

Did Yeshua Teach People to Break God's Old Testament Commandments?

This is an important topic because if Yeshua did away with God's Old Testament commandments as some say, He could not be the Messiah according to Deuteronomy 13:1-4. We will see that Yeshua did not teach people to break any of God's commandments. Let's use the Sabbath as an example to help us understand this.

What does the Bible have to say about the Sabbath? Some say that Yeshua did away with God's commandments and the Sabbath as well. We will see that it is not true. First, what is the true Sabbath according to the Bible? Genesis 2:2-3 NKJV says, "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." So, the true Sabbath is the 7th day and it was instituted by God at the time of creation. In ancient times, they divided the days from sunset to sunset. They did not have clocks. So, the real biblical Sabbath is our Friday night at sunset to Saturday night at sunset.

The Bible says the days go from evening to the next day. Genesis 1:5 NKJV says, "The evening and the morning were the first day." There were no clocks like we have now, so their day did not begin in the middle of the night like ours does now. That is how they kept the days in their era. The new day begins at sunset. So, the true Sabbath should be kept how the Bible tells us to keep it by God's reckoning of time and not our modern made up concept of time when applying the Bible properly.

That method is actually a very easy way to know when a day ends or begins. You just look to see if any part of the Sun is still visible. When the last upper limb of Sun disappears, the Sun is already 1 solar disk below the horizon; it is set. Some say you need to wait for three stars to be visible, but depending on the conditions of the sky (whether there are clouds obscuring the stars) a person could end up waiting for a while. Why make up something difficult?

Where did the concept of 3 stars come from? The sighting of 3 stars is a contrived way to start and end the ancient days based on extra laws made up by the Sanhedrin (the ancient ruling body of Israel). They made up extra laws because the judges, the magistrates, and the Sanhedrin were charged with enforcing the law. They ended up making up a lot of inappropriate laws as well. Because of this, the prophet Isaiah said that the people were following man-made commandments and not God. Isaiah 29:13 NKJV says, "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men." When people follow misapplied man-made commandments, they are following men and not God according to the Bible.

The Sanhedrin decided they knew better how to keep God's commandments than God. God's commandments are not supposed to be made difficult the Bible says. Not making God's commandments difficult should be understood as a commandment. Deuteronomy 30:11 NIV says, "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you." If you think you should wait for 3 stars, you should do that, but because the Torah says God's commandments are not difficult, I believe that making God's commandments difficult is wrong and the

Sanhedrin seemed to want to be very controlling, make up commandments, and make them complicated.

Also, is the day we keep now, Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset, the true day of the Sabbath? The Jews should know when the Sabbath begins because they kept it for some 40 years after they left Egypt. In addition, someone went around the world in the 19th century to see when the Jews kept the Sabbath and they found out that they all kept the Sabbath in the same way, our Friday at sunset to Saturday at sunset.

Some people think that Yeshua broke the Sabbath and taught others to break the Sabbath, but like I said, breaking God's commandments would eliminate Him from being the Messiah. So, people who say this are actually disqualifying Yeshua from being the Messiah. To break the Sabbath is to break the 4th commandment that was instituted at the time of creation, and it is a sin. No sinner could possibly be the Messiah or a true spiritual leader. The Sabbath is probably the most often mentioned commandment in the Bible. The Sabbath is mentioned in 89 verses in the Old Testament portion and 62 verses in the New Testament portion (from Blue Letter Bible online). The Bible says that we are not to listen to anyone who teaches others to not keep God's commandments.

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 NKJV says,

If there arises among you **a prophet** or a dreamer of dreams, **and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass**, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for **the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.**

So again, anyone who teaches others to not follow God's Old Testament commandments is a false teacher or prophet. We are not to follow anyone who teaches others not to keep God's Old Testament commandments. If Yeshua or anyone else teaches the people to not keep God's Old Testament commandments they are false teachers. Some say that Yeshua came to the Jewish people and that is why He taught the people to keep God's commandments. Yeshua came to help us follow God's commandments and He also gave us the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit in this temporary Messianic age before the end times to come. He did not come to change God's good laws.

What about Paul (his real name was Shaul)? The same would apply to him. The people who say that Shaul taught the people to not keep the Old Testament commandments would eliminate him from being a true teacher, an apostle, or any other true spiritual leader in the true God. Also, those who say that he taught others to not keep God's Old Testament laws are also disqualifying Shaul from being a true apostle and teacher.

Perhaps, one of the biggest theological lies is that Yeshua was breaking the Sabbath or teaching that it was okay to break the Sabbath. As I have said many times, no one would have believed in Yeshua or believed Shaul if they were teaching the people to not keep God's Old Testament commandments. Shaul says he did what Yeshua did, he imitated Yeshua (Yeshua is Jesus' real name as substantiated in the Hebrew gospel of Matthew. And sometimes the word Christ is used for Jesus. Christ in the Greek means to be smudged and therefore refers to Yeshua being the anointed one, with oil). Saul says in 1 Corinthians 11:1 NKJV, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." If Shaul was imitating Yeshua, he would be teaching the same things Yeshua was teaching, namely, to keep God's Old Testament portion commandments. That is what Shaul did and he says in Romans 3:31 NKJV, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Shaul said God's Old Testament commandments are established, they still stand.

The fact that Yeshua said that He will reject those who do not keep the law speaks for itself. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**'" The word translated lawlessness is the negated Greek word for the Torah that was used in the Greek Septuagint (The Septuagint was translated into Greek from the Hebrew in the 2nd century BC by the ancient rabbis). So, Yeshua actually says, 'depart from Me, you who do not keep the Torah, the Law.' The Torah refers to God's commandments in the Old Testament portion.

Yeshua also said in Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law." Unfounded conjectures aside, Yeshua does not say the law is done away with but appears to say that the law will never be done away with. It will never be done away with until, "heaven and earth pass away." We can safely assume that at present, the earth still exists. False teachers who say we do not have to keep God's Old Testament law say that Yeshua fulfilled all and therefore the Torah is done away with. All has not been fulfilled yet. There is still a future heaven and earth to come. Revelation 21:1 NKJV says, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

Some say that Shaul (also known as Paul) said that the Old Testament law had been done away with. That cannot be true because Shaul says that he believed in the Law and the Prophets. Acts 24:14 NKJV says, "But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, **believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.**" What does it say? Believe it or not, some people say he was lying. Lying is breaking the 9th commandment which would disqualify him from being an apostle. Deuteronomy 5:20 NKJV says, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Lying is being a false witness.

There are some clear scriptures that say the Old Testament commandments are not done away with. For example, Romans 7:12 NKJV says, "The law is holy, and the commandment holy and

just and good." Some say the law is not good. They are contradicting the Bible. So, it makes sense that those who say the law has been done away with are false teachers. We are not supposed to listen to them. Let's talk about some of the scriptures that false teachers use to support their false doctrine. This short work is intended to help us understand the Bible better and some of the scriptures related to Yeshua's reasoning.

We need to examine some of the scriptures that people use to discredit Yeshua and say that Yeshua did not keep the real Sabbath and taught others not to keep it.

False teachers say that Yeshua taught us to not keep the Sabbath. Also, some look to discredit Yeshua and say Yeshua was a false teacher using the same reasoning; namely, that He taught others to not keep the Sabbath. Let's look at some scriptures in Matthew that some mistakenly think proves their point.

Matthew 12:1-8 NKJV says,

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. But if you had known what this means, I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

We should examine each section of this account to get a complete picture of what is going on. It is true that we are not to harvest on the Sabbath. That is work. Exodus 34:21 NKJV says, "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time **and in harvest you shall rest.**" People were allowed to take small amounts as long as they did not harvest other's crops, but that should be done on other days of the week and not on the Sabbath. Some Messianic believers think that Yeshua's disciples were not obeying the extra man-made laws of the Sanhedrin. In this case that is not true because the Bible says that harvesting is not allowed on the Sabbath. That can be done in preparation for the Sabbath, but not on the Sabbath.

First, let's look at the perspective of the Pharisees. The Sanhedrin and local judges enforced biblical law and if a person was working on the Sabbath, they could incur the death penalty. God had the Israelites set up magistrates and judges in each city. They were the ones that enforced the law. They believed they had to set up laws to enforce keeping the Sabbath. But they made up a lot of extra man-made laws to accomplish this and basically said that doing anything that is someone's job at that time broke the Sabbath and I might add that they extended their laws to the very smallest of activities. This extended to everything in life. This made keeping God's commandments on the verge of being exhausting. As we already pointed

out, the Bible says that God's commandments are not hard, so making God's commandments difficult and tedious is to break that command. For example, some today tear their toilet paper before the Sabbath because tearing was part of making clothing or doing other jobs. Really, is tearing toilet paper work? How ridiculous.

Good applications of the Bible are okay, but the Sanhedrin acted as oppressive authoritarian overlords and made up a lot of laws. Only made-up laws are not in the Bible and are often not God's laws. That's why they are referred to as extra (man-made) laws and that's why Isaiah said the people were not following God but people's concepts and ideas. God said that these extra man-made laws were just commands of men. Again, Isaiah 29:13 NKJV says, "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men." All these extra man-made commandments constituted making people work to keep the Sabbath.

Also, talking about Yeshua in regard to the leadership. The Pharisees may or may not have had a squabble with Yeshua. Some did but not every leader. Say you are driving and one of the passengers in your car says that you are driving too fast. They are not against you but trying to help you to not get a speeding ticket. So, it is not necessarily true that all the Pharisees were always antagonistic towards Yeshua all the time. John 12:42 NKJV says, "Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him."

We should probably think of the scriptures in Matthew 12 as a lesson on to how to keep the Sabbath properly or as Yeshua says, with mercy. I often tell people that Yeshua was trying to teach people to observe the Sabbath correctly, but I often do not have the time to thoroughly explain myself. Yeshua refers to Hosea 6:6 where it says God desires mercy. Matthew 12:7 NKJV says, "But if you had known what this means, I desire mercy and not sacrifice." First, we should understand that God would prefer that we stop sinning, so we do not have to make sacrifices for sin. Also, the sacrifices were to be done only at the Temple in Jerusalem and that is not standing any more. There are a lot of laws that had to do with the Temple service that we cannot keep at present.

Let's consider Yeshua's first reason for allowing His disciples to pick grain on the Sabbath. Yeshua points out that King David took the Temple bread that was unlawful for others to eat (see 1 Samuel 21:1-6). Years ago, this story used to bother me, but I came to understand why it was okay for King David to do that. King David and his men were hungry, and they may have been famished with hunger. In this case, it was okay for the priest to give King David the bread.

Why is that? Deuteronomy 30:15-16 NKJV says, "See, **I have set before you today life** and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments." God's commandments are contrasted with not keeping God's commandments. Keeping God's commandments can give us a good life, not keeping God's good commandments brings death and eternal separation from God and are evil. People are doing evil when they do not keep God's commandments

because God is a good and all-knowing God who wants what is best for us. I want you to keep in mind that the scriptures say that God's commandments give life, "I have set before you today life."

There are hundreds of scriptures that tell us that God's commandments are good. For example, God pleads with us to accept and keep His good commandments. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" Some say God's Old Testament commandments are not good. We see that this is a lie. God gave us His Old Testament commandments to help us in life and so that life would go well for us it says.

God's commandments are wonderful according to the psalmist and give us understanding. They are a light to our path and help us to avoid evil and the destructive ways of life.

Psalms 119:101-105 NKJV says,

I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

God's Old Testament commandments are life giving.

Psalms 119:93 NKJV says,

I will never forget **Your precepts**, for by them You **have given me life**.

Therefore, we should understand that it is okay to break a commandment to save life.

God's commandments give us life and not death. Therefore, it stands to reason that since God's commandments give us life, it is okay to break a commandment sometimes to save a life. So, it was okay for David to eat the bread he was not allowed to eat because he was famished. Yeshua is basically saying the same thing about His disciples harvesting on the Sabbath.

Also, the Jewish Talmud agrees with the understanding of Yeshua. God's commandments give life and not death. Mishna 7b says, "Great is Torah, for **it gives life** to its doers." The ancient Rabbis qualified breaking a commandment to save life by saying that certain sins are never okay to do, for example, idolatry or sexual sins. But in the case of the Temple service, saving a life even supersedes the commandment concerning the Temple ritual according to Yoma 85b.

If a priest knows of the innocence of someone, he is required to save their life even if he is in the middle of making a sacrifice. Yoma 85b says, "To preserve a life, e.g., if the priest can testify to the innocence of one who is sentenced to death, one removes him even from on top of My altar, even while he is sacrificing an offering." So, again, it was okay for King David to eat the Temple bread, and it was okay for Yeshua's disciples to pick grain on Shabbat because they needed it to sustain their life.

Also, we should understand that having mercy overrides the Temple service.

Yeshua also uses an argument concerning the Temple sacrifices. Matthew 12:5 NKJV says, "Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?" The priests are allowed to do the work they have to do on Shabbat; the Temple work is okay to do on Shabbat. The Temple service supersedes the commandment not to work. So, saving a life according to the Jewish Talmud in Yoma 85b even allows for the interruption of the Temple service! Yeshua then concludes His instruction with Hosea 6:6 NKJV which says, "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." Yeshua's reasons were perfectly in line with Jewish beliefs. Yeshua is keeping the Sabbath properly and therefore, there was no action taken against Him. You can see this type of reasoning in all of Yeshua's healings with certain nuances which we will talk about some more when we cover them. We will not be covering everything, but just enough to help you understand how to keep the Torah properly. Yeshua wants us to keep the Sabbath properly and He is not saying that we no longer have to keep the Sabbath.

So, all Yeshua's reasoning in Matthew 12 fits perfectly together with some of the standard Jewish beliefs and are not intended to cancel any of God's Old Testament commandments, and we should understand from this that:

Yeshua is instructing others on how to properly keep the Sabbath and is not doing away with the Sabbath as some say. God desires mercy and saving life.

It was not a matter of an extra inappropriate law that was in question here since Yeshua justified what the disciples were doing through appropriate reasoning.

Those questioning Yeshua may or may not have had a squabble with Him at the time. The text is startling though because it goes on to say that the Pharisees there wanted to commit murder. They were in a minority though. Most of the people at that time apparently did not have a squabble with Yeshua. Therefore, Yeshua must have been at odds mostly with the man-made laws of the rulers, the Sanhedrin. Just a few verses down from the harvesting incident, it says that great multitudes followed Yeshua. Matthew 12:15 NKJV says, "Great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all."

Yeshua was either instructing them or giving His side of a standard Jewish/Biblical argument. It is apparent that some in His time disagreed with Yeshua's reasoning. As we can see, these were standard biblical arguments of His time. We find out that even among the Jewish leadership, they did not believe what the Pharisees in Matthew 12 believed. Nicodemus says that the leadership of that time knew that Yeshua was from God. John 3:2 NKJV says, "We know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Many Bible teachers in our era focus on the negative problems of that time which were probably due to the wrong commands issued by a minority, namely the Sanhedrin. The people who maintain a negative focus toward all the Jews is wrongly applied. Because of this, we will continue to address this issue regarding Yeshua and the Sabbath. Also, in our era, Jewish doctors are required to work on a Sabbath when it is required of them because they are saving lives.

Yeshua actually substantiated a proper application of the law through His arguments and was not doing away with the law. Why would Yeshua make legitimate arguments if he did not need to do so? He could have simply said they were adding extra commandments to the law like the Sanhedrin did or that He had done away with the law. He did not do that.

Some say that when He refers to Himself as being Lord of the Sabbath that he has the power to do away with the Sabbath. In this section in Matthew, Yeshua is actually saying that He is greater than the Temple and He knows that they have condemned the innocent. In some of the Hebrew manuscripts of Matthew it says, "the Son of God" and not the "son of man." So, since He is the Son of God, He is aware that they have unjustly condemned people that should not have been condemned because those unjustly accused were not working on Shabbat and perhaps even doing the very thing or a similar thing to that of what Yeshua's disciples were doing, namely, saving life. Those who were teaching extra laws and condemning people for not keeping their extra laws should have been applying the law correctly and they should have understood that God desires mercy and to save life. Like we said, at the time, it appears that some of the Jews understood these concepts because we see the concepts of mercy and saving a life in the Jewish Talmud and in Hosea 6:6 and other scriptures.

Some modern rabbis say that Yeshua did not keep the law, or that He taught that the law is done away with. They should know better and they probably do know better. It is evident that some rabbis are being deliberately deceitful and saying Yeshua broke the law. They do this in order to discredit Yeshua and are breaking the commandment not to be a false witness. Most gentiles do not understand how to apply the Old Testament scriptures properly and they come to inappropriate conclusions such as, we do not have to keep God's laws or keep the Sabbath, or that Yeshua taught to not keep the Sabbath. They are applying the same wrong concepts as those in Judaism who deliberately lie to malign Yeshua.

It should be easily understood that Yeshua did not break the law based on His reasoning.

More on appropriate applications of the Old Testament law. Where did the Sanhedrin get all these extra laws? They made up 39 categories of laws based on people's occupations that

imposed man-made laws on the people for the Sabbath. These are categories with lots of additional man-made commandments for each category. They then had to make exceptions to their man-made laws at times. There are legitimate exceptions to God's laws and legitimate applications of God's commandments, but man-made laws are not legitimate biblical laws. Again, Isaiah 29:13 NKJV says, "These people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men." So even the people of Isaiah's time, some 600 years before Yeshua came, were trapped in a system of extra man-made laws. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." They were not supposed to make up a lot of extra laws.

These laws made-up by the Sanhedrin were sometimes not appropriate applications of the Torah, therefore, these inappropriate applications caused the people to become Torah breakers. Many Jews are still breaking God's law, God's Torah, to not to add or subtract from God's commandments. A Torah breaker is a person who breaks God's Old Testament commandments by not keeping them or by adding or subtracting inappropriately to them. People mistakenly believe that the extra man-made laws are also God's commandments but that is not true.

These are our traditions.

I want to qualify what I am about to talk about. Without the teaching from the Torah I got from my mother, I would be a very different person. I appreciate anyone who wants to be zealous for God. So, do not get me wrong when I talk about the Jewish traditions. I still light candles on Friday before Shabbat because it is meaningful to me and doing this reminds me that Shabbat is about to start. Rituals are not bad; they are part of life. They often help us in life. I know that I do not have to light candles because it is not commanded by God. Candle lighting was instituted to give us a sense of ancient practice. I loved my dear sweet mother tremendously and I especially appreciate her teaching me lessons from the Torah. God's commandments are "good as gold" as the saying goes. Remember, wisdom and understanding in the Bible often refers to God's Old Testament commandments (see Deuteronomy 4:6).

Proverbs 3:13-15 NKJV says about God's law,
Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies.

Also, often when a rabbi says that these are our traditions, they are referring to extra man-made laws that they say make them Jewish. They sometimes have almost nothing to do with what the Bible teaches us. What they should be saying and doing is to teach God's law as it is written in the Tanach (the Old Testament portion) and teach appropriate applications of God's commandments (and not nonsense that adds to or subtracts from God's commandments). The rabbis typically follow a man-made system of Jewish theology instead of God's commandments just like most Christians do. Most rabbis also teach God's commandments, but often the emphasis is on these extra man-made commandments which some say make them Jewish.

Following God's commandments is what makes us God's special holy people. Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says, "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, **if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.**

For the most part, those who are following the traditions of the Jews are following men who imposed these laws on the Jews as though they were kings (and therefore they were oppressing the people). These "want to be" kings would travel wherever they could to impose these man-made laws. There is even a record of Gamaliel II acting as a king for the Jews and going to Rome. The Britannica article states about Gamaliel II: "During his administration, Gamaliel frequently became dictatorial toward dissenters." Dictators often put to death those who do not go along with them. We know that we are probably right in assuming this. Yeshua took issue with the Sanhedrin about putting people to death. Matthew 12:7 NKJV says, "But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.

So, the Jewish people have been overly restricted by the laws that the Sanhedrin imposed on them. Some keep these same stringent man-made laws that were imposed on them in ancient times. Not only that, it seems that any ridiculous law is okay to follow. For example, there is a commandment to put on your right shoe first, another one is to not open an umbrella on the Sabbath because that is putting up a structure, also they cannot turn on a light switch on the Sabbath because somehow that is starting a fire, and they tear their toilet paper before Shabbat so they do not have to do it on the Sabbath. These people must be very weak to call tearing a piece of toilet paper hard work. I can tell the difference between a fire and a spark, can you?

As you can see, these unreasonable laws make a mockery out of Judaism and make it difficult to follow God. Again, the Bible says that God's laws are good and not difficult to keep. Deuteronomy 30:11 NKJV says, "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." They are also breaking the commandment to not make God's commandments difficult. The Reformed Jews often do not believe in the Bible properly and also keep some of the traditions passed down to them. What really makes a person a Jew and a true follower of God? Rabbi Shaul said it was keeping the law. Romans 2:29 NKJV says, "He is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God." Being circumcised in heart is a commandment in the Old Testament portion. Deuteronomy 10:13 and verse 16 NKJV says, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good," and verse 16, "Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer."

As you can see, the believers of Yeshua's time needed someone who would teach them to keep God's Old Testament commandments properly because of the man-made commandments developed over the years. Even Isaiah the prophet warned the people they were following man-made law and not God some 600 years before the birth of Yeshua. Again, Isaiah 29:13 NKJV says, "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but

have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men."

They needed a prophet like Moshe and we need that prophet, namely Yeshua the Messiah as well. When I was young, I told a rabbi that I wanted to be like Moshe. I can in no way consider myself even somewhat to be equal to him, but I pursue God and the truths of the Bible so that I might be in the future kingdom of God and I also want to help you to follow God so you can be there too.

Often, an observant Jew will be happy to see an unbelieving Jew observe some man-made law. Wouldn't you rather want your fellow Jew to be a believer in God and keep God's commandments? Proverbs 23:17-18 NKJV says, "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; for surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off." It says about Isaac in Genesis 35:29 NKJV, "Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people." A person does not join dead people; it is an idiom expression for eternal life. Mankind will be judged by God. Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever." So, keep God's commandments first and foremost, and shine like the stars forever and ever!

In addition to teaching us to keep the law, Yeshua sent the Holy Spirit as another helper. John 15:26 NKJV says, "The Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth." And John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth." Yeshua taught us to keep God's Old Testament commandments to help us in life, 'until heaven and earth pass away.' And Yeshua gave us another helper, the Holy Spirit. Those that do not believe in Yeshua are mistaken, they have interpreted the Bible wrong. He is the Messiah who came to help us follow God the way we are supposed to.

So, let's talk more about some of the things Yeshua taught us. Yeshua refers to the biblical principle of having mercy from Hosea earlier in Matthew.

Matthew 9:9-13 NKJV says,

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice."

This story gives us another application of Hosea 6:6 which seems to be a major point of some of Yeshua's teachings. We should probably understand that having mercy for the innocent has

been a problem of misinterpretation in the past and was probably still an issue for some people at the time of Yeshua. Yeshua is not saying that we are to hang around with sinners but to help them repent if they are willing to change.

If they do not repent, we are to move on and let them be. Matthew 10:14 NKJV says, "And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet." In ancient times, some pagans believed that the dust of their feet was holy. That is why Abraham washed the feet of the angels and God when they came to visit him (one of the angels is Yě-hō-váh, the true name of God, see Genesis 18:33 in the Hebrew). God can appear as a man because He is God.

So, Abraham was washing off the pagan idolatry from their feet. When Yeshua washed the feet of His disciples and told them to wash each other's feet, he was probably referring to what pagans believe about the dust on their feet. What He did was meant to teach them to help each other to be pure spiritually, to keep God's commandments, to serve one another by teaching the people to do all that God commands us, and to not participate in pagan practices. Also, it teaches us that leaders are not to be lords over God's people but be their servants to help them spiritually.

The parable of the Good Samaritan uses the same concept of mercy from Hosea 6:6. This parable is in the gospel of Luke. Yeshua is answering a man's question.

Luke 10:30-37 NKJV says,

Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The man was on His way to Jerusalem from Jericho, and Jericho was in the Judean desert. The man got robbed, was beaten, and left there to die. Since He was traveling in Judea, he was probably Jewish and perhaps on His way to the Temple.

A priest went by and did not help him. Perhaps the priest was going to Jerusalem to serve and did not want to become ritually unclean and not be able to serve at the Temple. A person who touched a dead person would become ritually unclean that day and not be able to serve at the Temple. A Levite perhaps did the same thing for the same reason and did not help the man. A Samaritan who was considered to be below the standards of the Judeans helped the man.

Yeshua poses the question, "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him?" The person Yeshua was talking to said it was the person who had mercy on the man. Again, we see Yeshua applying Hosea 6:6 NKJV which says, "For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

The men who passed by were probably going to help out with the Temple sacrifices and they may have thought what they were about to do was very important. Obviously, Yeshua was teaching the people to allow for mercy. We could say that in most cases, mercy is required of us. Of course, Yeshua was not allowing for sin or saying the priest or Levite could serve at the Temple even though they were ritually unclean. He was teaching the people the importance of saving life. Psalm 119:93 NKJV says, "I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life." God's commandments give life and not death. In this case in Luke, Yeshua points out they should have saved the life of the man. Yeshua was instructing the people on how to correctly keep God's law. Yeshua was not doing away with the law. God is not going to do away with His good commandments. Anyone who does so is a false teacher or false prophet according to the Bible in Deuteronomy 13:1-4.

The Sabbath was made for man scripture, in Mark 2:27.

Let's look at the scripture that says the Torah was made for man. This part of the story from Matthew 12 was not in Matthew. We learned from Matthew 12 that there is an order of importance that is maintained regarding Sabbath law. We should be able to apply a similar application of order to the statement that the Sabbath was made for man. Let's review some previous logic because we need to understand there is also logic behind the statement "the Sabbath was made for man."

Yeshua used an argument concerning the Temple sacrifices and said that the priests are excused from the work they do on Shabbat. The Temple service supersedes the commandment not to work. We also learned that saving a life is important according to the Jewish writings, and also the scriptures allude to the importance of saving life. Saving a life even allows for the interruption of the Temple service! Again, Yoma 85b says, "To preserve a life, e.g., if the priest can testify to the innocence of one who is sentenced to death, one removes him even from on top of My altar, even while he is sacrificing an offering." We learned that Yeshua said that some had condemned people who were not guilty. Matthew 12:7 NKJV says, "You would not have condemned the guiltless." So, the Sanhedrin was committing murder sometimes. Yeshua said in Hosea 6:6 NKJV, " For I desire mercy and not sacrifice." So, saving the life of an innocent person overrides even the Temple sacrifice. We saw that Yeshua is referring to an order regarding the Sabbath. Just like the priests can work on the Sabbath, we are to have mercy on those who need it, even on the Sabbath. And, just like the ancient rabbis applied logic to applying God's commandments, so did Yeshua.

We also need to apply logic to understand Mark 2:27 NKJV which says, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." How can we understand from the additional wording in

Mark that the Sabbath was made for man? People often think of the law not to work on the Sabbath as a restriction.

Consider this logic:

- 1) People in ancient cultures often worked 7 days a week, so they got no guaranteed weekly rest. Slaves in particular worked 7 days a week. So, resting on the Sabbath points to us being a free and privileged people.
- 2) What often happens to people who do not observe a day of rest? They will sometimes work 7 days a week. Again, it is slaves that have to work 7 days a week, so we could say that people who work on the Sabbath live more like slaves.
- 3) The commandment not to work on the Sabbath also says that everyone is to benefit from this day of rest, even the animals! So, it is truly to be a day of blessed rest.
- 4) It points to God being the creator because God made it holy at the time of creation, therefore those who keep the Sabbath, honor God as their creator.
- 5) God says those who keep the Sabbath are blessed. Isaiah 56:2 NKJV says, "Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil."

So, God gave us the Sabbath to bless mankind. **The Sabbath was made for us.** Isn't this great!

So, keeping the Sabbath points to us being a free and privileged people. Everyone gets to rest, even the animals, so it is truly a blessed day of rest for all. God made it holy at creation, so we get to honor the edict of our God and King to rest. God gave the Sabbath to bless us. Also, the Sabbath was made to give us rest every week; it is for us. Isn't that wonderful! This has got to be what, "the Sabbath was made for man" means.

"Not man for the Sabbath," must refer to man having to work on the Sabbath. It is just the opposite of resting on the Sabbath. Allow me to explain this clever usage of words in Mark. The second part was meant to be a criticism of the Sanhedrin and their misapplied laws that made man a slave to the Sabbath instead of giving them rest. In other words, man was not given the Sabbath to work and keep the man-made commandments of the Sanhedrin. It seems to make sense, and it would not be out of Yeshua's character to criticize the Sanhedrin who were breaking the Torah by adding and subtracting to God's commandments. The Sanhedrin was a small ruling body of rabbis that was made up of a scribes and Pharisees.

Isaiah gives a little more information on keeping the Sabbath. Isaiah 58:13 NKJV says, "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words." On the Sabbath, we stop work or doing just any work that we want to do ("your own pleasure"). It is not talking about not enjoying the day. Again, it is to be a day of delight, a true day of rest. We are to make it a holy separate day. The word holy means separate. We are to separate the Sabbath from doing just any work we desire ("your pleasure"). It says that we are to not even talk about

work or perhaps anything stressful, so making it a true day of rest that includes mental, physical, and emotional rest.

Does the Bible tell us to keep the laws of the Sanhedrin?

The Sanhedrin made up the ruling body of Israel and enforced their own laws and not necessarily the laws of the Bible. Some will say that Yeshua implied that the local judges, magistrates, and the Sanhedrin were applying the Torah correctly because Yeshua properly applied rabbinic logic to His teachings. They will cite Matthew 23 where it says in the Greek to follow what the scribes and Pharisees say. Matthew 23:2-3 NKJV says, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe." The meaning of the scriptures in Mark seems to say something else. If we look at the context in Matthew 23, the rest of the verses obviously tell us that these people were not applying the Torah correctly and we are not to follow the misapplied man-made laws of the Sanhedrin.

Matthew 23:13-15 NKJV says, "But **woe to you, scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees**, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, **you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves**. It goes on like this for 21 more verses!

Matthew 23:16 NKJV says, "Woe to you, blind guides." Matthew 23:19 NKJV says, "Fools and blind!"

Matthew 23:23 NKJV says, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites ... have neglected the weightier matters of the law."

Matthew 23:27-28 NKJV "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."

You can read this section for yourself if you like. It pretty much goes on and on about how wrong these leaders were. Are we supposed to listen to the scribes and Pharisees that made up the Sanhedrin and who made people keep all kinds of extra laws and made people, "**twice as much a son of hell as yourselves?**" The Sanhedrin, these degenerate sinful people were obviously not to be listened to.

The Hebrew Matthew in some cases tells us to follow what Moses taught.

Doctor Nehemia Gordon, a former Jewish Dead Sea Scholar and graduate of the prestigious Bar Ilan Research University (בר-אילן), said that some of the Hebrew Matthew manuscripts say, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever he, namely Moses, tells you to observe, that observe.' It is a clever way of saying they were to listen to what Moses taught instead of the extra man-made misapplied laws of the Sanhedrin. The Greek translation of the Hebrew obviously got it wrong. Also, Yeshua said that these leaders were not applying God's commandments correctly when Yeshua says they were condemning innocent people.

Matthew 12:7 NKJV says, "But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."

This is not a secret. The Greek manuscripts were altered.

Just for those who are not aware of all the problems with the Greek manuscripts, I will share some information with you about this. As you can see in Matthew 23:2, those that translated the Hebrew manuscripts into Greek got it wrong.

It is also not my intention to do away with the Greek translation of the Bible when I talk about some of the problems with the Greek manuscripts. But the Greek manuscripts do have some problems because heretics changed the Greek scriptures. Some with say, 'How dare you say that the Greek text has some problems associated with it.' I have a copy of the Greek Text which was compiled from the different Greek manuscripts. You can buy it on Amazon. I have seen that some verses have up to 10 deviations between the manuscripts in just one verse. The deviations are shown in the notes which sometimes take up half the page! If we take a low average, let's say one deviation per verse, since there are some 8,000 verses in the New Testament portion, we would have 8,000 deviations between the Greek manuscripts. That is a lot. So, anyone who has seen these deviations in the Greek manuscripts or Greek text knows about them. Now you know about them and are among the thousands or perhaps 10s of thousands who know this. **It is no secret!**

The Roman Empire and heretics that changed the scriptures changed the narrative in places, made the Jews look bad on purpose in the Greek text, they did not like God's commandments so they made changes to some of the wording, and they did not like the Jews because the Jews did not believe in their pagan gods. These are the things where we see most of the problems in the Greek manuscripts. I heard one Bible scholar say that the word Jew was added 50 times to the Greek gospel of John. I have seen some of that in the Hebrew Matthew that I looked at, but his premise was that because they were Jewish, the words Jew or Jewish were unnecessary and had to be added. It makes sense. By saying the Jews over and over it seems to be disassociating the Jews from the scriptures that the Jews received from God. If a scripture seems to say the law is done away with, it could have been changed; if it seems anti-Jewish, it could have been changed. Don't throw away your Bibles. They did a good job forming the Greek text from the manuscripts. It still has a lot of truths to teach us.

We also have documented proof that the Greek manuscripts have been altered (I think 10 deviations in just one scripture should be enough evidence let alone, and the many deviations in the other New Testament scriptures), but here is what the 4th Century Bible scholar Jerome had to say. From the Preface of the Latin Vulgate by Jerome: "There are almost as **many forms of texts** as there are copies. If, on the other hand, we are to glean the truth from a comparison of many, why not go back to the original Greek and **correct the mistakes** introduced by **inaccurate translators**, and the **blundering alterations** of confident but **ignorant critics**, and, further, **all that has been inserted or changed** by copyists more asleep than awake?"

If you are me, you would probably be thinking that this is very sad to hear. There are many forms of the texts, there are obvious mistakes and also incorrect translations. They were not careful with the manuscripts and made blundering alterations. In addition, ignorant critics made changes and wording has been inserted and changed.

Unfortunately, all we have are copies that have been tampered with. Accept the scriptures that do not contradict keeping the law; there are many. Do not allow the scriptures that have obviously been tampered with to impact your thinking.

We have shared more than enough to show you that Yeshua kept God's Old Testament commandments and taught others to do so. **He did not do away with the Sabbath or God's commandments**, and neither did any of the early leaders of our Messianic faith. Yeshua, Shaul, Ya'akov, Yochanan, Kefa, and Jude all said in one way or another that we are to keep God's Old Testament commandments; they are not done away with. Before we close, for your encouragement, here are just a few of the hundreds of scriptures that should lead us to understand that God's Old Testament commandments are not done away with.

The Bible identifies what is true doctrine and it is the Old Testament law.

Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says,

"For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law."

Yeshua said that God's Old Testament commandments would not be done away with while the Earth exists. If you are reading this, chances are that the Earth still exists.

Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV says,

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away**, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law."

Also, Yeshua said he will reject those who do not keep God's Old Testament commandments. Yeshua is not trying to trick us; He is trying to save us from eternal damnation.

Matthew 7:23 NKJV says,

"Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Shaul says that the law is holy, just, and good. Some say it is not. I would bet on what Shaul said about the law.

Romans 7:12 NKJV says,

"The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."

Shaul mentions some of the Old Testament commandments that are important to keep. He uses different lists because we have the Old Testament and he did not need to rewrite it every time he communicated. Shaul says that people who do not keep God's

commandments, "**will not inherit the kingdom of God.**" So, if something tells you otherwise, they are a false teacher.

Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV says,

"Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as **I also told you in time past**, that those who practice such things **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**"

For a different list see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

Some say it is all by faith, but if a person does not keep God's Old Testament commandments, God must judge them because God is an impartial and just judge. Some say that God will not judge His people. The Bible says just the opposite.

Hebrews 10:29-30 NKJV says,

"Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, '**The LORD will judge His people.**'"

Those who say it is just by faith are wrong. Living in sin results in eternal death and damnation.

James 2:17 NKJV says,

"Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

The word dead refers to the loss of eternal life and often refers to living in sin. Romans 6:16 NKJV says, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of **sin leading to death**, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"

We are to resist temptation and stop sinning. Those who repent will be rewarded with eternal life.

James 1:12 NKJV says,

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life.

James 4:7-8 NKJV says,

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Keeping God's commandments is what makes us His people. Even the demons believe but they do not follow God. We are holy if we keep God's commandments. We do not become holy by not acting as God's holy people.

James 2:19 NKJV says,

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!"

Deuteronomy 28:9 NKJV says,

"The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, **if you keep the commandments** of the LORD your God and walk in His ways."

It is a sin to not keep God's Old Testament commandments, and sin is of the devil.

1 John 3:4, 8 NKJV says,

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And in verse 8: "He who sins is of the devil."

Those who live in sin will face God's judgment.

Jude 1:13 NKJV says,

"For whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

2 Peter 2:9 NKJV says,

"The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."

This was not intended to be a comprehensive study on this subject. I hope this helps you to understand the Bible better so that you do what Moses said to do and follow the Messiah Yeshua the way we should. Do not follow the misguided theologians and ignorant critics of our time.

May you see the truth and hear what God has to say.

Isaiah 32:3 NKJV says, "The eyes of those who see will not be dim, and the ears of those who hear will listen."

Psalms 119:18 NKJV says, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law."

May God open our eyes that we may see.

May Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you. Amen.