

April 8, 1994, Sabbath Eve Boston

The Ten Commandments

Ex 31:13 — The Sabbath is the fourth commandment; to us the ten commandments are spiritual law; to the nations they are the natural law. They are the same natural law spoken of in Rom 2:14,15. These are the things people know about in their hearts: not to lie (bear false witness), not to commit adultery, not to steal. Now in the New Covenant this law is being written in our hearts. The fourth commandment to rest on the seventh day has all but been taken out of man's hearts. Men know they should rest and engage in some form of recreation, that they can't just work, work, work, or else they will die, but the knowledge that they should rest on the seventh day is all but gone.

It is Israel which brings it back to the nations, "But as for you, speak to the *sons of Israel*, saying, 'You shall surely observe (keep) My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Sovereign who sanctifies you.' " This law is being written on our hearts to do it, Dt 4:13. Moshe received it on Mount Sinai, Ex 34:28. (He didn't eat bread or drink water the whole time. Why should He? He was there with YHWH.) The ten commandments are the covenant.

Ex 31:13 is spoken to those God has set apart as a special people, Israel, to accomplish His purpose. Those who don't keep it will be cut off because they are not Israel. "The Sabbath is holy to you, whoever profanes it shall be put to death, whoever works on it shall be cut off from His people ..." verse 14, 15. Those who break the Sabbath will go to the second death because they had the law and broke it (Ex 31:16,17).

It doesn't mean Israel will stop keeping the Sabbath sometime, certainly not in the New Covenant. Mt 21:43 — The Sabbath is a sign forever of who God's people are, Ex 31:17.

Ex 31:18 — This testimony, this law, was written on tablets of stone by the finger of God but now, in the New Covenant, 2 Cor 3:3, He writes it on our hearts. He, and understanding the spiritual word that we hear, writes it o _____

A Word of Instruction

At the start of our gathering Andrew Lamb read Ps 34:1-8. Lo-Nekar then started the song from these verses. Except for the chorus, ha-emeq sang the words ha-Shem where before we had sung Yahweh or Yahshua. We still sang His name in the chorus. Yoneq instructed us afterwards that the Jews say *ha-Shem*, "the name," for fear of using His name in vain. To take His name in vain is an unforgivable sin. So, except where it is fitting and appropriate to Yahshua, ha-Mashiach, or Yahweh, we will normally say *ha-Shem*.

Yoneq spoke after the gathering about how love is hospitality and it will be in our houses. We won't live in our rooms and not talk to each other, this leads to back-biting, and to our guests from the Community and the world. These things reveal the hearts where love dwells.