

The Tenth Commandment

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27th day of the 11th month?5848 years after the creation of Adam

The 11th Month in the Third year of the third Sabbatical Cycle

The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle

The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

This is also the end of the Forty Sixth week of this the Third Tithe Year for the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow - Deuteronomy 26:12

February 9, 2013

Shabbat Shalom To The Royal House of Israel,

The Tenth Commandment

Exodus 20:17 “You do not covet your neighbor’s house, you do not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, or whatever belongs to your neighbor.”

This commandment is so very critical to us. Please do not just read through this article without pausing and contemplating what is being shared. Inherent in this commandment and all its implications is a severe condition of our hearts, thoughts, minds, and bodies. Many believers teach that the first commandment to mankind is: “To believe there is a God,” and point of fact we are told that we must first believe that Yehovah exists; “But without belief it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim has to believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who earnestly seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

The first half of the commandments could fall under this category in that we must first believe “He is” then we are commanded to “Love Him”. Keeping this command to Love Elohim with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength covers this, just as Yeshua affirmed. We do not put any other mighty one before or beside Him. We do not worship any other but Him. We do not bring His Name to nothingness or cause it to be of no value. We honor and keep the Sabbath day set apart.

The Tenth commandment is truly the “bookend” to these two tablets of stone upon which Yehovah Himself wrote the Ten Words. Do an exercise in your mind to work the commandments five through ten backwards. In other words, after the Fourth Commandment concerning the Sabbath day with these four concerning our relationship and worship of Yehovah, and how to “first believe that He is.” Go now to our Tenth Commandment and contemplate why it would be that He has to give us this commandment. What is it, about the

condition of ourselves and our hearts toward one another and "for" ourselves, that Yehovah has to command us or instruct us in this way. We must consider now, after considering who He is... just who it is we are.

What do we need to believe when we read the Tenth Commandment? Looking at the words of Hebrews from above: "But without belief it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim has to believe that He is..."

We need to believe our condition that exists without Him.

Consider ourselves. Consider the Tenth Commandment not to desire, long for, lust after, find pleasure in, delight in "anything that belongs to our neighbor"

Do you see here, in this Tenth Commandment, the realization that we "must believe that within us is the nature to desire what Yehovah rejects or does not desire." This puts us in opposition to our Elohim who we are to love with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength. This ought to spark immediate concern, evaluation, and introspection into the heart of every believer.

If we could understand, guard, and obey the Tenth Commandment to the depth and degree required of us, all of the other commandments involving our fellow man is taken care of. Think about this for a while and consider it. When we read, "love covers a multitude of sins" I cannot help to think of the Tenth Commandment.

As we have done for all the commandments, we are going to look now at the verb in this instruction – covet – in the Hebrew and get an idea of what Yehovah is truly saying. We leave behind preconceived notions and teachings we have heard all our lives on a continual basis and we are going to truly look at this word – covet.

It is an extraordinary word. It is the Hebrew word chamad and many, many pages could be spent on this one word alone dissecting it, looking at the pictograph of the word, untold applications and implications for this word. We will do some of that now and if you allow your mind to "picture" this word, it truly is just as effective and penetrating as was the word "zakar" in our Fourth Commandment to "zakar" the Sabbath Day. So let's take a look...

Covet – Strong's H2530

chamad {khaw-mad'} a primitive root; TWOT – 673 AV – desire 10, covet 4, delight 2, pleasant 2, beauty 1, Lust 1, delectable things 1; 21 v 1) to desire, covet, take pleasure in, delight in 1a) (Qal) to desire 1b) (Niphal) to be desirable 1c) (Piel) to delight greatly, desire greatly n f 2) desirableness, preciousness

So what do we have here in the word picture?

We have a "ch" which is the letter chet, or some write it hhet. It is the picture of a fence or a border of some sort, a boundary. We can even picture a headgerow, or a row of tents or houses in a neighborhood.

Next letter is "mem" Mem is always water, the picture of waves on an ocean or lake. Mem is water. With waters, as we all know, they can be calm, chaotic, still, frozen solid, a vapor,

running gently, peaceful. All of these things water can do, even cleansing and life sustaining. Our physical bodies are mostly water.

Chamad (covet) ends in a “d” for the letter “dalet” In my limited experience with Hebrew there are some things I have noted that always turn up. One of those things is whenever I see the dalet, there is the idea of movement. One way or the other. The “dalet” or “d” in Hebrew is a pictograph of a door. Anytime the “door” appears in a word, in other words, anytime the “d for dalet” appears in a word... look for some type of decision to be made within yourself. Just as a door swings two ways, open and closed, so does the dalet in a word – almost rendering the word with a double meaning yet in opposite directions.

The door in the Hebrew mindset is something that swings. It is like our door today in that it opens and closes on a hinge. The ancient Hebrew door is similar only it opened and closed in a vertical fashion: either rolled up or let down because it was the door of a tent. People who go camping know what this looks like.

Anyway... we can picture now this word chamad. Notice where the mem is for water? Yes, it is located between a door that can opened and/or closed and a boundary line or fence.. maybe even an embankment.

You, beloved, are this water in this word chamad. You are in between a boundary and a door and your emotions (the water) is in between. Are your waters calm and peaceful, or are they raging out of bounds? Fascinating isn't it? Are you “bubbling over” with heat of anger or passion? And then is that passion in line with Yehovah's passion, your own passion, or perhaps even the passion of the adversary? See what I mean about this word! Yehovah did not choose this word randomly, He is trying to get something across to us about how He created us. We must realize these things, listen to His Voice, and monitor ourselves and our emotion, thoughts, desires, and passions. He created us to be emotional beings. We reflect His Image in this fashion... but we need boundaries, we need gates and doors and we need discernment. This chamad (coveting) on the wrong things He instructs us... “no,” do not cover these things. As always, He tells us this for our benefit.

Just think of the list of many, many things we can covet! So many! We shall covet love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, long-suffering, goodness. So much of the time we focus and are in some ways taught to focus on the negatives of these instructions from our Father. They are not negative, they are only boundaries built upon love and grace.

Let's continue on with looking now at some other uses of this word, or parts of this word to reinforce what we have learned through the Hebrew lesson.

Remember a man name Cham? Some may say “no”, however if you were asked about a man named Ham you would answer “yes” I know about him. He was the son of Noah who did something very wrong to Noah which resulted in a cursing. We are not going to talk about that particular incident at this time, but what we are going to talk about is his name. In the West, we pronounce the “ch” with an “h”, but note that in the Hebrew, the name Ham, is truly the name

Cham. Anyone can look it up to see it written in the Hebrew with a “chet” like we learned earlier.

Now Cham has the pictograph of a boundary on one side of the waters and nothing on the other side of that water. No door, no fence, no rock or embankment of any kind. And what do we know about Cham? He was ruled by his emotions and his passions. In fact, we are told his name means: hot. We see a man whose waters are raging, boiling, and flow out from him like a flood drowning whatever he comes into contact with. His captain is his own desire and we read that he will be the “servant to the servant.” Do you know what this means? I heard that it means he was told he was going to be a servant to the lower nature, the animal nature that follows after its own desires continuously. The appetites we are created with are there to serve our Spirit man, not our animal natured man.

The proper order for life is from Elohim’s Spirit to our Spirit. Then our spirit is to instruct our soul (our appetite nature) in what to do, feel, think, and behave...based upon the instruction we have received from Elohim’s Spirit. Then our soul is to tell the physical body: the hands, feet, eyes, ears what to do in the physical world. Cham was told, that because he did not control his animal nature, that hot uncontrolled selfish passion, that he would serve that which was supposed to be the servant. This is the definition of disorder and chaos.

Who is controlling and keeping the waters within you? From where does your fountain come?

We can also look at the origin and direction of the flow of your waters. Is it stagnant and rotting, doing nothing at all? Is it flowing out of knowledge of Torah or does it rage in all directions according to wild emotions based upon every whim that enters the boundaries of your eyes and ears or maybe the desires of your own heart and not from Yehovah?

If our fountain originates from any other source but Yehovah and His Torah (His Instructions for life), we are going to experience chaotic waters within our souls and within our being. We are going to experience raging waters, without boundaries, without directions, and without order. We will be led into trespass, death, and destruction. We will spend our lives serving the servant, not serving the Master.

Water also flows along the path of least resistance doesn’t it, unless an outside source comes along and “creates” a boundary and “causes” it to flow in a desired direction? Is it easier to be thankful for what we have or to always be wanting more than? It is easier to always want more... right? It takes work to be thankful for what we have. Which means we must PURSUE it. We must purposefully pursue being thankful and gracious.

Is it easier to toil, practice patience, do without... or to take things from others and grab what we can get when we have opportunities? Look at all the families who have both parents working to obtain “things” and keep us with society and the desire of it. Whenever a parent presents issues of things like problems involving decisions over sport games on Saturday, and keeping the Sabbath, the answer is simple and can be posed with another question: Do you want to raise a Priest and King or an athlete? It has to do with the chamad, the desire of the heart.

The Tenth Commandment is so full of grace and mercy unto us. Many teach that grace is unmerited favor, but truly, this definition fits more with the meaning of mercy.

What other mighty one in all the earth gives warnings to his children? The list of items we are not to covet protects us from a great many other trespasses. If we heed the tenth commandment, we will not commit adultery, we will not steal, we will not bear false witness, we will not murder. At the end of all these things is “hot, uncontrolled, untamed passions and desires, lusts of the heart, eyes, the soul.”

Father Yehovah does not instruct us: “do not covet” only.

There are untold examples in His Word where coveting the proper things in life are positive, beautiful, righteous, and to be desired. But He lovingly warns us of what “not” to covet, because these ones will lead us into trespass and sin. He knows this. This is a gift of wisdom to us and a perfect picture of His Grace.

Let us turn now to Scripture and discover more about this word and look at examples of the positive and negative chamad brings to us depending upon whether our water is flowing from Him... or from ourselves.

First mention of this Hebrew word chamad is Genesis 2:9. Among the Ten Commandments, the misuse of this one with chamad placed upon something Yehovah has instructed against, is found in relationship to the Fall of Mankind. We cannot get any more significant than that! And out of the ground YHWH Elohim made every tree grow that is pleasant (chamad) to the sight and good for food, with the tree of life in the midst of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

We see here that ALL the trees were pleasant to the sight and good for food. All of them, to include the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. But Yehovah told us: Do not partake of that one, the Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil.

Yehovah’s trees in the Garden of Eden were “pleasant” to the sight. Genesis 2:9 we read “And out of the ground Yehovah Elohim made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, with the tree of life in the midst of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

So we can see here that chamad is not a negative thing or action or feeling at all. It is what we have chamad “for”. Do we find pleasant and desirable the same things Yehovah finds pleasant and desirable? Or do we find pleasant and desirable all those “other” things that He has not given us and that belong to someone else?

Inordinate, ungoverned, selfish desire. This is the “chamad” Yehovah instructs us against.

We can talk about cars, homes, clothes, and jewelry. We can talk about gold, silver, fine linens, and diamonds. We can talk about awards, medals, popularity, accolades, and commendations. We can talk about being famous, being a movie star, being a rock star, being a star athlete, and an elected politician of some sort. Pray tell... which one of these things leads us to Yehovah? Which one? Which one of these things do we find in His Torah of

commandments, instructions, statutes, and ordinances? Yet, these are the things that fill up our every day and our entire lives.

“I wish I had a big house like so and so”

“I sure would like to have that car!”

“I observe Christmas (the pagan winter solstice celebration) like my friends and family because they are having so much fun and I also desire to have that fun” We do it for the children to make them happy. Where is the commandment from Yehovah “You must keep your children happy by giving them worldly materials?” It is nowhere to be found.

We are instructed to “teach the children the ways of Elohim” though, Deuteronomy chapter 6

Coveting, desiring what others have will lead each of us into false worship and away from Him until finally separation from Him. Remember this commandment, “Do not learn the way of the heathen to inquire after their gods and ask how to serve them.” Many times it “appears” to us they are being blessed, because of what our eyes see and the material wealth they may obtain. Let us remember the law of obedience. Obedience brings blessing whether we obey Yehovah or whether we obey the adversary. Many of us do not realize this truth. Material blessings are worldly blessings and they come to those who obey the ways of the world. Worldly praises are from the world and come to those who do as the world does.

Notice Yehovah did not say, “Do not covet” and leave it at that. He adds a sort of list for us, so that we may understand.

To find desirable, pleasant, delight... is not a trespass against Him. The question for us is: what is it we are finding desirable, pleasant, delightful? What are we coveting? Things of Yehovah, or things of man?

To delight in what our Father delights in is perfection.

Be set apart as I am set apart is what He tells us.

Genesis 3:6 is the second occurrence of chamad:

And the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that is was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable (chamad) to make one wise, and she took of its fruit and ate. And she also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

So this matter of the heart that is in our commandment is the same matter of the heart that was in the Garden of Eden and involved in the fall of Adam and Eve. Pretty important matter to be aware of within ourselves wouldn't we think? Each of these commandments truly requires self- evaluation, prayer, and work on our part. We would do well to search our hearts and take inventory of ourselves.

Yehovah gives us specific restrictions on coveting. This is something interesting to ponder. The list He gives us is somewhat of a guard or boundary for us. If we keep ourselves from coveting (desiring or delighting in) the items on that list... we will be kept from many of the other trespasses such as adultery, theft, murder, lust, and deception.

The Tenth Commandment is also interesting in that it addresses temptation of the heart. The coveting which this commandment forbids is one for which the individual is responsible. In effect, the individual is held accountable for discovering the sin, and for dealing with it. This is necessary because no other human being can know our thoughts. Yehovah thus holds us responsible for what we determine in our hearts and minds.

Let us look at the event between Cain and Abel next. They both were instructed to bring an offering, a gift to Yehovah. He accepted Abel's gift, but rejected Cain's. Cain desired so greatly to be accepted by Yehovah and to worship in his own way, that he murdered his brother. His chaotic waters of emotion and passion overcame him and caused his hands (his servant) to murder his brother. He was even warned by Yehovah, "Sin is crouching at the door" He told Cain, but the uncontrolled, selfish desires of his heart spilled over the boundary and then he sinned because he did not gain dominion over them. We should not even covet the acceptance of Yehovah over our brother to this uncontrolled point, but if our brother or sister is being blessed of Yehovah with spiritual blessings and spiritual fruit, our response should be to find out what it is they are doing... and emulate them. We should not go about engaging in slander, jealousy, false witness and murder through our tongues, words and actions.

Emulating the beloved of Yehovah is called discipleship.

There is another person in scripture who obtained the description: "as unstable as water." Do you know who that is? The firstborn son of Israel (Jacob), Reuben. Genesis 49:4 "Boiling like water, you do not excel because you went up to your father's bed, then you defiled it – he went up to my couch." This was part of the blessing and prophecy Jacob pronounced over Reuben. Jacob saw the uncontrolled, selfish desires that Reuben had within him that overflowed to the point of trespass against righteous behavior. Reuben was a man of hot emotions and passions he could not control and Jacob saw this as boiling water. Jacob is right too in his summation of what happens to people with this nature and they do not find the wisdom to control it – they do not excel. The impulse, the anger, the rage, the chaos, selfishness within these people spills over into the physical and will continue to lead them into sin and problems.

People who are like this usually know how they are and many times do not like how they are. They just do not know how to "tame the beast" Yehovah created you with great passion. Your single and foremost reason for living is to learn how to redirect the boiling waters within you. Direct those passionate waters away from your needs and direct them to the needs of others. In doing this, you will go from breaking all of the commandments to keeping them all. Obtain a good and loyal confidant who can hold you accountable for your lifelong work on this wonderful gift you have been given by Yehovah.

Exodus 34:23-24

"Three times in the year all your men are to appear before the Master, YHWH, the Elohim of Israel, for I dispossess nations before you, and shall enlarge your borders, and let no one covet your land when you go up to appear before YHWH your Elohim three times in the year."

What a fantastic promise here Yehovah gives us. If we are obedient to Him and worship Him according to His instructions, He will literally intervene into the hearts and minds of gentile men and women such that they will not covet our land. The fear of Yehovah will be upon them and He is our rear guard and protector.

In Deuteronomy 5:21 we see an additional item we are not to covet, but this should not surprise us when we understand we simply are not to covet anything that our neighbor possesses in materials. Moses adds our neighbor's field to the list.

"You do not covet your neighbor's wife, nor do you desire your neighbor's house, his field, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, his ox, nor his donkey, or whatever belongs to your neighbor."

We have a very strong and specific instruction from Yehovah concerning idols, and the silver and gold used to cover them. Did you realize that when you bring something into your home that is accursed; you are tempting the spiritual realm in bringing curses upon you and your home? Consider this matter intently with prayer.

Deuteronomy 7:22-26

'And Yehovah your Elohim shall drive out those nations before you, little by little. You are not allowed to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. But Yehovah your Elohim shall deliver them over to you and destroy them with a great destruction until they are consumed. And He shall give their sovereigns into your hand, and you shall destroy their name from under the heavens. No one is going to be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.

The carved images of their mighty ones you are to burn with fire. Do not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it, for it is an abomination to Yehovah your Elohim.

And do not bring an abomination into your house, lest you be accursed like it. Utterly loathe it and utterly hate it, for it is accursed."

Joshua 7:20-21

So Akan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against Yehovah Elohim of Israel, and this is what I did:

"When I saw among the spoil a lovely garment from Shin'ar, and two hundred sheqels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty sheqels, I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the ground in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

The words of Akan, "I coveted them and took them." It is a fact of the human experience that we are going to "see things" we desire, we are going to "hear things" that cause us to desire, and we are going to "experience things" that give us temporary pleasures in this life. Yehovah, out of His great love, mercy, and grace does not intend for us to live by our appetites. This type of life is what we see in the animals. We are created to rule, have dominion both over them and over the beast within us. What makes the difference? His Words to us and His Spirit within us. When we feel the raging and chaotic waters within our beings begin to boil and rage... step back and consult Yehovah. Take His counsel on the matter and act accordingly. If

you are struggling with this you are not alone... not by a long shot. We all struggle with these things. However, the learning and blessing is in the struggle itself. We get to know ourselves and our Elohim whom we serve and love. Sit at His Feet and take His Counsel with your problems, He wants you to.

Have you ever seen those bumper stickers that read, "Jesus is my co-captain"? This is a recipe for disaster. Does this mean we get to over-rule His instructions if we don't like them or they don't fit our heart's desire? Or if He says to stay on the path of righteousness, but we desire to take another route then it is "ok"? Just as children cannot be allowed to govern the world around them, neither can we as Yehovah's children govern the world around us. We look to Him and His Word, for His Wisdom in all matters.

Psalm 19:9-10

The fear of Yehovah is clean, standing forever; The right-rulings of Yehovah are true, They are righteous altogether, More desirable (chamad) than gold, than much fine gold; And sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.

Proverbs 1:20-28

Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the broad places.

At the head of the noisy streets she cries out (ears), at the openings of the gates (eyes), In the city she speaks her words; "How long, you simple ones, would you love simplicity, and shall scoffers delight (chamad) in their scoffing, and fools hate knowledge?

"Turn at my reproof. See, I pour out my spirit on you, I make my words known to you. "Because I called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one inclined, and you spurned all my counsel, and would not yield to my reproof, "Let me also laugh at your calamity, mock when your dread comes, "When your dread comes like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

"Let them then call on me, but I answer not; Let them seek me, but no find me."

Proverbs 6:20-35

My son, watch over your father's command, and do not forsake the Torah of your mother.

Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you are walking about, it leads you;

When you lie down, it guards you and when you have woken up, it talks to you.

For the command is a lamp, and the Torah a light, and reproofs of discipline a way of life,

To guard you against an evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a strange woman. Do not desire (chamad) her prettiness in your heart, neither let her captivate you with her eyelids.

For because of a whore [one is brought] to a crust of bread. And an adulteress hunts a precious life.

Would a man take fire to his bosom, and his garments not be burned?

Would a man walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched?

So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her goes unpunished.

They do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his appetite when he is starving.

Yet if he is caught he repays sevenfold; he gives all the wealth of his house.
He who commits adultery with a woman lacks heart; He who does it destroys his own life.
He finds smiting and shame, and his reproach is not wiped away.
For jealousy enrages a man, and he does not spare in the day of vengeance.
He does not regard any ransom, nor accept your bribe, however great!

Proverbs 12:11-12

He who tills his land is satisfied with bread, but he who pursues vanities is lacking heart.
The wrong shall covet the catch of evil-doers.

Isaiah 1:28-29

And the destruction of transgressors and of sinners is together, and those who forsake
Yehovah shall be consumed.
For they shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees which you have desired (chamad). And you
shall be embarrassed because of the gardens which you have chosen.

Isaiah 44:9

Those who make an idol, all of them are emptiness, and their delights (covets) do not profit.
And they are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, so that they are put to shame.

Isaiah 53:1-2

Who has believed our report? And to whom was the arm of Yehovah revealed?
For He grew up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form
or splendor that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should desire Him – We
are told Yeshua (the Son of Elohim and Elohim manifested in the flesh) did not have the
“appearance” of one to be desired (chamad). Yehovah’s way are not our ways.

Micah 2:1-2

Woe to those plotting wickedness, and working out evil upon their beds! In the light of the
morning they practice it, because it is in the might of their minds.
And they coveted fields and seized them, also houses, and took them away. And they
oppressed a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.

Romans 10:1-2

Truly brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to Elohim for Israel is for deliverance.
For I bear them witness that they have an ardor for Elohim, but not according to knowledge.

Romans 13:9

For this, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You
shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other command, it is
summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Romans 7:7

What, then, shall we say? Is the Torah sin? Let it not be! However, I did not know sin except
through the Torah. For also the covetousness I knew not if the Torah had not said, “You shall
not covet.”

1 Corinthians 12:31

But earnestly seek the better gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Acts 5:17-18

But the High Priest rose up, and all those with him, which is the sect of the Sadducees, and they were filled with jealousy, and seized the emissaries and put them in the public jail.

Is there anyone we are jealous of? Is there someone in our lives where we witness them always getting accolades, always being loved by everyone else, liked by everyone, and getting attention? This may even begin between brothers and sisters many times... even husbands and wives, even between pastors, teachers, friends, co-workers. If there is someone in your life like this, and they evoke an emotion of jealousy in you... talk to the Father about it. Don't let it simmer and boil until it causes you to sin.

What if you think they don't deserve it? Does that make any difference at all between you and Elohim? He will deal with them. If they are a righteous person, emulate them. If they are not righteous (keeping Yehovah's commandments) then work on disregarding the situation, calming the raging waters within, and focus on Yeshua. Do not covet what they have.

Remember what our Master said about these things also. When people are rewarded here on earth before others, they have their reward. But He desires that we work and serve and do our good in secret thereby we testify and we know that our reward is from our Father in heaven. For every problem we experience here with others and ourselves, our Father gives us help and instruction.

Galatians 5:20

Selfish ambition

The Assemblies and churches are full of pastors, teachers, and preachers today who forsake the truth of Yehovah's Word in order to keep their positions. They choose to teach falsehoods rather than be outcast. This breaking of the Tenth Commandment leads so many to the path of destruction and death.

James 3:14

But if you have a bitter jealousy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast against and lie against the truth. This is not the wisdom coming down from above, but it is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and self-seeking are, there is confusion and every foul deed.

On the surface, covetousness may not seem to be related to the subject of goals. We will see, however, that what we covet becomes our goal. If we covet the wrong things, we will have the wrong goals, and we thus sacrifice things of great value in our effort to attain what has little ultimate and eternal value.

It is a matter of the heart, an attitude, a matter of strong emotion. As such, coveting is somewhat unique among the evils condemned by the commandments. The evils prohibited by the other commandments were such that one could be tried and found guilty of committing a certain act. This act was based upon attitudes, of course, but a society cannot convict people

for what they are thinking and feeling. The final commandment is a forbidden feeling, as it were, not a forbidden act.

Coveting is a consuming desire, which is highly competitive. It is an evil attitude, which will likely lead to an evil act.

Coveting is a kind of conspiracy in one's soul to commit evil. This is what was trying to be expressed earlier in this article. We need to know and believe Yehovah exists, and we need to know and believe there is an adversary that desires to dwell in our minds and hearts and is opposed to Him. This wicked seed exists within us and it is our life's work to weed it out and throw it into the fire.

Habaqquq Chapter 2 speaks very strong words against those who exist and now are truly growing in number throughout the world today – those who serve themselves and are full of covetousness.

I stand at my watch, and station myself on the watchtower, and wait to see what He says to me, and what to answer when I am reproved. 2And YHWH answered me and said, "Write the vision and inscribe it on tablets, so that he who reads it runs. 3"For the vision is yet for an appointed time, and it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it lingers, wait for it, for it shall certainly come, it shall not delay. 4"See, he whose being is not upright in him is puffed up. But the righteous one lives by his steadfastness.

5"And also, because wine betrays him, a man is proud, and he does not stay at home. Because he enlarges his appetite as the grave, and he is like death, and is not satisfied, and gathers to himself all nations and heaps up for himself all peoples. 6"Shall not all these lift up a proverb against him, and a mocking riddle against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases what is not his! Till when is he to load on himself many pledges'?

7"Do not your creditors rise up suddenly? And those who make you tremble wake up and you be plunder for them? 8"Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you, because of men's blood, and doing violence to the land, to the city, and to all who dwell in it.

9"Woe to him who is getting evil gain for his house, in order to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of evil! 10"You have counseled shame for your house, to cut off many peoples, and your being is sinning. 11"For a stone from the wall cries out, and a beam from the timbers answers it. 12"Woe to him who builds a town by blood, and establishes a city by unrighteousness!

13"See, it is not from YHWH of hosts that peoples labor only for fire, and nations weary themselves for naught, 14for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the esteem of YHWH, as the waters cover the sea!

15"Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbour, pouring out your wineskin, and also making him drunk – in order to look on their nakedness! 16"You shall be filled with shame instead of esteem. Drink, you too, and be exposed as uncircumcised! The cup of the right hand of YHWH shall come around to you, and great shame upon your esteem.

17“For the violence done to Lebanon is to overwhelm you – and the ravaging of beasts by which you made them afraid – because of men’s blood and the violence to the land, to the city and of all who dwell in it. 18“Of what use shall a carved image be? For its maker has carved it: a moulded image and teacher of falsehood! For the maker trusts what he has made: to make dumb idols! 19“Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Awake!’ to silent stone, ‘Arise!’ Is it a teacher? See, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no spirit at all inside it.

20“But YHWH is in His set-apart Hekal. Let all the earth be silent before Him.”

Coveting wants what is forbidden, that which belongs to another and which cannot be obtained. It is possible, of course to buy a neighbor’s animal, but not his wife. The assumption here, I believe, is that what we covet is what we cannot have, that is, what our neighbor either cannot give up (like his wife, or his land), or what he will not give up.

“If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the YHWH your Elohim is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks. Beware, lest there is a base thought in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,’ and your eye is hostile toward your poor brother, and you give him nothing; then he may cry to the Yehovah against you, and it will be a sin in you. You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing YHWH your Elohim will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings Deuteronomy 15:7-10

“Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness And his upper rooms without justice, Who uses his neighbor’s services without pay And does not give him his wages, Who says, ‘I will build myself a roomy house With spacious upper rooms, And cut out its windows, Paneling it with cedar and painting it bright red.’ Do you become a king because you are competing in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink, And do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know Me?” declares the YHWH. “But your eyes and your heart Are intent only upon your own dishonest gain, And on shedding innocent blood And on practicing oppression and extortion” Jeremiah 22:13-17

“And they come to you as people come, and they sit before you as My people, but they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain” Ezekiel 33:31

Woe to those who scheme iniquity, Who work out evil on their beds! When morning comes, they do it, For it is in the power of their hands. They covet fields and then seize them, And houses, and take them away. They rob a man and his house, A man and his inheritance Micah 2:1-2

These things are happening today worldwide to so many people, and they will continue to get worse and worse because of the times we are living in. Our Father says Woe to these people. Their end will come upon them and be destroyed by Yehovah.

And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts and fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man" Mark 7:20-23

Coveting is a reflection of our value system. No person covets what he believes to be of no value. We do not covet our neighbor's garbage, we covet those possessions of our neighbor which we value highly. I have never known a man who coveted another man's wife, whom he thought to be ugly and undesirable. We covet most those things which we value most.

In 2 Corinthians, Paul speaks about our thoughts, our value system, the things we allow ourselves to think upon and are consumed with.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not fight according to the flesh. For the weapons we fight with are not fleshly but mighty in Elohim for overthrowing strongholds, overthrowing reasonings and every high matter that exalts itself against the knowledge of Elohim, taking captive every thought to make it obedient to the Messiah, and being ready to punish all disobedience, when your obedience is complete. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

There is no understating the importance of our thoughts and their impact upon our actions and also our temptations. Every person reading this article should be able to, in the blink of an eye, admit to yourself what your weaknesses are in worldly matters. If we cannot do this in the blink of an eye... we have not been working out our own salvation with fear and trembling. That is a fact.

The next question is: are you working on ridding yourself of these thoughts, imaginations, and sins. This is the Tenth Commandment: our thought life, the imaginations of our hearts, the worldly things we allow to tempt us into committing trespass against ourselves, others, and Yehovah.

The imaginations of the heart

Walking in stubbornness

The evil inclination

All of these things begin in the heart and mind and with the Tenth Commandment

Genesis 6:5

And Yehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 8:21

And Yehovah smelled a soothing fragrance, and Yehovah said in His heart, "Never again shall I curse the ground because of man, although the inclination of man's heart is evil from his youth, and never again smite all living [creatures], as I have done.

Deut 29:16-19

"For you know how we dwelt in the land of Egypt and how we passed through the nations which you passed through, and you saw their abominations and their idols, wood and stone,

silver and gold, which were with them, lest there should be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe, whose heart turns away today from YHWH our Elohim, to go and serve the mighty ones of these nations, lest there should be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood.

And it shall be, when he hears the words of this curse, that he should bless himself in his heart, saying, 'I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart,' in order to add drunkenness to thirst.

Jeremiah testified greatly concerning this condition among the people during his day.

Jeremiah 3:17

"At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of YHWH, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the Name of YHWH, to Jerusalem, and no longer walk after the stubbornness of their evil heart." Jeremiah 7:23-24

"But this word I did command them, saying, 'Obey My Voice, and I shall be your Elohim, and you be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, so that it be well with you.'"

"But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in the counsels, in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward."

Jeremiah 9:13-14

And YHWH says, "Because they have forsaken My Torah which I set before them, and have not obeyed My Voice, not walked according to it, but they have walked according to the stubbornness of their own heart and after the Ba'als, which their fathers had taught them."

Jeremiah 11:8

"But they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart. So I brought on them all the world of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, and they did not do." Jeremiah 13:10

"This evil people who refuse to hear My Words, who walk in the stubbornness of their heart, and walk after other mighty ones to serve them and to bow themselves to them, is like this girdle which is completely useless." [like the fig leaf Adam and Eve put on after they followed after the desire of their own heart and not after the Words of Yehovah]

Jeremiah 16:12

'And you have done more evil than your fathers, for look, each one walks according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me.'

Jeremiah 18:11-12

"And now, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus said YHWH, "See, I am forming evil and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your deed good.'" [Can't you just picture here Yehovah forming a dam to stop the flow of the chaotic waters of all the lusts of their evil hearts here?] But they shall say, "It is no use! For we walk according to our own plans, and we do each one the stubbornness of his evil heart."

Matthew 13:44-46 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field. Again,

the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Yeshua here taught that what one recognizes to be of great value he will seek to attain, and that he will pay a high price to do so. In the context, it is clear that it is the kingdom of Elohim which is the treasure which men should sacrifice anything to attain. He is the kingdom personified, so that it is Yeshua Messiah who is most precious, for whom men should be willing to give up all to gain.

The word is translated in the NASB version as coveting, desire, desires, earnestly, impulses, long, lust, lusts, and lustful. Sometimes these are good and sometimes evil. What makes lust evil is the way that we intend to fulfill, against the will of Yehovah, to our destruction and His dishonor. James 1:12-15.

Blessed is the man who does endure trial, for when he has been proved, he shall receive the crown of life which the Master has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is enticed, “I am enticed by Elohim,” for Elohim is not enticed by evil [matters], and He entices no one. But each one is enticed when he is drawn away by his own desires and trapped. Then, when desire has conceived, it give birth to sin. And sin, when it has been accomplished, brings forth death.

I want to share with you a familiar event in the history of Israel concerning the coveting of a field and all the trespass that it led to. But as we read this event in history, let us not focus as much on the evil of King Ahab and Jezebel, but on the man Naboth and his words. His words are such a treasure for us today and can serve as a monument of remembrance before us in our hearts and minds. I am writing now about our treasure, our inheritance of which Yehovah has spoken to us. Let Naboth’s words be also our words when it comes to what we covet in our lives.

1 Kings Chapter 21

And it came to be, after these events, that Naboth the Yizre’elite had a vineyard which was in Yisre’el, near the palace of Ahab the sovereign of Samaria. And Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying,

“Give me your vineyard, and it shall be a vegetable garden for me, since it adjoins my house. And let me give you a better vineyard for it. If it is good in your eyes, let me give you its worth in silver.”

And Naboth said to Ahab, “Far be it from me, by Yehovah, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!”

And Ahab went into his house embittered and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Yizre’elite had spoken to him when he said, “I do not give you the inheritance of my father.”

And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and did not eat food. And Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him,

“Why is your spirit so embittered that you are not eating food?”

And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Yizre’elite, and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for silver, or if you prefer, I give you another vineyard for it.’

But he answered, ‘I do not give you my vineyard.’”

So Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now rule over Isra’el? Rise up, eat food, and let your heart be glad. Let me give you the vineyard of Naboth the Yizre’elite!”

Then she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.

And she wrote in the letters, saying, “Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the people, and seat two men, sons of Beliya’al before him to bear witness against him, saying, ‘You have blasphemed Elohim and the sovereign.’ Then you shall take him out, and stone him to death.”

And the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had said to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them.

They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth at the head of the people.

And the men, sons of Beliya’al, came in and sat before him. And the men of Beliya’al witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth has blasphemed Elohim and the sovereign!”

So they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, and he died.

And they sent to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead.”

And it came to be, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Yizre’elite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive but dead.”

And it came to be, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose to go down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Yizre’elite. And the word of Yehovah came to Eliyahu the Tishbite, saying,

“Rise up, go down to meet Ahab sovereign of Yisra’el, who lives in Samaria. See, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it.

And you shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus said Yehovah, “Have you murdered and also taken possession?” ‘ And you shall speak to him, saying, Thus said Yehovah, “In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, the dogs are going to lick your blood, even yours.’””

The name Naboth tells us who this man is and who he represents. His name is a “nun” a “beyt” and “tav”

This is the life or seed of the house of the covenant.

Naboth was offered a “better” field, if he so “desired” than the one he currently had. But let us take note, this field that Naboth possessed was the inheritance of his fathers.

You, beloved, are Naboth. You have been given an inheritance, a promised land, and eternal Kingdom. You are the living seed in the House of the Covenant. You own ALL. There is nothing in this world that can be offered you, presented to you, and there is nothing in this world you are lacking. You have all when you have Him and His Promises.

Yeshua knew this too when He was tempted in the wilderness by the adversary using the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. He used the Word of Yehovah to battle the enemy.

Ahab's coveting led to murder, false witnesses, and theft. But Naboth is the hero of the event to teach us. His treasure was above and beyond any earthly King, earthly silver or gold, or earthly land that others may have considered more valuable than the inheritance that was his. Naboth's inheritance is representative of our eternal inheritance from our Father and paid for with the Blood of His Son. Let us remember this the next time we see something we think we need or want, or even the next time someone tries to tempt us to exchange our eternal inheritance for anything temporal.

Some may point out that Naboth died, being stoned to death and falsely accused. But he died owning his inheritance. This is and may be some of our paths to travel too. Only Yehovah knows each of our ends. If Naboth can do it... so can we.

Let us all pray to remember to evaluate our desires the next time we believe we don't have enough, want more, more "things" in life. May we have the courage to ask Yehovah to remove those things from us that stand between our commitment to Him and the worldly desires of our hearts.

This commandment, unlike all the others, is a commandment directly to our "inner man" and addresses that part of us that thinks prior to any action taken by our members. When we have dominion over this part, when we seek to have Yehovah Himself determine the flow of those raging, chaotic waters and where they go, we have kept the commandments.