

וַאֲתַחֲנַן

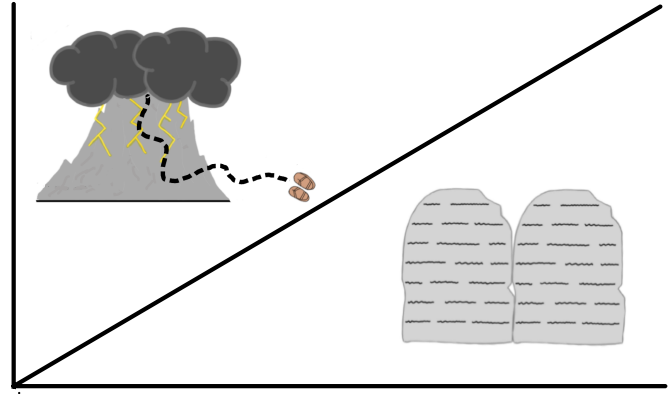
Va'etchanan

“And I pleaded”

“Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time saying: ‘O LORD God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds? I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.’
Deuteronomy 3:23-25

In this week's Parasha Moshe (Moses) spoke to the next generation of the Children of Yisra'el (Israel) while they were encamped in the valley opposite Beth Peor. He explained to them that even though he had pleaded with the LORD to allow him to cross over the Jordan River to see the Promised Land, God would not allow it. The LORD told him, “Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. But command Yehoshua (Joshua) and encourage him for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see” (Deuteronomy 3:26-28).

Moshe also explained to the people that the LORD was angry with him for their sakes and swore that he would not enter the good land which the LORD God was giving them as an inheritance. He stated that he would die in the land on the east side of the Jordan River where they were camped, but they would go in and possess the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 4:21-22).



Pray First

Father God,

We praise You because Your Word stands forever. Heaven and earth will pass away, but Your Word will remain! You are the Creator and Sustainer of Life. Your will is perfect and Your great love for us will never fail. You pardon the sins of Your chosen people just as You have promised. You will accomplish everything You have commanded through them according to Your perfect will.

We thank You for the great redeeming love You offer the entire world. Please teach us to worship You. In spirit and in truth according to Your Word.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

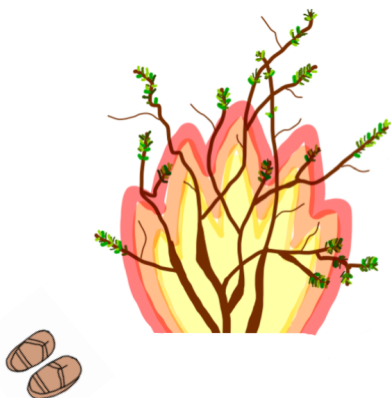
Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Moshe was correct when he stated it was for “their sake” that he could not enter the land. Had their parents not rebelled against God at Kadesh Barnea, approximately thirty-nine years earlier, Moshe would have certainly led the people into the land as God had commanded him. If the Children of Yisra’el had not committed this great sin against God, there would have been no opportunity for Moshe to sin by striking the rock twice instead of speaking to it. This serves to teach us that the sin of the redeemed people affects the leadership God has put in place.

God disciplined Moshe because he failed to honor Him in the sight of all the people, and Moshe responded to God’s discipline appropriately. Perhaps this discipline from God was to prepare Moshe for a greater task in the future at the end of days.

In Revelation 11:6 we learn about the two witnesses who will prophesy prior to the second coming of the Messiah to the earth. These two witnesses will have the power to shut heaven so that no rain falls to the earth. They will have the power to turn the waters to blood and to strike the earth with all plagues as often as they desire. It is very possible that this prophecy speaks about an even greater work God intends to accomplish through Eliyahu (Elijah) and Moshe before the Messiah’s return to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Moshe continued to obey God after his sin of disobedience, and he gathered the next generation in the valley to reconfirm God’s covenant with them. He continued to teach them to obey all the commandments, statutes and judgments that God had revealed to him at Mount Sinai.



God had first spoken to Moshe (Moses) on Mount Sinai from a bush that burned but was not consumed. He told Moshe that he would lead the Children of Yisra’el out of Egypt back to this same mountain to worship Him. That is exactly what happened! Just fifty days after the exodus from Egypt Moshe assembled all the people at the base of Mount Sinai. From this location the mountain was on fire and glowed in the darkness as lightening fell from heaven


and the earth quaked. God spoke to the people, and everyone heard all the words of the Ten Commandments of God. They heard all the Words that they needed to know to worship God in spirit and in truth.

The generation who witnessed these events- entering into a covenant with God- had died in the wilderness due to their lack of faith in God. Therefore, it was necessary for Moshe to review all the commandments of God with the next generation prior to them crossing the Jordan River to take possession of the Promised Land.

Moshe was careful to impress upon the next generation the importance of fearing God. Fearing God means to make Him the top priority in one’s life by keeping His commandments in their hearts to live by them. Moshe warned them to be careful to follow all the commandments of God. He emphasized that it is very important for them to teach their children to fear God and obey His commandments in order to have abundant life with prolonged days in the good land God was giving them to possess.

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.” Deuteronomy 7:6

Moshe informed the people that God would drive seven nations out of the land before them. These nations were mightier and greater than the Yisra'elites, but God gave His people victory over them. They were to utterly destroy these evil nations as God's instrument of judgment on them. God commanded them to make no covenant with these nations nor show them any mercy.


Finally, Moshe explained to the next generation that the LORD had not set them apart by His  because they were large in number. Rather it was for the purpose of keeping the oath He had sworn to their fathers Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac) and Ya'kov (Jacob). For this reason God had chosen them as a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. For this reason God will accomplish His will through the nation of Yisra'el.

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Deuteronomy 5:1-33


Do you know that God gave Moshe 613 commandments, statutes and judgments to teach the Children of Yisra'el? All these instructions are represented in the Ten Commandments that the people heard God speak at Mount Sinai and that God wrote on the two tablets of stone.

In Deuteronomy 5:1-5 Moshe called the next generation of Yisra'elites and commanded them to listen to the commandments, statutes and judgments that God had previously given to the congregation of Yisra'el almost forty years earlier. Moshe explained that the LORD God had made a covenant with all those present at Mount Sinai who had heard the Words of His voice. God did not make this covenant with their forefathers Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'kov but with them. At the time of the covenant the people had been afraid and remained at a distance from the mountain that was ablaze with fire. At their request Moshe had stood between the LORD God and the people to declare the Word of the LORD to them.

Moshe repeated the Words God had spoken to him face to face on Mount Sinai from the midst of the fire. The Ten Commandments were given to Moshe by God for His covenant people, and all those who would join them to worship Him. The gift of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai was a demonstration of God's great  for His people after He redeemed them from bondage and death in Egypt. Moshe commanded the next generation to listen and learn these commandments, statutes and judgments of God, so they could carefully obey them. Obedience to God's Word is a way to worship Him.



In Deuteronomy 5: 6-7 Moshe taught the next generation the first and greatest commandment of them all. This Commandment teaches that the Redeemer Who brought the Children of Yisra'el out of the land of Egypt and out of bondage is the LORD God. The LORD God is the only God and the redeemed people should never give any false god priority over Him.


In Deuteronomy 5:8-10 Moshe taught the people God's commandment to make no images of Him. The people had seen the mountain on fire and felt the ground shake. They had heard all the Words, (ie the Ten Commandments) God had spoken to them, but they had not seen His image. Nothing in heaven above or on earth below or in the water under the earth should ever be used to portray the image of God. All these things were created by God and should never be used to represent Him. The redeemed Children of God should never bow down to worship or serve anything that has been carved or created. God is a jealous God, and He will punish this sin against Him to the third and fourth generation of those who choose to demonstrate hate for Him in this way. However, He will show mercy to thousands who demonstrate their  for Him by obeying this

commandment to properly worship Him.

In Deuteronomy 5: 11 God commanded that the redeemed Children of God should never take His Name in vain. The LORD God's Name is Holy and should never be used carelessly or with disrespect. The LORD will hold anyone who uses His name for personal gain or without respect guilty of this sin against Him.

In Deuteronomy 5:12-15 God commanded that His people must rest on the Sabbath day which is the seventh day of the week. When God had finished creating everything that exists, He created an additional day, the seventh day. On this seventh and final day that God created He rested from all His work. Likewise, He commanded that no work be done on this day. He has given six days each week for all work to be done, but the seventh day He set apart as a day of rest. This day of rest is for everyone who has been redeemed by God with His mighty hand and by His outstretched arm. It also includes the redeemed individual's son, daughter, manservant, maidservant, ox, donkey cattle and even the stranger who is within property that belongs to the redeemed.

In Deuteronomy 5:16 God commanded His people to honor their father and their mother. Children would not exist without their parents. This is by God's design from the beginning. When children honor their parents, they are honoring the will of God. God promised to give a long life to children who honor their parents. He also promised that things would go well for them while in the Promised Land.

These first five commandments from God teach us what we must do in order to demonstrate that we  the LORD our God with all our heart, soul and might. Because these are God's requirements to worship Him worship that is offered in any other way is not accepted by Him.

In Deuteronomy 5:17 God commanded His people not commit murder. Murder is when a person unlawfully plans to kill another person ahead of time and then kills him.




In Deuteronomy 5:18 God commanded His people not to commit adultery. People who are married should only have intimate relationships with each other. When a married person has an intimate relationship with someone they are not married to, it is called adultery.

In Deuteronomy 5:19 God commanded that His people never steal anything. Stealing is taking something that does not belong to you without paying for it.

In Deuteronomy 5:20 God commanded His people not to bear false witness against each other. Bearing false witness means to lie about someone, gossip or say negative things about a person.

In Deuteronomy 5:21 God commanded His people not to covet anything that belongs to someone else. To covet means to want what someone else has that you do not have. God commanded not to covet a person's spouse, house, field, manservant, maidservant, ox, donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. God requires that we be thankful and content with what He has given us.

These last five commandments that were given to the people by God taught His requirements for interacting with others. God commanded that we must treat others in a way that demonstrates we  love them as much as we love ourselves.

In Deuteronomy 5:22- 30 Moshe reminded the next generation that God gave these commandments at Mount Sinai when He spoke from the mountain in the midst of the fire, the cloud and the thick darkness. God spoke with a loud voice, and everyone present heard His Words and He added no more. God wrote the Words of the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone and gave them to Moshe. When the people heard the voice of the LORD God speaking these Words, they had a unique opportunity to know the truth and be able to worship God without the presence of sin. However, the people were very afraid because they knew how sinful they had been. After they witnessed the glory and greatness of God and had been allowed to live, they knew they would die if God continued to speak to them in their sinful state. They asked Moshe to go near and hear all that the LORD God wanted to say to them. They asked Moshe to listen further to the statutes and judgments of God and tell them what God wanted them to know and how He wanted them to live.



'But as for you, stand here by Me and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to them to possess. Deuteronomy 5:31

The LORD God heard the words of the people and told Moshe that they were right in what they had said and requested. The LORD expressed His desire that His people would have a heart in them that would fear Him to make Him the top priority in their lives. Only then would they obey all of His commandments and be blessed by Him along with their children forever.

In Deuteronomy 5: 31-33 we learn that after these things God commanded Moshe to stand with Him to hear all the commandments, the statutes and the judgments that God would require from His covenant people in order to worship and serve Him. He commanded Moshe to teach the people all these things to be observed in the Land of Promise He was giving them to possess.

God commanded them to be careful to do as He had commanded them and not turn aside to from His commands to the right hand or the left but to walk in all the ways He had instructed so that things would go well for them and their days would be prolonged in the Land of Promise.

“You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.” Deuteronomy 5:33

~Law Review~

Directions: Unscramble the following laws

veah on hetro osdg tn'do etevo nt'do' ohpwirs isido noohr uyro etapsnr

peke eth btahbSa nt'do rbae sefla stiswen t'ndo simeus osdG' mnea otn'd etsla

dt'on mciotm elyartud nt'do' drmreu

Love God

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Directions: Write the above laws in the correct order on the two tablets of stone

Love Your Neighbor

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

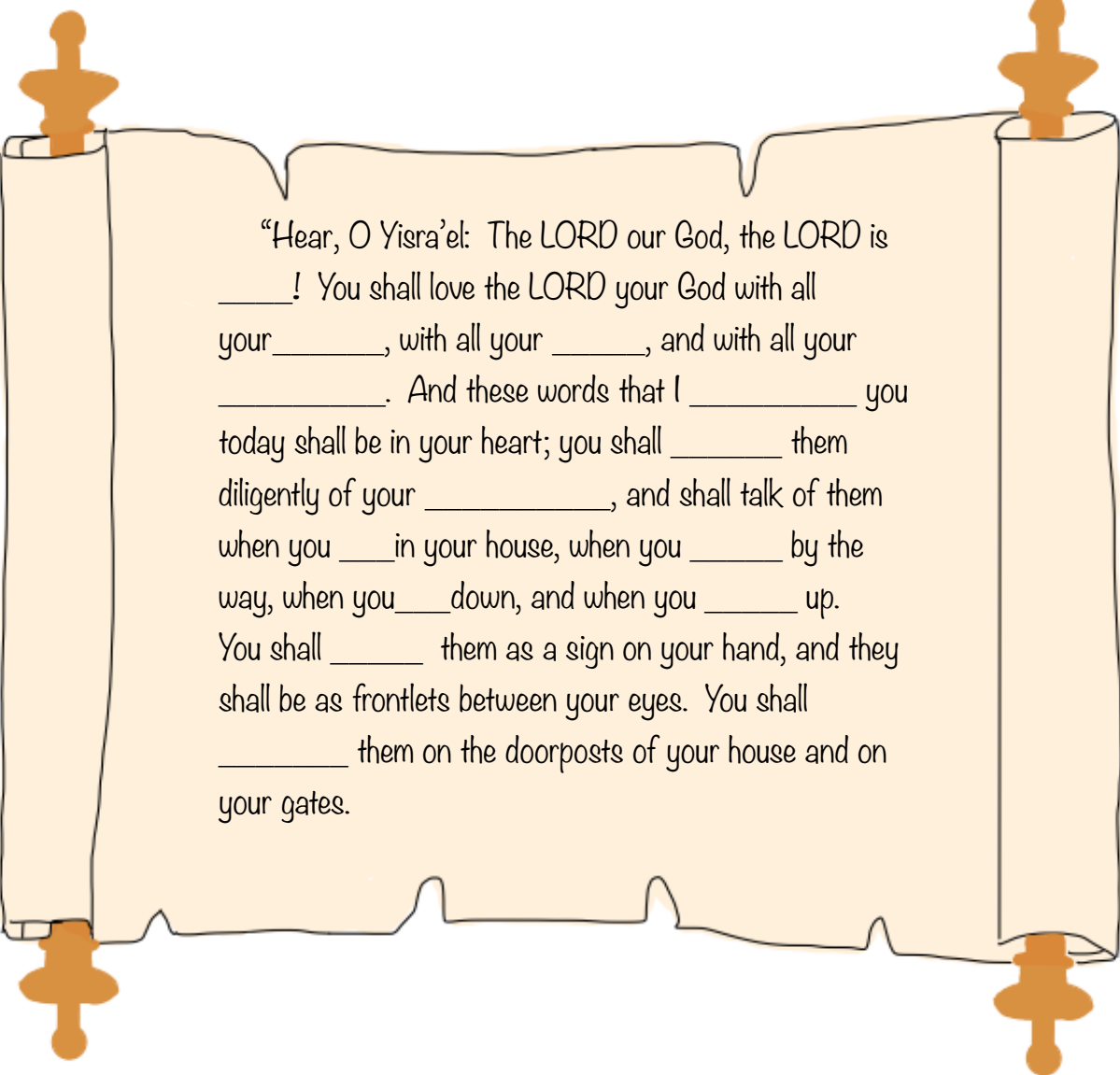
9. _____

10. _____

Answers: have no other gods, don't covet, don't worship idols, honor your parents, keep the Sabbath, don't bear false witness, don't misuse God's name, don't steal, don't commit adultery, don't murder, 1/have no other gods, false witness, don't misuse God's name, don't steal, don't commit adultery, don't murder, 2/don't worship idols, 3/Don't misuse God's name, 4/keep the Sabbath, 5/honor your parents, 6/don't murder, 7/don't commit adultery, 8/don't steal, 9/don't bear false witness, 10/don't covet

~ Shema Yisra'el ~

Directions: Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and fill in the blanks




"Hear, O Yisra'el: The LORD our God, the LORD is _____. You shall love the LORD your God with all your _____, with all your _____, and with all your _____. And these words that I _____ you today shall be in your heart; you shall _____ them diligently of your _____, and shall talk of them when you _____ in your house, when you _____ by the way, when you _____ down, and when you _____ up. You shall _____ them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall _____ them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Haftarah

Isaiah 40:1-26



In this week's Haftarah Isaiah, a prophet of God, had just spoken with King Hezekiah of Judah, informing him of the future destruction of the Southern Kingdom of Yisra'el at the hands of the Babylonians. Hezekiah had been a good and righteous king who eagerly awaited the coming Messiah's reign from Yisra'el as the King of the world. He had recently been ill and had humbly prayed to God to save him from death so that he might continue to praise and honor Him. God heard his request and responded by extending his life for another fifteen years. The number fifteen is related to the Name of God. Hezekiah was given a unique opportunity to finish strong, using this expression of God's  as a testimony to others concerning the power, comfort and grace of God.

The news of Hezekiah's recovery traveled all the way to the foreign land of Babylon. The King of Babylon sent an envoy of messengers with gifts to visit Hezekiah in order to learn the source of his recovery. Hezekiah enjoyed this attention and was overtaken by pride. Instead of being a faithful witness for God, giving Him all the glory, he demonstrated his wealth and power by showing them all of Yisra'el's riches and everything in his house. He failed to honor God in their sight just as Moshe had done when he disobeyed God by striking the rock twice in the wilderness.

God sent the prophet Isaiah to King Hezekiah to inform him of His judgment for receiving this exaltation himself instead of giving it to God. Isaiah told him that days were coming in the near future when everything in Hezekiah's house along with all that his fathers had accumulated would be taken away to Babylon. Hezekiah's sons would become idol worshipers in Babylon. Unlike Moshe, Hezekiah did not respond appropriately with humility and repentance. His response was one of pride and demonstrated that he was more concerned for himself than the will of God or His future plans for Yisra'el. Hezekiah had failed to demonstrate his love for God and now his response failed to demonstrate his love for the next generation or his neighbor.

In Isaiah 40: 1-26 the prophet Isaiah foretold of a time in the future when the entire world will walk away from God, failing to honor Him to include Yisra'el and its leadership. When this occurs, God will judge His people and the land of Yisra'el righteously. Once He has sufficiently judged lawlessness on the earth, He will again offer His comfort and grace.

God will send His Son Messiah Yeshua back to the earth to put things in order. He will end all warfare against Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), and He will pardon her iniquity. This will occur after Yerushalayim has received a double portion of discipline from the LORD's hand for her sins.

During Yisra'el's final wilderness experience, a voice will be heard announcing that all people should prepare for the way of the LORD. This preparation will be one of repentance or aligning one's behavior to the commandments, statutes and judgments of God. Every nation and all leadership in the world will be made low. All lawlessness will be made accountable. All places lacking justice will be ruled with perfect justice. The whole world will witness the glory of the LORD! All these things will happen because the LORD has spoken them.

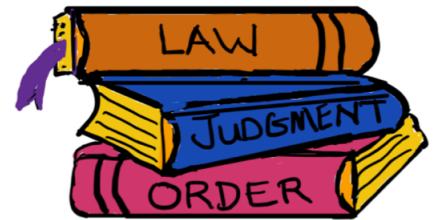


Isaiah repeated the Words of the LORD God, explaining that all people are mortal and will die just as the grass dies after its season of life, but the Word of God will stand forever. God's Word will never pass away! For this reason everyone who knows the truth of God's Word should continue to speak it no matter who opposes them. With a humble heart all believers should use the remainder of their lives to finish strong with love in service and obedience to God.

God's Word clearly states that He has a future plan for Yerushalayim (Zion) and the nation and people of Yisra'el. Despite the disobedience of the people and its leadership, the LORD God will come with a strong Hand to deliver Yisra'el. His Arm (Messiah Yeshua) will rule the earth from Yerushalayim.

Messiah Yeshua will bring His reward (resurrected believers) with Him. He will shepherd, protect, and sustain His people gently leading the young in the ways of righteousness.

There is no One like the LORD God. No One but God can do the impossible. He alone has created, controlled and sustained all things that exist. He alone has directed the Spirit of the LORD to teach justice, knowledge and understanding. The LORD God is the Author of all these things!



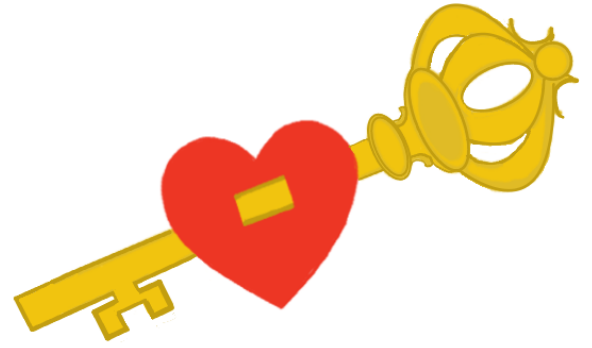
The nations of the world are like a drop in a bucket and are worth a small speck of dust on the scale. The sacrifices and offerings to the LORD God have only represented that He is worthy of worship and honor. When the LORD God returns to establish His Kingdom on the earth, there will be no amount of burnt offerings obtainable to sufficiently honor Him.

There is no image man can create to adequately represent the LORD God. From the beginning of creation and the foundations of the earth this has been true.

An image made of gold, silver or wood should never be made to represent the LORD God Who sits above the circle of the earth. He alone has created all things that exist. For this reason no images should be used in connection with worshiping Him. Although His vast creation is magnificent, it is a scarce demonstration of His abilities. He has the power to destroy all things He has created by His breath and like a whirlwind take them away like stubble. No One but the LORD God has created armies in heaven and calls them by name. By His might and the strength of His power not one is missing!

New Testament

Mark 12:28-34



In this week's New Testament passage of Scripture, Messiah Yeshua was approached by a scribe after several different groups of people including the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians and the High Priests, had come to ask Him questions. These groups did not want to know the truth about Who He is, where He came from, what He came to do or what the results of His work would be. Unlike the scribe they only wanted to discredit Him and shame Him in the sight of the people. This was not true of the scribe. He wanted to understand Who Yeshua is and what He was teaching so that he could respond to it in truth.

The scribes were very respected for being dedicated to the truth of Scripture. They often copied and taught writings from the prophets of God. They were also very knowledgeable about Hebrew law and could draft legal documents. This particular scribe came to Yeshua after hearing His debate with these other prominent groups of people. He asked Messiah Yeshua which commandment of God is the greatest commandment of all.

Yeshua responded by quoting these words of the Shema Yisra'el from Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

"The first of all the commandments is, 'Hear O Yisra'el, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment." Mark 12:29-30

This Scripture was very well known and was a statement of faith. It expresses that one believes there is only One God, the LORD God of Yisra'el. This knowledge requires a particular response. One who correctly responds to this truth demonstrates their love and worship of God by making Him the top priority in their life. This type of love for God involves a commitment to obey Him. It is not enough to know that the LORD God of Yisra'el is the only God because even the demons know that. It is very important to demonstrate our love for God by obediently living as He has commanded.

Messiah Yeshua continued to teach the scribe by saying these words:

"And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:31



The scribe stated that Yeshua had responded wisely with truth because there is One God and no other. He stated that to love God with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself is more valuable than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices combined. Burnt offerings and sacrifices were a physical way to worship God but to love Him by making Him the top priority in our lives and to love our neighbor as ourselves is a spiritual way to worship God. Our physical responsibilities to God are connected to our spiritual commitment to Him.

The scribe had already heard Messiah Yeshua teach that those who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the poor, help the sick and visit those in prison have done so to Him. Serving and blessing others is connected to loving God. When Yeshua saw that the scribe had answered with wisdom He said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God" (Mark 12:34). Messiah was revealing to the scribe that the key to entering into the Kingdom of God is love. Love is required to worship God in spirit and truth.

Yeshua spoke with authority because He always based His teaching on the Words of God from Scripture, not on the opinions of man. Following His clear, undebatable response to the scribe no one dared to question Him anymore.

God the Father loved the world so much that He sent His One and Only begotten Son Messiah Yeshua as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Messiah Yeshua demonstrated His love for Father God by laying down His life for the salvation of the world. Anyone who believes on the work of Messiah Yeshua for their redemption will not be condemned but will have everlasting life. If we love the LORD our God we will obey His commands. His greatest command is to respond to His love for us by loving Him with all that we are and then to love our neighbor as ourselves.







~ Recap Review Fun ~



Directions: Fill in the blank. Find the hearts in the lesson to help you.

1. The LORD set the next generation apart by His love to keep the _____ He swore to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'kov.
 2. The gift of the _____ at Mount Sinai was a demonstration of God's great love for His people.
 3. God will show _____ to thousands who demonstrate their love for Him.
 4. The first _____ of the Ten Commandments teach us what we must do to demonstrate we love the LORD with all our heart, soul and might.
 5. God commanded that we treat _____ in a way that demonstrates we love them as much as we love ourselves.
 6. All believers should finish strong, demonstrating God's love as a _____ to others.
 7. The greatest commandment is to love the _____ your God with all your heart, soul and strength.
 8. When we make God our top _____, we are demonstrating our love and worship of Him.
 9. It is very important to demonstrate our love for God by living _____ to His commandments.
 10. _____ and blessing others is connected to loving God.
 11. Love is the _____ needed to enter
- 
- 

the Kingdom of God.