

Man Hu News

מָן הוּא שְׁמוּעָה

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**And when the dew that lay was gone up,
Behold, upon the face of the wilderness
there lay a small round thing, as small as
the hoar frost on the ground. And when the
children of Israel saw it, they said one to another,
It is manna:(Man Hu מָן הוּא). And Moses said unto them,
This is the bread which the L-rd hath given you to eat.**

**Manna (Man) means “a little piece” and HU means “him.”
They were actually receiving little pieces of Jesus for He said:
I am the living bread which came down from heaven. (Jn 6:51)**

Did G-d say:

‘Ten Commandments’

or was it

‘Ten Suggestions’

The Ten Commandments form the foundational basis of Jewish and Christian theology as well as Western Civilization. Throughout world history, those claiming the G-d of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as their G-d has claimed to accept these fundamental laws as they relate to Him and to one another.

Modern social trends have unfortunately rendered these ordinances to no effect. They have been removed from schools and are viewed as taboo or old-fashioned. We are indeed seeing Messiah Jesus' prophecy of “**because iniquity abounds, the love of many shall grow cold**” (*mattityahu-Matthew 24:12*) coming to pass. With great accuracy, Yeshua (Jesus) foresaw a time when love and.....

.....compassion would be hard to find. He even gives us the reason for this lack of love. “Because ***iniquity*** abounds, the love of many shall wax cold”. The word translated as iniquity, is actually the Greek ‘***anomia*** (ανομία)’, which means ‘Torahless-ness or the lack of law. The Apostle Paul also agrees, ‘For the secret power of **lawlessness ‘*anomia*** (ανομία)’ is already at work;’ (2 Thessalonians 2:7). Apparently this First Century church did not listen to the apostles’ warnings. We are also witnessing the perversion of the Ten Commandments by those within the spectrum of Biblical faith today. Many Christians are now believing that the Ten Commandments were “smashed at the cross” and that Believers can break them at will. The history of Christianity bears His words out. As Rome began to persecute Jews (at the end of the First Century and the beginning of the Second Century) the believers were swept up in the persecution along with the synagogues. In fact, Roman persecution of believers began under Nero even before the first Jewish revolt (66 CE). Christians quickly learned that in order to survive the politics of the day they needed to distance themselves from the Jewish people. For all practical purposes, this meant turning away from the Torah (Commandments). But what kind of persecution could have caused such a split between the Torah and the community of faith (believer in Yeshua)?

We have learned from historical evidence that proves that much of the early Church doctrine developed in large measure, not from New Testament teaching, but rather as a reaction to a 1st century tax called the ‘***Fiscus Judaicus***’. In order to grasp how it is that a Roman tax was able to affect almost 2,000 years of Church development, an understanding of Israel’s

history with Rome is needed. The trouble began around 63 B.C.E. when General Pompey began his war campaign of western Asia, including Syria and Palestine. He quickly conquered Jerusalem and dictated policy by keeping the Hasmonaeans on the throne. He caused bitterness when he desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem by walking into the Holy of Holies. Josephus the Jewish historian wrote of this bitterness:

...[the Jews were told] if they supported 'Hyrcanus [Rome's chosen appointment for High Priest] they would live in prosperity and quiet, enjoying their own property and general peace; but if they were deluded by the hopes of those who for private profit were eager for revolution, they would find him not a protector but a master, Hyrcanus not a king but an autocrat, and Caesar and the Romans not leaders and friends but enemies; they would never stand by while the Jews turned out of office the man they had appointed."

Judaea was always a troublesome spot for Rome. Finally, in 66 C.E., trouble would boil over. Josephus describes the conditions on the eve of the first Jewish Revolt:

'The next procurator, Festus, tackled the chief curse of the country; he killed a considerable number of bandits and captured many more. Albinus, who followed him, acted very differently, being guilty of every possible misdemeanor. Not content with official actions that meant widespread robbery and looting of private property, or with taxes that crippled the whole nation, he allowed those imprisoned for banditry by local courts or his own predecessors to be bought out by their relatives, and only the man who failed to pay was left in jail to serve his sentence...Free speech was completely suppressed and tyranny reigned everywhere; from then on the seeds of the coming destruction were being sown in the City. Such a man was Albinus, but his successor Gessius Florus made him appear an angel by comparison...He stripped whole cities, ruined complete communities, and virtually announced to the entire country that everyone might be a bandit if he chose, so long as he himself received a rake-off'.

The destruction of Jerusalem was now just a matter of time. In 70 C.E. the walls of Jerusalem were breached and the city and the Temple were sacked, looted and burned. Zealot forces would hold out for another three years at Masada, but the fate of the Jews was sealed. Judaea had become a

stench to Rome and Roman authorities were determined never to allow such a revolt to occur again.

Immediately after the war they instituted persecution aimed at Biblical religious practices: all who fail to sacrifice to pagan deities were to be punished, Sabbath could not be observed as a day of rest, other religious privileges were withdrawn, of course this also included the believers in Yeshua.

Roman persecution for the revolt of Jerusalem fell on all Jews throughout the Roman Empire. A special poll tax known as the '*Fiscus Judaicus (Jewish Tax)*' was required from anyone practicing the '*Commandments of the Bible*'. This tax amounted to two day's wages per person per year for those between three and 60 years of age. Or, put another way, it equaled two days wages for each person in a household for three generations. If a man had himself, his wife, his five children, his father and mother and perhaps his in-laws (extended families were the norm), it would cost him 22 day's wages just to pay a tax for obeying the Word of G-d.

It is significant that at the very same time Rome was discouraging the obedience of the Biblical Commandments through taxation, the Church was developing a theology of disassociation with the Commandments of G-d and all things that appear to be Jewish.

However, for those Jews and Gentiles who continued to walk according to the Commandments of G-d and held to the Messiahship of Yeshua, life would be very difficult, and still is today. For we (both Jew and Gentile believers) have the same enemy as the early believers in Yeshua. The enemy is not Rome, the enemy is 'HaSatan', the serpent, the dragon, 'may his name be blotted out forever'. Just as he used the Romans to try to destroy the Commandments of G-d and the people who loved his Word, he is still using people and modern day society to try to do the same thing today. Even in the Book of Revelation he is seen by the Apostle John trying the same tactics:

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 12:17) This dragon in the Book of Revelation, made his first appearance to mankind in the form of a serpent in 'The Garden of Eden.' ***“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the L-RD G-d had made. And he said to the woman, "Did perhaps G-d say, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"***

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, G-d has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For G-d knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like G-d, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:1-5)

Adam and Eve was given only one Commandment to obey, not to eat of or even touch the 'Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil' for G-d said: ***"on the day you eat of it, you shall surely die."*** But, the serpent came to Eve and questioned her about G-d's Command by saying: ***'Did G-d say' 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'***, or in other words he was asking "Is it possible that G-d forbade you to eat of any of the trees? Why would He have created them if they are not to be enjoyed?" (*Midrash HaGadol*) This is the classic lie of HaSatan: Pleasures are meant to be enjoyed, so it is foolish to believe that G-d could have commanded one to restrain oneself from doing so. (*Artscroll Chumash*) may his name be blotted out forever!! Did G-d mean what He said, or was it just a good suggestion. You be..... the.....

.....the judge. Has Adam's disobedience affected the world? The Apostle Paul said 'that in Adam all die.' (1 Corinthians 15:22)

G-d said (נַעֲשֶׂה אָדָם בְּצִלְמֵנוּ) 'Let us make man in our image,' — an accurate representation of His Glory. When Adam sinned, he violated that representation and obscured G-d's Glory. The pattern of creation has shown us the utter power of G-d's Word. G-d speaks, and it is. Man's sin is out of balance with the pattern of G-d's creation. G-d speaks, and man does not obey.

The Temptation of the serpent was, "You will be like G-d." But man's purpose is to reveal G-d, not to become G-d. The serpent's temptation is meant to shift the truth. Instead of man revealing G-d as G-d, the serpent tempts man to reveal himself as G-d. He says, "You will know Good and Evil." Knowing Good and Evil could be understood as "determining Good and Evil." Adam and Eve were tempted to make their own moral determinations of what is good and what is evil. They desired to be their own moral authority, to be an equal and a peer of G-d. Apparently, that temptation was more than

Adam and Eve could resist, so they declared themselves as “like G-d” by disobeying the Commands of G-d. The result was that they no longer revealed G-d. They were no longer obedient to His will and purpose. They no longer accurately represented Him.

At this point in time I have to wonder if we the people of G-d are properly representing G-d or are we falling for the same lie, **‘Did G-d say Commandments or Suggestions.’**

שלום Shalom,

HEBREW LESSON

Begin Here:

אני לדודי ודודי לי:

liy: vedodiy ledodiy, Aniy

mine: is and my beloved my beloved's, am I

(Song of Solomon 6:3)

Sources: *Holy Scriptures - Josephus, The Jewish Wars - Christopher O'Quin - First Fruits of Zion - Artscroll Chumash*

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