

A Liturgical Year



Ordinary Time



A close-up photograph of a hand with light-colored nail polish resting on the cover of a black leather-bound Bible. The Bible is lying on a dark wooden surface. To the left, a textured, brown fabric is visible, with strong, parallel shadows cast across it from the left. The Bible cover has the words "HOLY BIBLE" embossed in a serif font. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the leather and the fabric.

HOLY BIBLE

**I love your Instruction! I think about it constantly.
Your commandment makes me wiser than my
enemies
because it is always with me.
I have greater insight than all my teachers
because I contemplate your laws.
I have more understanding than the elders
because I guard your precepts.
I haven't set my feet on any evil path
so I can make sure to keep your word.**

**I haven't deviated from any of your rules
because you are the one who has taught
me.**

**Your word is so pleasing to my taste buds
—it's sweeter than honey in my mouth!**

**I'm studying your precepts
—that's why I hate every false path.**

Psalm 119:97-104



Yod Tet Chet Zayin Vav He Dalet Gimel Bet Alef



Ayin Samech Nun Nun Mem Mem Lamed Khaf Kaf



Tav Shin Resh Qof Tsadeh Tsadeh Feh Peh

Psa. 119:97 מִה־אֶהְבֶּתִי תּוֹרַתְךָ כָּל־הַיּוֹם הִיא שִׂיחָתִי:

98 מֵאֵיבֵי תַחֲכַמְנִי מִצּוֹתְךָ כִּי לְעוֹלָם הִיא־לִי:

99 מִכָּל־מִלְמֵדֵי הַשֶּׁפְּלֵתִי כִּי עֵדוּתֶיךָ שִׂיחָה לִי:

100 מִזִּקְנִים אֶתְבוֹנֶן כִּי פִקּוּדֶיךָ נִצְרָתִי:

101 מִכָּל־אֲרוּחַ רָע כָּל־אֶתִי רֵגְלִי לְמַעַן אֲשַׁמֵּר דְּבָרְךָ:

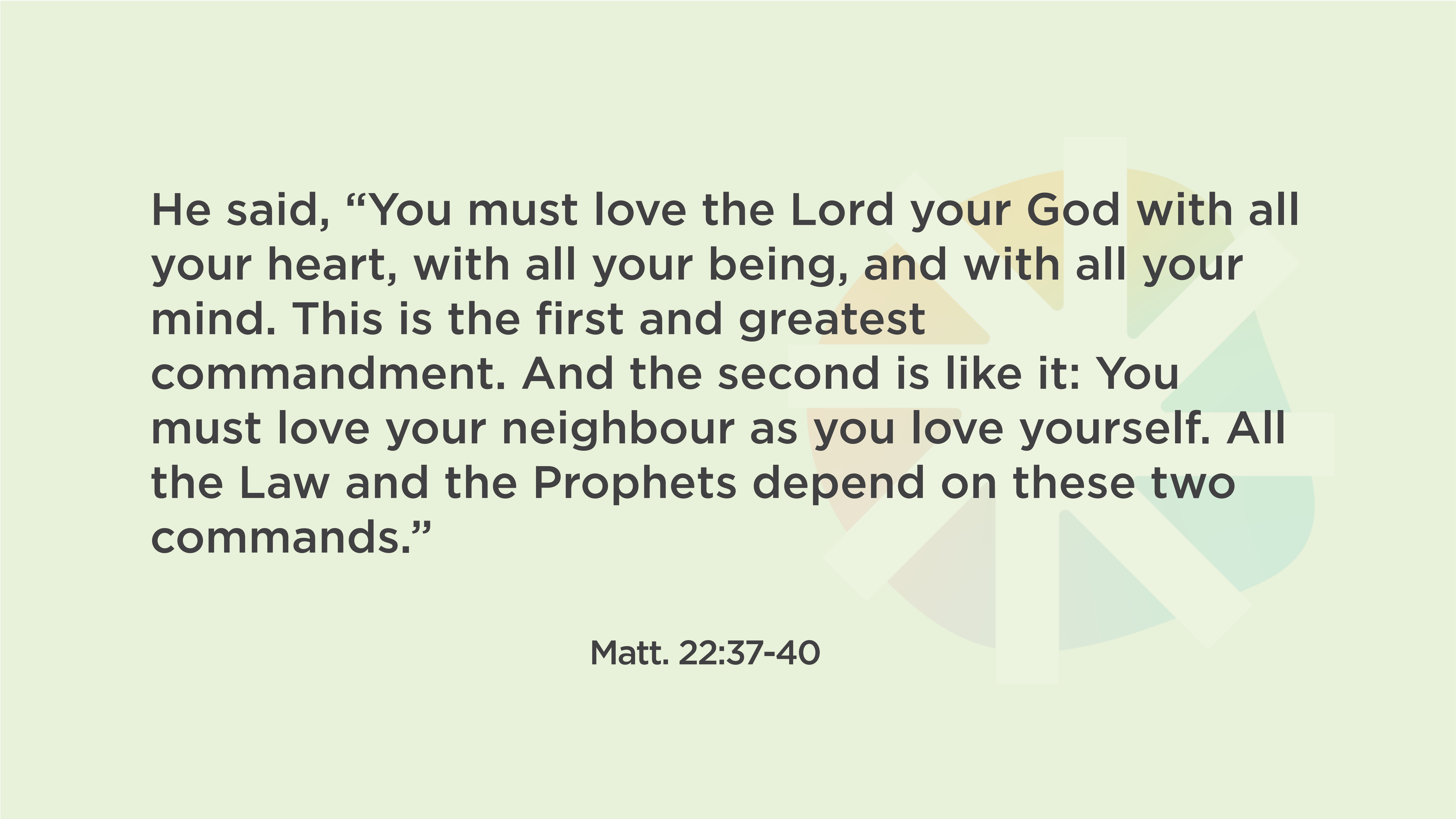
102 מִמִּשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לֹא־סִרַתִּי כִּי־אַתָּה הוֹרַתְנִי:

103 מִה־נִּמְלְצוּ לַחֲכִי אִמְרָתְךָ מִדְּבַשׁ לִפִּי:

104 מִפִּקּוּדֶיךָ אֶתְבוֹנֶן עַל־כֵּן שָׁנֵאתִי | כָּל־אֲרוּחַ שָׁקֵר:

It is divine guidance that is known inwardly as well as studied outwardly (see reference to “teachers,” v. 99). This law refers to living instruction given directly from God (v. 102). Thus it is born out of covenant relationship; it is not imposed by distant authority, but given to the people whom God has claimed in steadfast love.

Martha Moore-Keith



He said, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbour as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

Matt. 22:37-40

Since childhood you have known the holy scriptures that help you to be wise in a way that leads to salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good.

2 Tim. 3:15-17

Do our people even read the Bible? If they do, do they receive it as honey to the mouth, or as gall and wormwood? Some still think of it as magic—God wrote it, and it is too scary to open, so leave it alone—a divine Pandora’s box. Some thought they had a science and history book and stopped trusting when it was not so. Some gave up on the book long ago, chased away by the TV bible beaters. Some, thank God, have learned to appreciate the Bible’s complexity, contradictions, and beauty and enjoy feasting on its words. Some even who do not see contradictions still come expectant to the feast.

Steve Miller

My teachers do not understand nearly as well as I, because they do not internalize what they teach. I internalize what I learn about you. I am wiser than the old ones who do not live out your will for their lives. I may be younger than they, but I actualize what I study. I listen to you and I do it. Your law for life frees me to live with joy. I do not have to worry that I miss the mark and lose your presence in my life.

Psalm 119:97-104, paraphrased by Steve Miller

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Your commandment makes me wiser than my
enemies
because it is always with me.
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