

1. As modern believers, we often have our eyes fixed on future prophecy and our hearts eagerly set on the blessed hope of our Savior's return. Most students of the Bible all seem to understand that in the last days there will be great difficulty and persecution for followers of Christ. This is similar to the Old Testament which documents countless occasions in which the people of Israel endured many great struggles and hardships, and yet were still expected to remain obedient to the law of God. Although, unlike the patriarchs of old, many modern believers now hold to an understanding that the law of God has been done away with and we are no longer obligated to obey it. However, there are future prophetic verses found in the book of Revelation that clearly teach otherwise.
2. During the very last days, when Satan has realized his time is short, he will seek to make war with the children of God. In his furious anger he will lash out and attack a very specific population of people as identified in Revelation 12:17 : And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who KEEP the COMMANDMENTS of God AND have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
3. It's reasonable to believe that in his final stand our adversary is only interested in waging war against those that pose the greatest threat to him. Ever since the Garden of Eden, Satan has only ever demonstrated one tactic, causing the Children of God to doubt what our Heavenly Father has instructed us to do. So it should come as no surprise that during his last rage filled attack, Satan specifically targets those who have not only have placed their faith in Yeshua as the risen Messiah, but are also diligently keeping the commandments of God, also known as the Torah.
4. Most believers are well aware that part of Satan's end time strategy involves installing a world leader that the Bible identifies as the Antichrist. Interestingly enough, in Second Thessalonians, Paul refers to the Antichrist as both the "man of lawlessness" and the "lawless one."
5. [2Th 2:3-4, 7-9 ESV] <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and

exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ... Then continuing in verse seven, Paul writes, <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,

6. Strategically speaking, this makes perfect sense. By definition the ANTI-Christ counters and opposes our Messiah in every possible way. And when we consider the Biblical definition sin, this moniker for the Antichrist becomes even more understandable. “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.” So it only stands to reason that the lawless one would focus his attention exclusively on attacking those who are striving to be lawful. In other words, his anger is directed at those who are seeking to follow the perfect example of Christ and live by obedience.
7. It thus appears that those who are the greatest threat to our enemy have both an understanding of Yeshua as the Messiah, and a desire to love God through obedience to his commandments. The Bible is actually extremely clear in teaching that obedience to the commandments is the single most effective way to genuinely express love to our Creator. In fact, John tells us quite plainly in first John 5:3, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” More importantly, Yeshua himself said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” To learn more about how loving God is always associated with obeying God, please see my video, Our Heavenly Father’s Love Language.
8. The book of Revelation actually contains a second witness to the prophecy that future believers will be keeping the commandments of God in the End Times. Revelation 14:12 | Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. (KJV)

9. The Greek word that gets rendered as "patience" in this verse is hü-po-mo-na' (Stong's G5281). Included among the outline of this word's Biblical usage is the following: steadfastness, constancy, endurance: in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings
10. These are obviously attributes that any Bible believer would identify as critically important to possess. After all, we have a great many verses throughout Scripture testifying to the importance of waiting patiently on the Father's perfect timing and remaining steadfast in our belief. Without question, this characteristic of endurance would be even more desirable in the end times context of Revelation 14 where we read about the punishment of those who receive the Mark of the Beast and worship his image. In fact, it seems obvious that this kind of patience would be an absolutely essential element involved in the Biblical concept of "overcoming."
11. As this verse (Rev. 14:12) is considered, especially within its End Times context, one cannot escape the fact that the "patience of the saints" requires not only faith in Jesus, but also obedience to the commandments of God. This future prophetic verse becomes very difficult to reconcile if one has a belief that the law of God has been done away with. However, if this verse is interpreted with an understanding that the law of God has always remained in effect, there is suddenly no contradiction.
12. This verse alone should inspire every follower of Christ to take a very serious look at what they believe regarding obedience to our Heavenly Father's instructions. If the future saints demonstrate their patient endurance by keeping the law of God during the unimaginably difficult times of the tribulation, why would we as contemporary believers not be expected to do the same? This is indeed a question that needs prayerful consideration and diligent study.
13. Especially when we have the words our Messiah in Matthew 5 stating very plainly, ". . ." It is hard to imagine how this statement could be any clearer. **"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the**

Prophets; **I have not come to abolish them** but to fulfill them.” It is very tragic and disheartening that so many believers today actually **do** think that Jesus came to abolish the law. But we must recognize that this is the mystery of lawlessness that Paul wrote about. This is the work of our enemy who continues to cast doubt by asking the same question he asked Eve, “Did God really say?”

14. Yeshua, however, gave us another stunningly clear statement regarding the duration of the law. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. The Bible repeatedly teaches that a matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses, which is precisely what the Messiah does with this proclamation. He makes Heaven and Earth a witness for the law. And since Heaven and Earth have clearly not passed away, then the must law still be in effect.
15. It is fascinating to note, that this is not the first time Heaven and Earth have been used as a witness for the law of God. Just after crossing the Jordan and entering into the promised land, the people of Israel were directed to divide themselves into two groups. One group went atop Mount Ebal, the other ascended the neighboring Mount Gerazim. From Mount Gerizim, the people were to declare the blessings that would be associated with keeping the commandments of God. And from Mount Ebal, they proclaimed the many curses that would be punishments for not remaining obedient. In Deuteronomy 30:19, Moses finalizes these instructions by declaring, “**I call heaven and earth to witness against you today**, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live”
16. So in conclusion, we have a prophecy that in the end times, Satan will use the Antichrist, also known as the lawless one, to make war with those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. We also have a prophecy that explains the saints who endure and overcome the tribulation, do so by patiently keeping the commandments of God, and their faith in Jesus. In addition, we have the words of our Messiah declaring that he did not come to abolish the law, and that we should not think he did. Furthermore, he establishes

the continued existence of Heaven and Earth as an indicator to determine if the law is still in effect.

17. When all of this is taken into consideration, it makes Yeshua's next statement in Matthew 5:19 all the more powerful, "Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called **least** in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called **great** in the kingdom of heaven." Obviously, living for eternity in the kingdom of heaven is the ultimate goal of every Bible believer. So the question essentially becomes, when you get there, do you want to be called least, or do you want to be called great?

Fade out on:

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever. Psalm 119:160 (ESV)