

The 10 Commandments Explained

by Moshe Schwab

Let's talk about the 10 Commandments. Remember, there are more than 10 commandments in the Bible, but we will talk about a few of these commandments today. First, we should talk about how to interpret and use God's commandments. Deuteronomy 4:2 tells us not to add or subtract from God's commands. God's commandments are simple, but we also have to apply them to life and new situations. I like to use some of Shaul's examples on how to apply the Torah.

He uses the doctrine of the Old Testament portion to explain that leaders may need to be supported. 1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV says, "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer is worthy of his wages.'" In another place Shaul says that he worked (see Acts 18:1-4) to support himself, but in some cases a leader needs to do a substantial amount of work for the people he is helping to follow God and needs support.

All the scriptures in the New Testament portion are applications of the Old Testament portion. That is why we have some 1,050 laws in the New Testament portion according to some who have counted them, but only a few hundred currently applicable laws are in the Old Testament portion. For example, here is an application of the Old Testament law in the New Testament portion. Ephesians 4:32 NKJV says, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." We are to kind to others and forgive them. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." Leviticus tells us to love others and to forgive by not holding onto grudges. Shaul uses other wording to explain that we are to forgive and how to love others, but it is the same message.

Most of the virtues and encouragement to love and treat others well in the New Testament portion are applications of Leviticus 19:18-19. Those who count commandments say that to be kind and tenderhearted are additional commandments in the New Testament portion, but they are just appropriate applications of Leviticus. Shaul is trying to help us to follow God's commandments. He provides proper applications. Philo of Alexandria, a first century Jewish Philosopher, called synagogues "schools of virtue." This most likely comes from teachings on the practical applications of the Torah, the Old Testament portion. Note, we also see that these scriptures in Leviticus 19 tell us that to love others is to keep God's Old Testament commandments, "Love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes."

The commands in the Old Testament portion have good applications to life. The problem arises when we make up commands that do not apply properly. It is easy to understand that turning on a light switch is not the same as kindling a fire, namely starting a fire. Years ago, that was a difficult task. Ask anyone who tried to start a fire without matches. Here is another example, let's talk a little about the command about keeping Shabbat holy (Shabbat means rest). In my writings, I have explained a number of times that the pagan Roman Empire changed the day of rest (Shabbat) to the day of the pagan Sun god and that has been passed down into Christianity.

The following is a quote from The Sabbath Truth online:

The Roman emperor Constantine, a former sun-worshiper, professed conversion to Christianity, though his subsequent actions suggest the "conversion" was more of a political move than a genuine heart change. Constantine named himself Bishop of the Catholic Church and enacted the first civil law regarding Sunday observance in A.D. 321.

On the venerable day of the sun let the magistrate and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country however, persons engaged in agricultural work may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain growing or for vine planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost. - Schaff's History of the Christian Church, vol. III, chap. 75.

So, some additions or changes to God's commandments are absolutely wrong. In fact, God considers adopting any pagan practice as disgusting, an abomination. Deuteronomy 12:31-32 NKJV says, "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it." You will have to stand before God someday. Will you keep doing things that are disgusting to God?

So, we must try to apply proper applications of the Torah. For example, the Old Testament portion tells us to return an ox to its owner, namely what belongs to others (see Deuteronomy 22:1). An ox can be very costly to replace. My mom explained this commandment to me and told me that we should try to find the owner of something that was lost, but if it was just a small amount of money and we did not know who lost it, we could keep it. That is a proper application of the Torah. So, if someone loses a quarter and I see it happen, I give it to them, but a quarter just laying on the ground is okay to keep. One time I found a huge sum of money and found the owner of the money and gave it back. Sometimes people will report losses to the police, and we can let the police know what we found. If they cannot find the owner, the police should give the money back to us.

It is generally agreed that God's commandments often need explanation and need to be applied to life. In what ways can we make sure we do not put other gods before the true God? How do we apply the law not to steal or the law not to covet? Let's cover some appropriate understandings for the 10 Commandments. Remember, we are looking for proper applications. Some applications make keeping God's commandments difficult and God's commandments are not supposed to be difficult to apply. We do not have the time to talk about all the possible applications, but we can talk about some of them. Deuteronomy 30:10-11 NIV says, "Obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." God's Old Testament commandments are not too difficult. Also, some people or denominations number the commandments differently than they appear in the Bible and even change the ones they do not want to keep! Read the Bible.

The first commandment, Deuteronomy 5:6-7 NKJV says,

"I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."

When Israel was in Egypt, they were in bondage to a people who were slaves to false God's. Instead of being slaves to false ideals and gods, followers of God are to follow what the creator God says. This commandment therefore also references God as the creator because it talks about the power of God. The first commandments does not mention idols that some lump together with this command. That causes some to think it is all about idols and nothing else. So, how could we apply this commandment?

Since it says we are to have no other gods before God, we should have nothing in our lives that supersedes the true God. Yeshua said that loving God is the first and great commandment (see Matthew 22:38). It says in Deuteronomy that to love God is to keep His commandments. We show God the respect that is due the creator God by listening to Him and keeping His commandments. Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV say, "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always."

People may think this command only refers to idols of wood and stone, but it should remind us to respect God for who He is and not make ourselves God of our own lives and do what we think is right instead of what God says. Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." We are not to value other things, people, or activities more than we value God. These other things, people, or activities instead of God then become more the reason for our values than for doing what God says to do.

People can make a god out of love and think that is the way to live. Their own ideas on how to love then lead them in life instead of what God says. People can make a god out of science. Science is concerned with facts that we can learn by observation. God's commandments come from an all-knowing creator and good God who wants to help us live with and not with facts that just anyone can learn. Some people make a god out of being smart. People often think that if they have a lot of information, they will know how to live life. Again, they are just learning facts and not how to live right. In the United States, people often talk about how smart their children are, but not about how they are committed to living right. Therefore, they lack the ability to live the way they should, and our society is deteriorating.

The second commandment, Deuteronomy 5:8-10 NKJV says,

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image – any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

This command tells us not to bow down to anything other than God. While we can show others the respect that is due them, we are not to treat them as we would treat the creator of all things. This also would include treating anything material as though it was God.

There is a danger in making any representation of God and people then treating objects as though they were God. Over the ages, people have done this and have bowed down before these representations of God and prayed to them. That breaks this commandment. We are not to make anything or obtain anything that we might pray to or bow down to. These things would include pictures, art, or objects that we might pray to, bow down to, or treat as though they were God or any representation that replaces God. A good luck charm is something that replaces God. Of course, any object that is presumed to have special powers replaces God. Sometimes people can even make what their actions or their home a god.

Some people worship those who are accomplished, their building where they go to meet, art, nature, or other objects. Beauty is not bad, and God gave it to us to enjoy, but it can be used to replace God if viewed the wrong way. People can follow things that are eye catching or the accomplished music they hear. That is why concerts are often popular. These things can draw people to them, but they are not God. Some people are so drawn to entertainment type congregations. They will not go anywhere that does not have this. Seeker friendly congregations often have entertaining meetings to draw people and ignore teaching people the truth from the Bible.

The sins of the parents are often passed onto succeeding generations. Their children often follow the traditions of their parents and so continue sinning. We should understand that the Bible says that the parents are not to be punished for the sins of their children and the children are not punished for their parents' sins. So, the curse mentioned does not apply to those who keep God's commandments (see Deuteronomy 24:16 and Ezekiel 18:20). Notice that the blessing is much bigger than the curse. Deuteronomy 5:10 NKJV says, "Showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

The third commandment, Deuteronomy 5:11 NKJV says,

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."

The word "take" can also mean to bear or carry according to [Strong's Dictionary](#). The word for vain can mean, "emptiness, vanity, falsehood" according to [Strong's Dictionary](#). This presents a problem for those who think this; commandment only applies to swearing or not using God's name properly. The verse could actually be translated, 'You shall not bear the name of the LORD your God falsely.'

A person who says they believe in God and lives in sin is living a false life. In America, we call these kinds of people two faced. Some say they are hypocrites. Most often, a hypocrite is someone who is leading a double life. Sometimes people believe someone who has sinned, and then repents is a hypocrite. They are technically not a hypocrite but are trying to change and do what is right. At least they are trying to do what is right unlike some who do not care how they live and are okay with doing wrong. Most people sin at times and then repent and commit themselves to not do that again. Then God forgives them.

Psalms 103:10-12 NKJV says, "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Those who deliberately live in sin and say they are believers are the true hypocrites. The commandment says that God will not hold them guiltless. They may fool people into thinking they do what is "right and good," but they do not fool God. Yeshua's depiction of these kinds of people is very graphic. Matthew 23:27 NKJV says, "For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." Unbelievers often live a double life and deliberately appear to be good people, but they are not. They may even see themselves as good people, but only by their own standards which are sometimes evil.

People sometimes use God's name in an empty negative way, inappropriately, to cuss with, or to fool others into thinking they will follow through in what they say. They are also bearing God's name inappropriately.

Some people say they cannot say God's real name and instead call God, "The Name." ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion and is pointed as Yě-hō-váh in the Hebrew manuscripts in over 2,300 different manuscripts and can be pointed that way as many as 50 times in just one manuscript. Since God's name is used as Yě-hō-váh that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name. According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb *hayah*. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I believe it is disrespectful not to use God's real name at times and I think Yě-hō-váh honors God for who He is. I do not use Hashem for that reason.

The fourth commandment, Deuteronomy 5:12-15 NKJV says,

"Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day."

The word "observe" in this commandment is the Hebrew word *shamar* which mean to keep or to guard. We are to guard the Sabbath. In our era, there are many people who do not guard the sabbath. Holy means to set it apart. We are to get our work done on 6 days, set the Sabbath apart, and make the Sabbath a day of rest.

Notice that it says that it is a day of rest for everyone, even those who serve us and for our animals. The scripture here qualifies keeping the Sabbath by referring to God's power when God brought them out of Egypt. God's power refers back to God's creation of the heavens and earth in Genesis.

The weekly day of rest or Shabbath is the 7th day, our Friday evening at sunset to Saturday evening at sunset. The biblical day begins in the evening at sunset. Genesis 1:5 NKJV says, "Evening and the morning were the first day." The Sabbath, also known as Shabbat, was instituted at the time of creation. The creation is cited in the commandment in Exodus. Exodus 20:11 NKJV says, "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Some say that the Sabbath is a Jewish observance, but obviously, the Sabbath was instituted for mankind as a day to set apart at the time of creation.

We need to talk about this frequently because some have been misguided by pagan religion that was passed down into Christianity. Genesis 2:3 NKJV says, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." Notice that the commandment in Exodus Chapter 20 references the day of rest that God made holy at the time of creation. Sunday was made a day of rest by Constantine to the pagan Sun god Mithras and passed down into Christianity. God does not want us to mix pagan practice with our faith. Deuteronomy 12:31 NKJV says, "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods." The word abomination means disgusting. If it is disgusting to God, it should be disgusting to us. We should have a heart for what God says and not do things our own way.

The fifth commandment, Deuteronomy 5:16 NKJV says,

"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you."

We are to honor both our father and mother. According to Wikipedia, "Honor manifests itself as a code of conduct, and has various elements such as valour, chivalry, honesty, and compassion. It is an abstract concept entailing a perceived quality of worthiness and respectability that affects both the social standing and the self-evaluation of an individual."

So, honoring our parents can mean that we stand up for them, treat them well, are loyal and sincere with them, care about them, give them respect, and affirm them. Most parents deserve some of these things or all of these things unless they are evil. Even parents that are unliked should be treated well to some extent if possible. Discontinuing a relationship with parents because of non-sinful behavior is therefore wrong. Adult children can learn to have a relationship with even difficult parents and honor them.

**The sixth commandment, Deuteronomy 5:17 NKJV says,
"You shall not murder."**

According to Wiki, "Murder is the unlawful killing of another human without justification or valid excuse committed with the necessary intention." There are whole societies that follow foolish ideals and make murder part of the political or religious system. Psalms 73:7 NIV says, "From

their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits." In communism and other abusive cultures, they must murder their own people to maintain control. Murder and coveting are the cause of many wars. If people decided not to murder and not want what others have (covet) there would be fewer wars. These commandments are important so learn them. In ancient times, commands that came from the king were often to make sure the king got what he wanted. Instead, God's commandments are given to mankind to help mankind.

Genesis 9:6 NKJV says about murder, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." Those who murder are to be held accountable. Murder is wrong because people are special and have special abilities given them by God like the ability to create, to think and decide, to learn, to be good and kind, and of course many many more abilities. It makes sense that murder is wrong in the natural for many reasons. Isn't it enough that people are special and deserve dignity and life.

Exodus 21:12-14 says, "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee. But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die." Those who commit premeditated murder are to be put to death. Even if they go to a safe place (as what the reference to the altar means) they must be taken from there and put to death. Deuteronomy talks about someone fleeing for safety. Deuteronomy 19:11-13 NKJV says, "But if anyone hates his neighbor, lies in wait for him, rises against him and strikes him mortally, so that he dies, and he flees to one of these cities, then the elders of his city shall send and bring him from there, and deliver him over to the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die. Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with you."

The foolish ideals of communism.

One of the concepts of Communism is to focus on intentions. They will pick issues that sound like good things to support so people think they are doing good. They say they can bring equity. It sounds good, but how do they end up doing that? After they murder everyone who does not like their abusive system of government, they have enforced equity.

Humanists and atheists often support communism. For example, humanists say they want to improve society. So, in atheist countries they suppress and murder people that believe in God because they wrongly believe that atheists make a better society. Like communism, their ideas come at the expense of others. Communist societies have turned out to be the most murderous people that ever lived, and it is still going on in our era every day. Just 2 atheist countries murdered some 90 million in the 1900s. By far, their evil has been greater than any good they think they accomplish. They will say things like Christians killed people during the Crusades, but that happened some 900 years ago. Christianity only did that for about 200 years of their 2,000-year existence. Atheists will exaggerate and say that millions were killed in the Spanish inquisition. I have read that it was about 32,000. While that is terrible, it does not compare to the millions killed by atheist countries. Even atheists would do better in a society that follows the truths of the Bible. Also, atheists and humanists that support communism are not exempt from the persecution put on their society by communism.

Defending oneself.

People are allowed to defend themselves. Exodus 22:2 NKJV says, "If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed." Countries are allowed to defend themselves against evil murderous aggressors. Sometimes as in the case of World War 2, countries may go up against murderous countries and murderous dictators like Hitler. The United States was able to stop the murderous aggressors of North Korea and Iraq. Iraq was killing its own people with poisonous gas, and North Korea is communist and kills its own people to keep them in line, but the United States was unable to stop the murderous regime of North Vietnam mostly because of communist sympathizers in the United States.

I do not believe most people knew what was going on and why the Democrat, President Kennedy, tried to help the people of Vietnam stave off the evil of the communist regime of North Vietnam. President Kennedy was assassinated by a communist. I once heard a pastor say that the Iraq war was unjustifiable, but he was ignoring the terrible murder that was going on in the country of Iraq. For some reason, a lot was made in the news about weapons of mass destruction instead of the real reason a lot of countries felt Saddam Hussein should be stopped, namely his murderous agenda. Also, the news fails to report the murderous agenda of communist regimes. When 2 million people were being killed by the communist regime in Cambodia, I did not hear anything about it on our news. The murderous regimes of Russia and China seemed fine with the murder of 2 million people for the sake of communism.

Capital punishment.

Some say that a good God would not keep anyone out of His good future kingdom. I once heard a story about a man who survived the killing of his wife and children and the rape of his daughter by escaping from his house. If you were the one who had to experience the terrible pain and loss caused by this callous killer, would you give the murderer a pass to God's kingdom? God must hold everyone accountable. God has given us each the choice on how we will live and act. Those that do evil must be held accountable for their actions. A good God would not leave those who inflict pain and evil without any consequences. He will accomplish this through a future time of judgement. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone."

A person can repent, but it must be a true repentance. I once talked to a murderer who blamed his victims. He had not repented of his murder. I heard a story once about a murderer who said, 'I feel terrible about what I did, but not as bad as the family who had to endure the pain for what I did.' I believe he was on death row and to be executed for the murder, so he had nothing to gain by being defensive. It seems he repented; God is the judge.

Murderers were to be put to death, but there had to be more than one witness to a crime. The commandment to put to death the murderer helps prevent murder. Deuteronomy 19:13 NKJV says, "Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with you." Those who oppose capital punishment are opposing good justice. The Bible says we are to protect life (see Genesis 9:6) and in opposing just punishment, they are encouraging murder. A weak justice system is an evil to society. Also, the Bible says we are not to support murderers. Proverbs 28:17 NKJV says, "A man burdened with bloodshed will

flee into a pit; let no one help him." While all this may seem like a lot to digest, it is important commandment.

**The seventh commandment, Deuteronomy 5:18 NKJV says,
"You shall not commit adultery."**

Adultery refers to extramarital sex. Single people who engage in extramarital sex undermines the establishment of marital relations. It is rampant in our society. Those who are engaged in this behavior or who have done this in the past can repent and be forgiven. Psalms 103:10-11 NKJV says, "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him."

Sexual relations with those who are not your spouse cheapens marriage and often destroys the feelings one has for the person who committed the adultery. It can cause the breakup of the family unit. This brings harm to both husband and wife as well as any children and is detrimental to society. Both in Jewish and Christian circles, the troubles encountered by multiple wives and stepbrothers and sisters has led many Jews and Christians alike to believe that the Bible teaches that having multiple marriage partners is wrong.

I should add that some think this commandment only applies to the extramarital affairs of those who are married. As you can see though, any extramarital sexual relations weaken the family unit.

**The eighth commandment, Deuteronomy 5:19 NKJV says,
"You shall not steal."**

To steal means to take from others what belongs to them, often by stealth. We often think of stealing as done by an individual, but it can be done by businesses and other entities as well as countries who take what belongs to the people. Another word for stealing is the word theft. Wikipedia says that, "Theft is the act of taking another person's property or services without that person's permission or consent with the intent to deprive the rightful owner of it." A person can not only steal personal property but can steal things others provide such as claiming other's work, ideas, writing, etcetera as their own for the purposes of their own personal gain. A person can also steal by deceitfully making themselves look good and others as bad. They are stealing the other person's character.

Some societies can impose themselves on its people and treat people unjustly. The Bible says that those who work are to be given a wage for their work and that they can have their own property, house, and belongings. People are allowed to have the dignity of having a family and raising their own children. Communism tries to enforce equity and takes away people's rights, land, and belongings.

People's lives can be stolen as in the case of kidnapping. The penalty for kidnapping in the Bible is death and the Bible says that will stop this evil in society. Deuteronomy 24:7 NKJV says, "If a

man is found kidnapping any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and mistreats him or sells him, then that kidnapper shall die; and you shall put away the evil from among you."

**The ninth commandment, Deuteronomy 5:20 NKJV says,
"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

"Bear" is the Hebrew to speak or testify as a false witness. Some say this only refers to making false testimony about someone, but it should be understood to apply to slandering others. Slander damages a person's character whether it is their work or reputation. Libel is the word used for slander that written in some form whether that is on paper or electronically posted. Speaking falsely about someone or giving false testimony can cause others damage financially, personally, emotionally, and many other ways. Lying is a form of false testimony. Sometimes people will say that it is not a big deal that they lied, but it can cause the above damage and is wrong.

I should note that it is okay to lie in some circumstances in order to save life. Many believers lied in order to save the lives of those endangered by Hitler. Genesis 9:6 NKJV says, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." Life is special and God created mankind in His "likeness" with special abilities such as the ability to be creative, think and decide, be kind and good and a lot more. In lying to protect life we are protecting people who are special just by the virtue that they are human. The Bible says we are not to protect the life of a murderer though. See the commandment on murder.

**The tenth commandment, Deuteronomy 5:21 NKJV says,
"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."**

To Covet means to want what someone else has, to desire what they have. It does not refer to wanting to work and obtain things legally. We may like what someone else has and go and work for it. Coveting what others have has led to war, various forms of stealing, lead to deceitful behaviors, or taking advantage of others. It can hurt others emotionally when they realize a person's intentions. A testimony to the wisdom of God's commandments is that if people did not covet and did not murder, that would lead to the elimination of most wars.

In Closing,

Also, it is important to understand that the New Testament writers of the Bible including Yeshua said that the Old Testament law was not done away with.

Shaul (Paul) said in Romans 3:31 NKJV, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

Yochanan (John) said, in 1 John 3:4 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And in 1 John 3:8 NKJV it says, "He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning."

Ya'akov (James) says in James 2:23-24 NKJV, "And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."

Yeshua (Jesus) said in Matthew 7:21-23 NKJV, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

Shaul said that the Old Testament law was not done away with and that it was established, immutable and unvarying. Yochanan said the those who do not follow the law are sinning and that those who do not follow the law are doing the works of the devil. Remember, there was no New Testament portion when he wrote what he wrote so he must be referring to the Old Testament scriptures. Therefore, when Kefa (Peter) refers to the holy scriptures he is referring to the Old Testament scriptures. knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV says, "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

Ya'akov said that we must not only have faith to be justified, but the works that go with faith. Yeshua seemingly is talking about the New Testament era when he talks about those who prophesy and do wonders in His name. He tells them that he will tell them to go away from him, those who do not keep the law. Yeshua says in, Matthew 7:13 NKJV, "Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it." Those who are teaching that God knows my heart, just love, just follow the Holy Spirit, or they are saved by faith will have a difficult awakening when they have to stand before God and He turns them away for not following the law.

More can be said about God's 10 Commandments, and they need to be taught and explained and not just memorized. Start by memorizing them and then learn how to apply them. If the world just followed the 10 Commandments, the world would be a better place. We also need God's other commandments as well. The made-up commandments can make following God difficult. God's Old Testament portion commandments are not difficult the Bible says. Again, Deuteronomy 30:10-11 NIV says, "Obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach." May God enrich your life and keep you, and help you in your endeavors to follow Him.