

“If You Will Not Live By The Law, You Will Die by the Law”

Shabbat Message

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Remember Charleston Heston who played Moses from the 1956 film the Ten Commandments:

Do you recall what he said to the children of Israel when he came down from the mountain after receiving the commandments written on the tablets from God, and the Israelites were involved in sinful pleasures and their worship to a false god .

Blasphemers! Idolaters! For this you shall drink bitter waters! God has set before you this day his laws of life and good, and death and evil. Those who will not live by the law... (raises the tablets containing the Ten Commandments) shall DIE by the law!! (throws it at the Golden Calf, causing a huge explosion), opening the ground up pulling all those that sinned into the depths of the earth.

Yeah, no, didn't happen. At least not according to scripture. A harsher decision was given upon those that remained disobedient. It was brutal, and you want the rest of the story you can read it in chapter 32:27 of Exodus.

Read: Exodus 32:1

1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods ^a who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

Personally I'm never surprise when discontent with a persons failure to either follow the rules of society, or at a job, and even in places of worship that more times then not, that one individual stirs up division and trouble among others to get control over others.

Having spent many years in Egypt, the Israelites would have been familiar with such symbols, which may explain why some of the people demanded a tangible representation of a deity.

“Idle hands are the devil's workshop. “

2 Thessalonians 3:10-11 declares, For even while we were with you, we gave you this command: “If anyone is unwilling to work, he shall not eat. Yet we hear that some among you are leading undisciplined lives and accomplishing nothing. They are busybodies.”

Here, the apostle Paul admonishes believers to remain diligently engaged rather than frittering away time or intruding on others’ affairs.

Wheres Moses! Why isn't he here guiding us on what we are to do with our lives, how are we to conduct ourselves, we can't behave without his presence. We're lost without him here watching over us.

How can we be expected to control ourselves and be faithful to God. What an excuse that would be for many today after leaving a worship service. The pastors not here, lets go enjoy ourselves at the local pub and get involved in all kinds of sinful pleasures. After all we can't control ourselves without him watching us.

The Israelites were witness to the power of God, both in Egypt and the wilderness and yet wrapped themselves in fear and impatience and were more concerned with what others were doing instead of staying focused on what God was requiring them to do. When Moses didn't return in 15 minutes; they panicked.

Just like young children.

And just as young children want a pacifier to suckle on or a blanket to hold while they sucked on their thumb, they demanded a god that they could see, and touch, and were familiar with.

A golden calf, a symbol of Egyptian idolatry of all things. That which they prayed to escape, for 490 years.

Exodus 32:7 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. **8**They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’

God is not a happy camper! And why?

Exodus 20:1-6 And God spoke all these words: **2**“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery **3**You shall have no other gods before Me. **4**You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in the heavens above, on the earth below, or in the waters beneath. **5**You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on their children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, **6**but showing loving devotion to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

All those that came with Moses already swore to do all that God has said, prior to them being written in stone. You can read that from chapter 19 of Exodus verse 8 where they accepted Gods oral covenant for them and their lives.

So what were the actions Moses took upon the Israelites. He met Joshua on the way down, Joshua told him that there was a noise of war coming from the camp. Moses told Joshua to get his hearing checked. It wasn't the noise of war.

God already told Moses what was going on. No surprise. Moses shattered the tablets at the foot of the mountain, burned the calf in the fire ground it up and mixed it with water and had them choke it down.

Close enough to the theatrical version.

Now, Moses turns his attention to Aaron his brother, his right hand man, the one given authority in the camp, whom was to guide them until his return. Moses asks one question; what did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them? Exodus 32:21.

Did the people threaten him with a beating or death. Did they torture him, pull out his finger nails or tickle him silly with a feather.

Aarons answer is in the next verse, “Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. Here we go, don't blame me, wasn't my fault, your time with God took to long.

Aarons' responsibilities were clear, he was to be in charge until Moses returned with the covenant written in stone.

How are we to know that Aaron knew what his responsibilities were. If he had the authority to stand and use authority as Moses.

From Exodus 19:24, prior to Moses receiving the written word. Then the Lord said to him, “Away”! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. This was prior to Moses receiving the tablets.

Go down and bring Aaron with you

Moses is told to leave God's presence for the sake of obedience to the larger community. In other words, responsibility to the congregation, the people.

- "Go down" reminds us that spiritual experience never detaches the servant from responsibility among God's people ([Matthew 17:9](#)).
- Bringing Aaron establishes the high priestly role that will soon be formalized ([Exodus 28:1](#); [Hebrews 5:1-4](#)).
- It also stresses that access to God will be mediated—never a free-for-all—pointing forward to Christ, the ultimate High Priest ([Hebrews 9:11-12](#)).

Aaron had no excuse for what he did, or didn't do. He had no excuse for his disobedience in the correction of the people in camp. Instead of leading them with authority given to him by God, he was lead away by their evil desires and sinned against God. Such is what is common today with leadership of some institutions.

There is a relationship between God, and those He sets aside to speak His word, the pastors, priests, and all those whom believe and are in relationship with Him. We all have a responsibility not only to God but to each other, and sometimes that responsibility is ignored. I'm saddened to say that many have fallen away from what God has for them due to stumbling stones placed in their paths, or causing another to stumble.

Instead they seek the approval of the world and the view it has to offer to them. From Revelation chapter 18, we read of Babylon the Great and how it is destroyed.

Revelation 18 describes "Babylon the Great," a symbolic city representing corrupt worldly systems rather than a specific modern city. A symbol of economic power, luxury, and moral corruption.

Many scholars and Christians today still debate what city this is or even if it will happen as it is written in scripture. My personal belief is that it is world wide now.

It represents a global economic-religious system, or a recurring pattern of worldly power opposing God.

It's full of demons and unclean spirits, symbolizing pervasive sin, moral corruption and idolatry (Revelation 18:2).

The city's judgment comes swiftly, emphasizing God's power and justice, (Revelation 18: verses 8, 10, 17).

The global economic loss has merchants and ship masters mourn her fall because of their loss of wealth and trade (Revelation 18: 11-19). they will be among the many that not only lose their wealth, but also their souls. This is the fate of those that live as the world, and embrace the "what ever pleases you, do it" model.

Revelation 18:4 is a warning for those that are His.

4Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“ ‘Come out of her, my people,’
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
5for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

God tells His people to get out of the world, out of the mess and ugliness so that they will not suffer the judgment of those of the world. Don't be as Lot's wife was and look back. Don't be that bug flying towards the blue light saying it's so beautiful.

We as God's representatives have a duty to understand the sacred trust that God has given us in taking His gospel to others. If we just read His words without giving serious thought and study to understand what He needs us to learn in our daily lives and apply it to ourselves first, we not only do ourselves a dis-service, but we may very well cause a new believer to stumble and have a skewed view in and of the ways of God.

Matthew 7:4-5. How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while there is still a beam in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite! **First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.**

One of the many scriptures quoted by both believers and non-believers alike, when one or the other wants to find fault with one or the other. We are told to examine ourselves first, before finding fault with another.

What happened in the camp while Moses was with God.

James 4:1-4 Why do you fight and argue among yourselves? Isn't it because of your sinful desires? They fight within you. **2** You want something, but you don't have it. So you kill. You want what others have, but you can't get what you want. So you argue and fight. You don't have what you want, because you don't ask God. **3** When you do ask for something, you don't receive it. That's because you ask for the wrong reason. You want to spend your money on your sinful pleasures. **4** You are not faithful to God.

And in comes the golden calf, the sacred cow that many will die for.

Just look at what we have today in our cities, homes, and nations.

Same thing is happening in our houses of worship today, infighting on what the word of God means.

It's bad enough that the world behaves the way they do with their attitude with God, but it's tragic when those whom profess their faith of God in their lives have the same attitude and behavior.

Forget the commandments of God, forget what one agreed to in the beginning after He pulled ones' blessed assurance out of the fire.

Forget that He sent His Son to pay for our sins, our discretion's and our nastiness to others.

I want to do what pleases me, makes me happy. And if God doesn't like it, so what.

If someone else does what I do and it's wrong, so what. No one will say anything to me about it.

For that is the ways of those of the world!

We won't die by the law, because where we fall short in the fulfilling of the law in our lives as the Israelites did in the camp, Yeshua took that debt upon Himself and saved us from it for those whom believe and walk in the ways of God, **For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).** But we should live by the law that has been written in stone and upon our hearts in the best walk before our God.

Or, we can decide to keep a golden calf of our own making, and be destroyed as those of the camp and Babylon that Great city. We can neglect in our responsibilities to others as Aaron did and condone and

join in their sin. Our choice. And that choice is upon us now. How will we stand, what side will we choose. Amen, Shabbat Shalom.