

Removing the Ancient Landmarks

By

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“DO NOT MOVE the ancient boundary which your fathers (avot) have set.” Mishle (Prov.) 22:28

“Do not move the ancient boundary.” Mishle (Prov.) 23:10

What are the Scriptural ancient landmarks (boundaries)? Who set them? Are we to remove them? This article attempts to answer these and other questions concerning the Torah of landmarks. We must look into the *D’var YHWH* (Word of YHWH) to find our answers.

Word Study

- **Landmark**-Hebrew #1366 GeBuL: A cord(as twisted), a boundary, the territory enclosed, border, coast, limit From GaBaL #1379 : twist as a rope, to set boundaries, to be bound by a line , to be a border, set borders around
- **Bounds** –Hebrew #1367 GeBuLaH –Fem.boundary, border, LANDMARK, place

From the definitions of the word LANDMARK / BOUNDS we can see that the word means to set a MARKER by a rope, a pile of stones, or an erect pillar to set the boundaries that are to mark off a territory or an INHERITANCE. A landmark was a set-apart marker, stone, column, fence, doorpost, threshold, and gate that served as COVENANT ALTAR TO A DEITY TO SHOW THIS WAS A SET-APART PLACE. It served as a visible reminder or notice that one was entering into a land or place that had been set-apart by a covenant ceremony. To trespass across the marker or to REMOVE IT was considered an offense to the owner of the land and his mighty one.

The Torah Forbids the Moving of the Boundary

Devarim (Deut.) 19:14, “ **DO NOT REMOVE your neighbor’s boundary, WHICH THOSE IN THE PAST HAVE SET, in your inheritance which you inherit in the land that YHWH your Elohim is giving you to posses.**”

Devarim (Deut.) 27:17, “**CURSED is he who moves his neighbor’s boundary. And ALL the people shall say Omeyn.**”

The Torah places a CURSE upon anyone who moves a landmark or boundary marker that has been placed or established by the FIRST SETTLERS IN THE LAND OF YISRAEL. They were placed there to protect the birthright inheritance and heritage of a Yisraelite. YHWH took the setting up of a boundary marker (landmark) very seriously, as customarily it involved some form of blood covenant ritual between the parties involved in the setting of the boundaries.

Landmarks were so revered that even the Romans placed a death penalty upon their removal.

The Navaim (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings)

Iyob (Job) 24:1-3, “Times are not hidden from the Almighty, and why have not those who know Him seen His days? They REMOVE landmarks; they rob and feed on flocks; they drive away the donkey of the fatherless; and take the widows ox as a pledge; they turn the needy out of the way; the poor of the earth have hidden together.”

We learn that the moving of a landmark requires one to break the 8th and 10th Commandments concerning stealing and coveting! IT IS STEALING AN INHERITANCE! If they have in their hearts a willingness to remove a boundary that YHWH has prescribed by covenant, then they are also predisposed to deprive and plunder from the most defenseless of all people, the widows and fatherless, in order to satisfy their own flocks [I HOPE YOU ARE SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING THE HIDDEN MEANINGS BEHIND THIS WRITING]. It was an abomination in the eyes of YHWH to take the pledge of a widow (**Deut.24: 17**) due to the fact that this would leave her vulnerable to the elements or without shelter and food. If one is prone to MOVE THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS OF THE FATHERS, THEN THEY HAVE NO CONSCIENCE TOWARDS YHWH CONCERNING THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN ORDER TO FATTEN THEIR OWN SHEEP OR FILL THEIR OWN POCKETS!

- ***Hoshea 5:10, “The chiefs of Yahudah shall be like those who remove a border-on them I shall pour out my wrath like water.”***

Could these two verses be the verses that Yahshua was quoting in **Yochanan (John) 8:56**? “Your father Avraham was glad that he SHOULD SEE MY DAY, and he saw it and did rejoice.” Since the Yahudim (who should have known YHWH and had seen His day) of Yahshua’s day were guilty of moving the landmarks because of the hypocrisy of the leadership and they were devouring the homes of widows and orphans (**Matt.23: 14, Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47**). But, it had started by removing the TORAH’S LANDMARKS OR BOUNDARIES THAT YHWH HAD SET THROUGH HIS SERVANT AND PROPHET MOSHEH!

Remember that sin starts when we REMOVE or REPLACE a commandment of the Torah, and begin to substitute the teachings of men and their interpretations and spiritualization of the Torah for the literal commandment of YHWH!

- ***Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 10:12-13:*** “ *And it shall be, when YHWH has performed all His work on Mount Tzion and on Yahrushalayim, that I shall PUNISH the FRUIT of the GREATNESS OF THE HEART (or arrogant heart) of the sovereign of ASHSHUR (Assyria), and the boasting of his haughty looks. For he has said, ‘By the power of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have been clever. And I REMOVE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PEOPLE, AND HAVE ROBBED THEIR TREASURES...’*”

The prophet Yeshayahu tells us that it takes arrogance and pride in order to remove boundaries or landmarks that YHWH has established for Yisrael. Thus, pride and arrogance steals from the TREASURES of the people of Yisrael -treasure meaning in Hebrew; the things, which one has acquired, or wealth. Assyria was the nation that conquered and scattered the Northern Tribes of Yisrael (Ephraim) into the various nations. The result of this Diaspora of Yisrael resulted in her losing her treasured inheritance –THE TORAH OF YHWH! YHWH has shared with his creation, in the Torah, the blueprint for creation and His eternal Kingdom .He gave us Yahshua, the Living Torah, to be our pattern of what Torah looks like when it is lived out in the power of the Ruach Hakodesh and a heart of love towards the Father and our fellow man.

Yahshua taught us that, “*Where your TREASURE is, there your heart shall be also*” **Mattitayahu 6:21**. Perhaps the real reason some do not hesitate to remove the ancient landmarks that the fathers have set is that their hearts are not upon the greatest treasure (the Torah and the Living Torah) YHWH has given to man. They think nothing of changing or replacing a commandment of YHWH (SUNday for Shabbat, etc.). It all boils down to where our heart is. Is it upon the things here upon the earth, or upon the eternal things of YHWH and upon His eternal Torah?

Turn back O Virgin Yisrael!

Yirmeyahu 31:21, “*Set up sign posts (waymarks), make landmarks (high heaps of stones); SET YOUR HEART toward the highway, the way in which you went. TURN BACK, O MAIDEN OF YISRAEL; turn back to these cities (your inheritance) of yours.*”

YHWH has always sent prophets and watchmen to cry out for Yisrael to return (shuv) to YHWH and His Torah-His paths. Here, the prophet Yirmeyahu cries out (in the context of Yisrael’s final return and gathering together) for ALL Yisrael to TURN BACK to YHWH and Torah. They are to set their hearts on His ways and Torah.

- **Signposts or waymarks #6725 –Tziun;** a monumental or guiding pillar/ sign / title/ conspicuousness which means (according to Webster’s) the state of being conspicuous: to get sight of, obvious to the eye or mind, attracting attention, marked by a notable violation of good taste-noticeable.
- **High heaps or landmarks #8564 –Tamrur;** an erection/to be erect/ pillar- a landmark
- **Highway #4546 – Mesillah;** thoroughfare, turnpike, staircase, course, PATH

Yisrael was to make observable waymarks and conspicuous signs by which they would be able to distinguish the boundary markers (Covental marks /ot or signs) that would show them by a discernible way the paths that would bring them back home to their inheritance –Yisrael! These would be easily distinguishable marks, signs, landmarks, titles, and remembrances that would STICK OUT to point the way the way to Tzion. Not only that, but these would be well worn paths that were well traveled as a highway-or the way many people have traveled upon before! These people are the fathers (avot) that set the original landmarks up for us to follow. YHWH has given us these in the Torah- fringes, head coverings, circumcision, beards, kashrut, Shabbat, the Feasts, etc. These were ALL bequeathed to make us as a people conspicuous as Yisrael! Just as Yahudah has always been a distinguishable people, YHWH wants ALL Yisrael to be a conspicuous people group. Ephraim has yet to arrive at that status to Father or the world. Ephraim has too long been content to look and acts like the nations (goyim) and the “church”. As a result, we have failed to provoke our brother Yahudah to jealousy by our Torah observance. When we refuse to obey the Torah, or try to replace and modify the Torah Feasts and mitzvot by men’s wisdom and interpretations, Yahudah is not impressed. When we alter the Torah we have then departed from the path to Tzion and taken the Roman Road to “churchianity” and her worldly ways.

- ***Yirmeyahu 6:16-17, “ Thus said YHWH, “Stand in the WAYS and SEE, and ASK (sha’al-to inquire of, to request, earnestly DESIRE, beg for) for the OLD PATHS (nathiyb-nethivah- to tramp, trodden down with the feet, travelway, footpath, beaten track), WHERE THE GOOD WAY IS, and WALK in it; and find rest for yourselves. But they say, ‘We do not walk in it.’ And I raised up WATCHMEN over you, and said, ‘Listen (kashav- to prick the ears, hearken, attend, incline, mark well, regard) to the sound of the SHOFAR (ram’s horn)!’ But they say, ‘We do not listen!’”***

The cross-reference to this is **Mattitayahu 11:28-30**. Yahshua, the Master, is calling ALL Yisrael BACK TO THE OLD PATHS OF THE TORAH AS GIVEN TO MOSHEH AT Mt.Sinai. When we return to THIS ESTABLISHED PATH we shall find the quietude for our nefesh (soul). The Torah is NOT a heavy burden for Yisrael to bear. ONLY WHEN THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS HAVE BEEN MOVED DOES IT BECOME A YOKE TOO HEAVY FOR ANYONE TO BEAR! The sound of the shofar is the voice of YHWH calling Yisrael back to the patriarchal incorporated paths of the Torah.

Adding to or Taking from Torah

YHWH decreed that Israel not to add to or take from His Torah!

- ***“DO NOT ADD TO THE WORD which I command you, and DO NOT TAKE AWAY FROM IT, so as to guard (shamar-to HEDGE ABOUT, to protect, attend to, MARK, preserve, watch, save) the commands of YHWH your Elohim which I am commanding you.” Devarim (Deut.) 4:2***
- ***“ALL THE WORDS I am commanding you, guard to do it-DO NOT ADD TO IT NOR TAKE AWAY FROM IT.” Devarim 12:32***
- ***“DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, lest He reprove you, and you be found a LIAR.” Mishle (Prov.)30:6***
- ***Koheleth-Ecc. 3:14, “I now that whatever Elohim does is FOREVER. There is no ADDING TO IT, and there is NO TAKING FROM IT. Elohim does it, that men should fear before Him.”***
- ***“For I witness to everyone hearing the words of prophecy of this book: If anyone ADDS to them, Elohim shall add to him the plagues written in this book.” Revelation 22:18***

The Hebrew for adds to: *YaSaF* means: to add to, add anymore, to increase, and the Greek is *epitithemi*, which means: to impose, add unto, lay upon, and put upon. YHWH has given us 613 PERFECT commandments in His Torah.

We are NOT to add to them, increase them, change them, replace them, or impose more upon people AS TORAH any more then what has been given to us in the PERFECT LAW OF YHWH (*Tehillim-Psalms 19:7-11*).

- ***The Living Torah by Maznaim Publishing page 533: “This is a command not to add or subtract from ANY observance prescribed by the Torah (Rashi; Sifri; Sefer HaMitzvoth, Negative 313). There is also a commandment not to try to increase or diminish the number of commandments (Deut.4: 2; Adereth Elishu; HaKethav VeHaKabbalah). In simplest terms, the Torah here is saying that we should not try to “IMPROVE” the Torah by BORROWING GENTILE PRACTICES.***
- ***The Artscroll Chumash page 959, “By definition, perfection cannot be improved upon, so that for one to ADD to or SUBTRACT from the commandments of the Torah IS AN UNACCEPTABLE IMPLICATION THAT [Elohim’s] TORAH IS LACKING.”***

- **The Torah published by Union of American Hebrew Congregations page 1345**, “Another reading of the two verses became even more important, for it understood 4:2 as PROHIBITING CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF COMMANDMENTS-there are according to tradition 613 mitzvot in the Torah-so that there should not be 612 or 614; and 13:1 was seen to mean that each individual mitzvah was to be carried out as specified and WAS NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH.”
- **The Concise Book of the Mitzvot compiled by the Chafetz Chayim pages 247-249** Negative commands #159 & 160; “[This applies to] both the Written and Oral Torah. For should a scholar say about a commandment of the Sages that it is from the Torah, he thus adds to it; and should he take anything away from the mitzvot of the Torah, he thus diminishes from it. The Sages of blessed memory, however, added “commandments of the Sages” by way of amendment of a “fence” (protective measure) or an edict; or for example, the reading of the m’gillah [Book of Esther on Purim] and [the lighting of] the Chanukkah lamp, as a way of praise and thanksgiving to the blessed [Elohim]; and they said that it is by the law of the Sages. This is not under the scope of the prohibition, you shall not add to it, since plainly they did not say the Holy One, blessed is He, commanded this particular mitzvah, to add it to the mitzvot of the Torah.

So likewise, if a Kohen said one extra blessing with the three in the “blessing of the Kohanim” written in the Torah, he would thus be adding.”

We cannot try to pass off as Torah the commandments of men or the teachings of men .We cannot allow Gentile practices of the “church” to replace the Torah of YHWH in any guise or form. That is a subtle demonic type of Dispensationalism and Replacement theology.

The Torah-haMakom or “the place”

The landmarks established by YHWH in the Torah and all the Covenants contained therein mark out the place or haMakom OF BLESSING for the Believer in Yahshua! It is the place where the Believer in Yahshua can delight in the blessings of true shalom that the instructions of the Torah give us (**Tehillim -Psalm 19:10-11**). When we go outside the borders that are clearly marked out, MOVE THEM, or even try to change them, then we will step outside of “the place” of blessing and into sin, which brings about death. The wages of sin is DEATH! Even the death of a movement. That is why the ancient landmarks cannot be altered or replaced by other teachings from outside YHWH’s established Torah.

Yahshua came that we might have life and have it more abundantly! Obedience to the Torah imparts to Yisrael the blessings of YHWH. Ephraim left the Torah for idolatry and paganism, which resulted in assimilation, death, and destruction to their nation. Both Houses of Yisrael have suffered greatly for their moving of the ancient landmarks the fathers have set down in the Torah. The time has come for ALL YISRAEL TO RETURN TO YHWH BY THE ANCIENT PATHWAY THAT HAS BEEN MARKED OUT BY THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS-THE TORAH OF YHWH!