religious Jezebel to teach and seduce the faithful. Jezebel was a Phoenician princess who became queen married to King Ahab. She caused Naboth to be killed so Ahab could seize the vineyard and was a master manipulator who based actions not on what God commanded but would do what would solidify her power. Just like Jezebel influenced Israel to follow Baal, this religious Jezebel introduces teachings which cause the faithful to “follow other gods,” through spiritual fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols, as a tenant of faith. Verse eighteen.

**18. And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;**

**19. I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.**

**20. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**

**21. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.**

**22. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.**

**23. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto everyone of you according to your works.**

**24. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.**

**25. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.**

**26. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:**

**27. And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.**

**28. And I will give him the morning star.**

**29. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

We cannot be like the church at Pergamos or Thyatira who go after other gods with a small “g”. We need to remember that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and we do that by keeping what is commanded of us. In the New Testament, we are shown how keeping what is commanded shows love to Jesus Christ and God the Father. Let’s start with what Jesus taught in John fourteen verse fifteen.

#### **John 14:15-21**

**15. If ye love me, keep my commandments.**

**16. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;**

**17. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

**18. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

**19. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.**

**20. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.**

**21. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**

In his first letter, John wrote that the love of God is to keep His commandments. First John five verse one.

#### **1 John 5:1-5**

**1. Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and everyone that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.**

**2. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.**

**3. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**

**4. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

**5. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

Remembering that Jesus taught the second great commandment is to love others as we love ourselves, and knowing that the spirit of antichrist is already present in the world, loving others as ourselves is a huge marker of our love toward God. First John four verse one.

#### **1 John 4:1-11**

**1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

**2. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:**

3. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.
4. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
5. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.
6. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.
7. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
8. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.
10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

When we reflect on the words of Exodus twenty verses two and three, where God says, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me," we affirm that in the beginning was the Word who became Jesus Christ and we affirm God the Father. Together they are the *Elohiym* of the Bible. John One verse one.

#### **John 1:1-5**

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. The same was in the beginning with God.
3. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.
4. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
5. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Collectively, They said that people were to be made after the image and likeness of *Elohiym*, and people were created on the sixth day of creation. Genesis one verse twenty-six.



### **Genesis 1:26-31**

**26. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

**27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

**28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**

**29. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.**

**30. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.**

**31. And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**

From the very beginning we were created in the image and likeness of *Elohiym*. When we live our lives with no other god before us, doing all that God and Jesus Christ command us, because that is who we are and not because of anything we hope to attain, then we affirm what God commanded thousands of years ago, that God is the Lord our God, Who thousands of years ago brought Israel out of Egypt, out of their house of bondage, and that we have no other gods before God.

Thank you for joining us today. God-willing we'll get together next time on the Sabbath. Until then, thank you for joining us today.