

Our **Shepherds** S t r a y

“Time is running out and I’m afraid,” she cried out, with her hands pressed by her mouth like a loud speaker, “you—won’t—be—ready!” She turned frowning while giving him a blank stare, her hands falling to her side.

“Are you calling out to *all* of those people?” He asked.

“I am.”

“—they’re busy with everyday life.”

She nodded and released a sharp grunt. “You see—they are *all* of my friends and I want them to be with you—with us.” Filling her lungs, she released a long sigh.

He chuckled. “Looks like millions—”

“Well, they’re more than friends. They’re family—and many have strayed from you a very long time ago.” Her lips played pushing out a half moon bottom lip—healthy pink and pillowy. “And then—there are those who say they know you, but really they don’t know you very well at all.”

He took her hand. “Sit—with me. It’s nice under the canopy of this old tree.”

He smiled leaning on the backrest, looking up he tapped his hand on the chair. “Come on.”

She shook her hand free and paced. He brushed the bench, sending browned leaves and brittle twigs flying. A gesture of peace, she could not resist. Sitting, she pressed up against him, slouching to rest her head on the backrest to peer through the foliage.



<http://www.rarewallpapers.com/photography/couples-silhouette-in-the-park-647/>

“Not a cloud in the sky and this,” she pointed to the tree, “old man—if only he could talk. We would know the truth about how things were in the past. No more lies, cover-ups—deception.”

“Ask me and I will tell you the truth.”

“Humm...” She pulled herself forward sitting up straight. With her eyes fixed on him, she crossed her legs then shuffled her weight. “That’s better,” she grunted while burrowing her right elbow into her knee then fitted her chin in the palm of her hand. “So ordinary—you stay hidden—so humble.” She stared whispering to herself.

“It’s all about serving, you know that?” He said.

“Serving? Who are *we*—that *you* are mindful of us?”

“Now—why do you ask?”

“Because I don’t know.” She leaned back glancing away.

“*You* know.” He pushed himself up from the bench and walked a few paces stopping outside of the canopy. “But—do they?”

“They?”

“Your shepherds—*they*, don’t feed you the meat of the word. I gave you—*all*—the Holy Spirit so that you can talk to me in prayer through my Son—each and every one of you! Your shepherds know that. Did he suffer in vain?” Whispering, pleading he added, “**O house of Israel**, I long for you—repent and live!”

“We frustrate you—so, I see.”

He nodded. “I keep my promises.” He turned to her; his eyes wet and even heavy. “A long time ago, when Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more I called Israel, the further they went from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images” (Hosea 11:1-2).

He stopped, as if to take a deep breath.

“It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it that it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them. Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent?” (Hosea 11:1-5).

“Oh,” her head dropped. “My God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—they linger revelling in your generosity of Abraham’s birthright given to Joseph.”



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He sighed. “Because they do not serve Me joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, they will serve the enemies I send against them. I will put an iron yoke on their neck until he has destroyed them” (Deuteronomy 28:47-48).

She took the edge of her sweater and began twisting it. “Yahuah—you won’t *totally* destroy us? You won’t!” She insisted.

He caressed her cheek. “Ezekiel asked, those many years ago that same question and so did Jeremiah.”

“See! You won’t—I know you won’t!” She stood up pleading an answer.

“Shhh—I said then that a remnant will find grace and return. I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done” (Jeremiah 31:34-37).

“Good!” She nodded repetitively. “—just needed to know—for sure.” She glanced his way releasing her sweater left stretched and out of form. “Cos—I mean—because—” She rubbed her fingers across the ripples of her frown. “Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, false gods, worthless idols that did them no good—a foolish heritage.” Her voice of gratitude faded into bitter disappointment (Jeremiah 16:19).

“Our shepherds have strayed.” She admitted.

He took her hand. “I understand—”

She looked away.

“I understand—” He repeated. “They took care of themselves. Some ruled harshly and brutally. My sheep have been scattered because they had no shepherd and when they were scattered, they became food for all of the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them” (Ezekiel 34:2-6).

He stood up from the bench and knelt in front of her. Gently, he guided her chin until their eyes met and whispered, “I will send my Son—*He* will search for my sheep and look after them. *He* will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. *He* will bring them out



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from the

nations and gather them from the countries, and *He* will bring them into their own land. *He* will pasture them on the mountains of Israel. *He* will tend them in a good pasture and they will feed in rich pastures. I will search for the lost sheep and bring back the strays. *He* will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong *He* will destroy. *He* will shepherd the flock with justice” (Ezekiel 34:9-16).

She squeezed his hand. “Thank you.”

“I am against the shepherds and I will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them and you, my elect, will witness in that day of distress. I will awaken my sword against my shepherds. In the whole land, two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will bring into the fire, I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘Yahuah is our God’” (Zechariah 13:9).

“I will help! Here I am.” She pressed for His attention.

“Here I am!” she said. The uncertainty of not being heard drove to repeat herself. “Are you listening, here I am!”

“My silence is not an indicator of not hearing. I am watching those who develop enduring faith,” He said.

“Okay. Just to say in case it slipped your attention, for so long, we have lived among lies and deception.”

She plonked herself onto the bench and pushed up against Him, softly saying, “I know that we are without excuse. Your law of love is the kindness we desperately seek, the justice we crave, the peace we cannot find.”

Pulling and picking out the stray fibers in her sweater she added, “Why have we said your law is burdensome and replaced—with grace?”

“A rebellious mind is not open to the simplicity of truth. How often must I repeat myself? I know that you love me when you keep my commandments (I John 5:3). The Ten are not many, but they capture loving me and your fellow man. Again, I urge you to remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Mt. Horeb *for all Israel* (Malachi 4:4). The Ten are the core to everything that is Me.”

1. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.

The story of the gods was resurrected at the tower of Babel. “Let us confuse their language and scatter them. I will establish the boundaries for these peoples according to the sons of God, the 70 sons of God. I will set aside land for My inheritance and My people. The nations will not be my inheritance, I will give them to the sons in the heavenly court (Deuteronomy 32:8), but Jacob will be MY inheritance—allotment” (Deuteronomy 4:19-20).

Jacob was renamed Israel and his descendants were commissioned to model the way of God. But, **they failed**. They succumbed to their pride and anger and followed the nations around them whose gods had turned against the Almighty. God said, “You are ‘gods’; you are all sons of the Most High, but you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler (Psalm 82:6). Then, I will rise up and judge the earth for then all nations will be My inheritance” (Psalm 82:8).

Moses understood the extent of this battle of God against god in Egypt. “Who among the gods is like you, O God? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them” (Exodus 15:11).

David understood the meaning of the first commandment. When chased by King Saul, he pleaded, “Why is my lord pursuing after his servant? For what have I done? And what evil is in my hand? And so then, please let my lord the king listen to the words of his servant: If Yahweh has incited you against me, may he delight in an offering; but if it is mortals, may they be accursed before Yahweh, for **they have driven me away today from sharing in the inheritance of Yahweh**, saying, ‘**Go, serve other gods!**’” (1 Samuel 26:17–19).

No other nation on earth disrespects the name of their God, more than the **house of Israel** and their God is the Almighty God, the Supreme God, and the Creator. “I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though **you have not acknowledged me** so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting men may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:5).

“This is what I say—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God” (Isaiah 44:6).

“... from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?” (Isaiah 43:13).

Twenty-first century Christians have a superficial relationship with their God—the Almighty. He holds the universe in his hands, He created them to rule with Him, yet they worship Him for only a pittance of their time. They have mythicized the gods who turned against their Creator and the West produces movies of such gods featuring them as heroes. They cannot keep the first and greatest commandment because they do not know their God and through their movies they admire foreign gods.

2. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL IN THE FORM OF ANYTHING IN HEAVEN ABOVE OR ON THE EARTH BENEATH OR IN THE WATER BELOW. YOU SHALL NOT BOW DOWN TO THEM OR WORSHIP THEM.

Wandering through the nations over hundreds of years has given the ten tribes many of the traditions that are not ordinances of God. The **house of Israel** was given holy days that were specific to them. These special days are a reminder of their past, a strength during their present, and a preparation for their future. All other traditions come from the rogue gods of the nations who despise all of mankind and work to destroy them at every moment and by any means. ‘Do not

learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord” (Deuteronomy 9-13).

“The **house of Israel** is disgraced—they, their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets. They say to wood, ‘You are my father,’ and to stone, ‘You gave me birth’” (Jeremiah 2:26-27).

“**O Judah**, you have as many gods as you have towns!” (Jeremiah 2:28)

Twenty-first century believers ought to search through their traditions and root out all those that God has not ordained. The rebellious **house of Israel** is relentlessly stubborn. It will take a time of distress before they cry out to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In the goodness of God’s mercy, He will hear them and rescue them—yet *again*. He will “bring them back into their own land, sprinkle clean water on them and they will be clean from all of their impurities and from all of their idols... Then **they will remember their evil ways and wicked deeds and they will loathe themselves...**” (Ezekiel 36:24-31).

3. YOU SHALL NOT MISUSE THE NAME OF YAHUAH YOUR GOD.

“**O house of Israel** in your anger and rebellion, you have profaned God’s name wherever you have gone in the nations (Ezekiel 36:22). You have taught everyone to do the same. It is heard repetitively, ‘Oh! My God!’ and in anger you shout, ‘Jesus Christ!’”

“Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD” (Jeremiah 3:13).

Yet despite their rebellion, a time is coming when God will save *anyone* who calls on *His* name. “Everyone who calls on the **name of the LORD** will be saved” (Romans 10:13, Deuteronomy 4:30).

“They [false teachers] think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal” (Jeremiah 23:27).

“You also know that your Saviour prayed and asked me to protect you by the **power of My name**, through the name I gave him, so that you may be one as we are one” (John 17:11).

“A time is coming soon, in that day, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’ For **I will remove the names of the Baals from your mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more**” (Hosea 2:16-17).

4. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY.

“Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my **Sabbaths**. This will be a **sign between me and you for the generations to come**, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy’” (Exodus 31:13).

The Sabbath is for the **whole house of Israel** (both houses: **Israel** and **Judah**). The **house of Israel** rebelled and because they refused to repent, they were divorced, stripped of the name Israel, cut off from the family, sentenced to wander through the nations seven times longer than the original sentence. They became as the Gentiles worshiping the traditions of men. Yashuah (Jesus) was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel (Matthew 15:24). He died for both houses: Judah and Israel and all of mankind. They are now viewed by God as virgins, no longer adulteresses embracing false religion. Yet, the Christians still do not understand the full measure of Christ’s sacrifice. Still living like Gentiles, they continue Constantine’s ordinance of Sunday worship over the Sabbath. Many have assigned the Sabbath commandment only for the Jews, their brothers they have forgotten. Some state that though the Sabbath is a sign between God and his people, they don’t need a sign; only the Jews rely on signs. Regardless of the augment, the Sabbath remains a sign between God and his people forever (Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:12).

All people who repent will be grafted onto the olive tree and become part of the family of Israel (Romans 11:17). They *will* keep the Sabbath as commanded for **all Israelites, forever**. It is more than a day of rest; it signifies peace with God—no more rebellion, so God can rest from battling against His creation and we rest from battling against our God. The Sabbath pictures the Millennial reign of Christ who will rule with an iron sceptre, ensuring God’s word and commandments are kept. This kingdom will begin as small as the size of a mustard seed. A kingdom of people living righteously ruled by Yashuah HaMashiach [Jesus Christ] and his bride will grow to cover the whole earth. A “stone cut out without hands, will strike the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crush them... **the stone** that struck the statue **will become a great mountain and fill the whole earth**. (Daniel 2:34-35).

The **whole house of Israel** is still instrumental in God’s plan to redeem everyone in every nation. The twelve tribes who became many nations will repent for “all of Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26). “My eyes are on all their ways; **they are not hidden from me**” (Jeremiah 16:17). One hundred and forty-four thousand will be redeemed from the earth—12 times 12 X 1,000— “these are those who do not defile themselves... they keep themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes... first-fruits of God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless” (Revelation 14:3-5).

Yahuah: the God of Israel, the Creator rested on the Sabbath at the end of His creation week. He wants all of mankind to **rest from rebellion**. It is an everlasting commandment—for *all*.”

In Summary:

- “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).
- “Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person” (I John 2:4).

- “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them,” says Jesus (John 14:23).
- “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

5. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.

Respect and honor your parents. Sacrifice for them as they have done for you. Do not blame your parents for your short-comings, rather build and overcome the barriers you face in life, growing into a responsible and mature individual.

“There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers...” (Proverbs 30:11).

“**Respect everyone**, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king” (1 Peter 2:17).

“Be devoted to one another in love. **Honor one another above yourselves**” (Romans 12:10).

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will **turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers**; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse” (Malachi 4:5-6).

6. YOU SHALL NOT MURDER.

Over 60 million people died in World War II due to the attempt of a few to obtain rulership over many—a blatant abuse of power. When nations rise, this abuse surfaces over and over again. The United States has dropped more bombs than any other country since 1945. They have bombed approximately one third of the planet. For a time-lapse of every nuclear explosion from 1945 – 1998 visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLCF7vPanrY>.

This world has been in turmoil from the beginning. A brief visual of battles over 1,000 years visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hsDn2kNrIl>.

"The iniquity of the house of **Israel** and **Judah** is very, very great and the land is filled with blood, the cities are full of perversion; for they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'" (Ezekiel 9:9). But, I say to them, “My eyes are on all their ways; **they are not hidden from me nor is their sin concealed from my eyes**” (Jeremiah 16:17).

“All men lie in wait to shed blood; each hunts his brother with a net” (Micah 7:2).

So is the way of those who rebel against the law of God.



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7. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

“It is not good for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18).

As it is not good for man to be alone, so too, it would be overly burdensome for Christ to rule alone. “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne...” (Revelations 3:21) and “For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7).

It was the plan from the beginning.

“I chose you in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love... (Ephesians 1:4) ...whom...I...

predestined to be conformed [in love] to the image of My Son” (Romans 8:29).

“The glory which I [Yahuah] gave Me [Yashuah] I have given them... Father [Yahuah], I [Yashuah] desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory” (John 17:22-24).

“I [Yashuah] will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be” (John. 14:3).

“It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him... The LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs...Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man... Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:18-24).

So, the bride of Christ will come into eternal life through Yashuah (Jesus), her Saviour. She will become a suitable co-ruler for Him. Yashuah (Jesus) both lived and ruled before her creation, as in Adam. The mirror image was designed to teach you about the relationship as bride, then wife for Yashuah (Jesus).

Yet, the **whole house of Israel** became a prostitute.

- “Thus, they became unclean in their practices, and played the harlot in their deeds” (Psalms 106:39).
- “You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen. You also took your beautiful jewels made of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them” (Ezekiel 16:16-17).

- “... there were two women, the daughters of one mother [daughters were the house of Israel and house of Judah]; and they played the harlot in Egypt. They played the harlot in their youth; there their breasts were pressed and there their virgin bosom was handled. Their names were Oholah the elder [Israel] and Oholibah her sister [Judah]. And they became Mine, and they bore sons and daughters. And as for their names, Samaria is Oholah and Jerusalem is Oholibah. Oholah played the harlot while she was Mine; and she lusted after her lovers, after the Assyrians, her neighbors, who were clothed in purple, governors and officials, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding on horses. She bestowed her harlotries on them, all of whom were the choicest men of Assyria; and with all whom she lusted after, with all their idols she defiled herself. She did not forsake her harlotries from the time in Egypt; for in her youth men had lain with her, and they handled her virgin bosom and poured out their lust on her. Therefore, I gave her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, after whom she lusted. They uncovered her nakedness; they took her sons and her daughters, but they slew her with the sword. Thus she became a byword among women, and they executed judgments on her. Now, her sister Oholibah saw this, yet she was more corrupt in her lust than she, and her harlotries were more than the harlotries of her sister. She lusted after the Assyrians, governors and officials, the ones near, magnificently dressed, horsemen riding on horses, all of them desirable young men. I saw that she had defiled herself; they both took the same way. So, she increased her harlotries. And she saw men portrayed on the wall, images of the Chaldeans portrayed with vermilion, girded with belts on their loins, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them looking like officers, like the Babylonians in Chaldea, the land of their birth. When she saw them, she lusted after them and sent messengers to them in Chaldea. The Babylonians came to her to the bed of love and defiled her with their harlotry. And when she had been defiled by them, she became disgusted with them. She uncovered her harlotries and uncovered her nakedness; then I became disgusted with her, as I had become disgusted with her sister. Yet she multiplied her harlotries, remembering the days of her youth, when she played the harlot in the land of Egypt. She lusted after their paramours, whose flesh is like the flesh of donkeys and whose issue is like the issue of horses. Thus, you longed for the lewdness of your youth, when the Egyptians handled your bosom because of the breasts of your youth. Therefore, O Oholibah, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold I will arouse your lovers against you, from whom you were alienated, and I will bring them against you from every side...’ (Ezekiel 23:1-22).
- “They will eat, but not have enough; they will play the harlot, but not increase, because they have stopped giving heed to the LORD” (Hosea 4:10).
- "Why should I forgive you? Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods. I supplied all their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes" (Jeremiah 5:7).
- “They are all adulterers, a crowd of unfaithful people” (Jeremiah 9:2).

So often over looked is the relationship between Yashuah (Christ) and His people/church/nation who continue to commit adultery. As individuals, align yourself with Me,

your Creator—Yahuah and obey Me only.

Don't even look to desire for a moment the ways of the gods who rule the nations. "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell" (Matthew 5:27-29).

8. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.

The whole house of Israel—thieve. The City of London and Wall Street have taught the world how to steal and get away with it. They have turned investment institutions into gambling houses. There is no change from yesterday.

- "The merchant uses dishonest scales; he loves to defraud. Ephraim boasts, 'I am rich; I have become wealthy'" (Hosea 12:7-8).

"Your rulers are rebels and companions of thieves; Everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, nor does the widow's plea come before them" (Isaiah 1:23).

"When will the new moon be over, so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, that we may open the wheat market, to make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger, and to cheat with dishonest scales, so as to buy the helpless for money and the needy for a pair of sandals, and that we may sell the refuse of the wheat?" (Amos 8:5-6).

"O wicked house, your ill-gotten treasures... dishonest scales with a bag of false weights" (Micah 6:10-11).

"...the ruler demands gifts, the judge accepts bribes, the powerful dictate what they desire— they all conspire together" (Micah 7:3).

"And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN" (Matthew 21:12-13).

- "From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts.
"But you say, 'How shall we return?'"
"You have robbed Me. Can a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!"
"But you say, 'How have we robbed You?'"
"In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!"

9. YOU SHALL NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY.

Prevent the perversion of justice: **DO NOT LIE!**

O house of Israel: “They are all hardened rebels, going about to slander” (Jeremiah 6:28).

“You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice” (Exodus 23-24).

“...take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous” (Exodus 23:1-2, 6-8).

Yashuah, your Saviour admonishes you:

- “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).
- “His truth endures to all generations” (Psalm 100:5).
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).
- “Your word is truth” (John 17:17).
- “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause, I was born and for this cause, I have come into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37).
- “‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another” (Ephesians 4:25).

In addition:

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, **do not swear at all:** neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:33-37).

10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET.

Think of others better than yourself and you will be happy for them and all that they have. Avoid the snares of the twenty-first century plays: competing with your neighbours, tricking yourself that another loves you more than your spouse, and desiring more than what you can afford.

“Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5).

“Covetousness becomes all-consuming. It will push past your love for Yahuah, God and take precedence. Guard yourself!” He said with urgency.

Learn to esteem others better than yourself:

- “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...” (Philippines 2:3).
- “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

The last commandment begins with the first. Learn to love God:

- “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **This is the great and first commandment.** And a **second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:36-40).

He leaned back stretching out his legs and said, “That’s all I want to say.”

They sat in silence. Her hair danced as the gentle breeze caressed her. She slouched back enjoying the moment—with Him on His Sabbath day.

“How difficult can it be for us to simply—love?”

He raised his eye brows and patted her lap.

“All that you have made is wonderful... the fresh smells of nature.” She closed her eyes. “I can hear the birds and—the gentle breeze moving around me whispers sweet nothings. Even the sun; she welcomes me—oh, why don’t they choose you?”

“Remember who you struggle with—it is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

“Yes,” she said, with a sigh, “we often forget that. As a matter of fact, the twenty-first century has mythicized all of those characters—our real enemies. They have turned our enemy into a ghost and labeled those who understand the influence of those dark forces as lunatics and conspirators.”

“If you let those powers influence you, then My word will be offensive to you; you will not find pleasure in it” (Jeremiah 6:10).

She pushed herself up against Him, holding his arm into an embrace. “Well, don’t think that I am like that! I know Your word is truth and my battle will be won by serving and loving You—with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength. If *you* are for me, who can be against me? (Romans 8:31). ABSOLUTELY NO ONE!” She jeered, “Bring it on.”

They chuckled.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich