

# CONNECTED TO GOD, IS REVEALED IN A WALK OF REVERENCE



We meet here today to seek to please God in our worship. We often hear that people talk of being Holy, of living in awe of God.

We are told that it is a life of servanthood, of sacrifice, of giving and in a sense, that's true.

But we are going to look at the key verse of the conference and see whether there is not some other yardstick with which we should measure the level of our 'awe / fear of God'.

**Leviticus 25:17** *“Thus you are **not to take advantage** of each other, but you are to fear your God; for I am ADONAI your God.*

Let us analyse this carefully:



1. Firstly, let us note → there are **two distinct phrases** in this sentence:

- i) thus you are not to take advantage of each other and,
- ii) but you are to fear God, for He is Adonai your God.

What picture do you see when you break this sentence up in that fashion?

The image of the two greatest Commandments as defined by Y'shua;

- a. Love your neighbour as yourself and,
- b. Love God with all of your heart!!!!

2. Secondly, let us have a deeper look at these words.

- i) the words “**not take advantage / (some translations use the word - wrong)**” are recorded as the Hebrew word Strong's 3238 = “**yanah**”



A far better translation would have included these words or phrases:

- ☞ do not oppress / suppress
- ☞ do no treat violently
- ☞ do not maltreat

ii) the word “**another**” is recorded as Strong’s 5997

A better translation would be ... **neighbour**.

iii) the phrase “**fear of God**” as recorded in Strong’s 3372

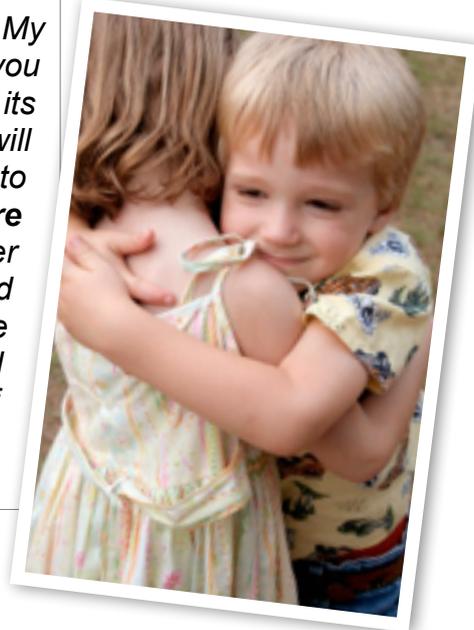
Should use words such as;

- ✦ in awe of God
- ✦ we revere God
- ✦ we have reverence for God

**\*\*NUGGET\*\* Let us rewrite the sentence. Love your neighbour (as yourself) and walk in reverence to Adonai. Once we have done this, we can add the following verses to this sentence, and you will note that it now makes complete sense.**

Love your neighbour as yourself and walk in reverence to Adonai.

**Leviticus 25:18 - 22** “Rather, you are to keep My regulations and rulings and act accordingly. If you do, you will live securely in the Land. <sup>19</sup>The Land will yield its produce, you will eat until you have enough, and you will live there securely. <sup>20</sup>If you ask, “If we aren’t allowed to sow seed or harvest what our Land produces, **what are we going to eat the seventh year?**” <sup>21</sup>then I will order My blessing on you during the sixth year, so that the Land brings forth enough produce for all three years. <sup>22</sup>The eighth year you will sow seed but eat the old, stored produce until the ninth year; that is, until the produce of the eighth year comes in, you will eat the old, stored food.



## **THOSE WHO FEAR GOD, LOVE THEIR NEIGHBOUR**

Is it possible that this verse is challenging us to a new level of “*love your neighbour*”?

**(A) We see that we are provided for (with provision from Heaven) when we walk in obedience.**

We see that the act of “not sowing” seeds in the seventh year, together with God’s blessing, is connected to the previous verse which demands that we refrain from oppressing our brother.

Now it is fairly clear that:

“**Loving your neighbour / fear of God / Heavenly faith-provision**” is connected to the children of God.

**(B) What about the other people?**

We find that answer in one of the previous chapters.

And in this verse we see that God says: “**speak to all of the congregation of the people of Israel**”.

This is important. It's not only the children of Jacob ... the twelve sons that count, BUT all of the congregation.

Who could this be? All of the 400,000 non-children of Jacob who had chosen to leave together with the twelve tribes, and any other stranger that sought to join afterwards.

The Jewish people would like us to believe that the WORD was only given to a select few (and it was). That select few included Jews and gentiles, which is why Paul tells us that it's not Jew nor gentile, male nor female, and so forth, but instead It is the whole community of believers.

**Leviticus 19:1 - 2** “ADONAI said to Moshe, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the entire community of Isra’el; tell them, ‘You people are to be holy because I, ADONAI your God, am holy.

### **Love your neighbour ... look around ... these ARE your neighbours!!!**

We live in a community made up of people from multiple cultures, belief systems, as well as people who are influenced by the kingdom of darkness.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan we see that mankind will try to define his neighbour only as those who believe and look exactly as they do.

All others will be deemed to be non-neighbours. BUT, Y’shua / Jesus determines otherwise. He tells us that many who will NOT fit into our mental mould at first glance, will still qualify as your neighbour.

**Luke 10:25 - 29** “And behold, a lawyer stood up to put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup>He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” <sup>27</sup>And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.” <sup>28</sup>And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” <sup>29</sup>But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

**Luke 10:36 - 37** “Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup>He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”



We have a world of strangers out there ... all of them our neighbour; we are supposed to love our neighbours, just as the Good Samaritan did.

**That means that we must walk in awe of God by modelling the values that He decreed.**

We find these values set out for us in the Book of **Leviticus chapter 19**. We can analyse these in some detail, but before we go there, let us ask this question:

- ✦ Are you living in an environment where oppression / elements of slavery / maladministration are rampant?
- ✦ Are you living in an environment where fear of fellow man is a daily part of life?
- ✦ Or are you living in a place of abundance ?
- ✦ You may be wonderful believers, but you are a part of a bigger community.
- ✦ Does that community respect God’s Commandments, His Will, and more importantly, does this community respect religious freedom?

Here is my parallel:

The children of Israel had by and large, rejected God's standards and had turned to idols / other gods. Nevertheless, a remnant always remained true to the value / principles of God .

**Deuteronomy 6:10 - 17** *“And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, <sup>11</sup>and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, <sup>12</sup>then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>13</sup>**It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by His Name you shall swear.** <sup>14</sup>You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you <sup>15</sup>for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and He destroy you from off the face of the earth. <sup>16</sup>“You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah. <sup>17</sup>You shall diligently keep the Commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes, which He has Commanded you.*

Unfortunately, even though God requires that every individual in their own right has to accept Y'shua as Messiah, He also expects the group of believers to **collectively** worship Him in Spirit and Truth. Peter describes this as 'priests serving in the Living Stone Tabernacle'.

When the **collective** Body of Messiah's Glory is lost, the individual members suffer the effect of exile as well.

It is vital to understand that some of the hardships that you may be suffering are not your own fault, but are the result of the failure of the community of believers to raise a Holy standard that changes the spiritual reality of the nation.

With that understanding, let us now look at the “actions” that God expects us to exhibit in the community in order to reveal the art of “loving your neighbour” ... these are NOT a list of things to do i.e. ritual or legalism. This is a litmus test of our love for God.

These are actions that we want to PROCLAIM as thunderbolts that shoot out into the broader community to demonstrate:

- a) that we do not oppress / suppress / act violently towards them and,
- b) that we do these things because we walk in AWE OF OUR GOD

**Love your neighbour ... look around at those in your community ... those who experience these acts of love are your neighbours.**

I would suggest that we turn this into public declarations of our intent, to walk through these streets revealing our obedience to God's Word, AND AFTERWARDS we will petition God for the release of His blessing of provision while we rest in His faithfulness.

We, the Body of Messiah in Zimbabwe, declare:

1. **THAT we will give GENEROUSLY** to our neighbours – we will give of our time, of our talents, of the love and peace that we have been blessed with.

We will give everyone an equal opportunity to perform and will be prepared to listen to all stories with absolute compassion



**Leviticus 19:9 - 10** *“When you reap the harvest of your Land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. <sup>10</sup>And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall **leave them for the poor and for the sojourner**: I am the LORD your God.*

2. **THAT we will not steal**, in the physical or the spiritual, anything that belongs to my neighbour - also not his good name - by means of **gossip**. We understand that stealing includes depriving others of a chance to grow; we accept that it's our responsibility to lift up the hands of those who are worse off than we are.

**Leviticus 19:11 - 12** *“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. <sup>12</sup>You shall not swear by My Name falsely, and so profane the Name of your God: I am the LORD.*

3. **THAT we will not oppress** our neighbour in any way ... we will bless and not curse, we will endeavour to treat everyone with absolute integrity

**Leviticus 19:13** *“You shall not oppress your neighbour or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.*

4. **THAT we will not be a stumbling block** to our neighbour, we acknowledge that our behaviours / attitude / moral choices could impact others who do not have the Bible as a benchmark ... accordingly, we will be conscious of the example that we demonstrate as a role model

**Leviticus 19:14** *“You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.*

5. **THAT we will judge fairly** within the community, we recognise that the poor and destitute often do not have resources to hire someone to defend their position, and may also not be articulate in speech to present their case - we will endeavour to search diligently in the facts of their case to ensure fairness.

**Leviticus 19:15** *“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbour.*

6. **THAT we will not gossip** of our neighbour

**Leviticus 19:16** *“You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbour: I am the LORD.*

7. **THAT we will not take vengeance** on any of our neighbours, but will seek righteous judgment of God in all matters.

**Leviticus 19:17 - 18** *“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbour, lest you incur sin because of him. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.*



## FOREIGNERS WHO JOIN THEMSELVES TO GOD WILL BE FILLED WITH JOY

- ☛ A promise
- ☛ A gift of adoption into God's family

An outflow of God's Covenant. A bountiful harvest, which we did not plant!!!

**Isaiah 56:6 - 8** *“And the foreigners who join themselves to ADONAI to serve Him, to love the Name of ADONAI, and to be His workers, all who keep Shabbat and do not profane it, and hold fast to My Covenant, <sup>7</sup>I will bring them to My Holy Mountain and make them joyful in My House of Prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My Altar; for My House will be called a House of Prayer for all peoples.” <sup>8</sup>Adonai ELOHIM says, He who gathers Isra'el's exiles: “There are yet others I will gather, besides those gathered already.”*

## PETITION

- ❖ We, the Body of Messiah in Zimbabwe, petition You FATHER, to take note of our intention to reveal Your attributes to the community in our city / land.
- ❖ We petition that the reflection of Your GLORY will bring a transformation in this land.
- ❖ We petition for deliverance from any form of exile that we are suffering under because we have not released Your LIGHT.
- ❖ We ask that You give us a bountiful harvest



# GOD as Friend

We approach GOD as a Friend:

**Luke 11:5-8** “Then He said to them, Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves [of bread]; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine who is on a journey has just come to visit me, and I have nothing to serve him’; <sup>7</sup>and from inside he answers, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything just because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence and boldness he will get up and give him whatever he needs.”

## GOD Promises

- ☞ If you are a friend of Mine ...
- ☞ If you have been living by The Commandment of “Love your neighbour”

## GOD Says

- ☞ Tell me what your friend needs ...

### **My friends, the people of Zimbabwe need:**

- Shalom
- Rest
- Release

### **GOD says I will GIVE all that they need!**

