



**IT IS ALL RUBBISH.** The amount of stuff the average household owns these days is staggering. If you want proof, go home and have a look at your parent's house to see what they have accumulated over the years. Eighty percent of that stuff they will never use – IT IS ALL RUBBISH. For example, "Today the International Shipping and Packing Association, the trade group for moving companies, says the average American home contains about ten thousand pounds of stuff. That's spread across anywhere from ten thousand to fifty thousand items light and heavy – from pens to TVs. The *Wall Street Journal* found that Americans now spend \$1.2 trillion annually on stuff we don't need," writes Michael Easter in *Scarcity Brain*. The average American home size has grown from 1,000 square feet to 2,500 square feet. Personal storage generates more than \$24 billion in revenue each year. Reports indicate Westerners consume twice as many material goods today as they did 50 years ago. Most Western countries and many Eastern are now like this. These numbers should cause us to start asking some difficult questions of ourselves. "Why do we buy more stuff than we need?" What thinking would compel somebody to spend money on things they didn't actually need in the first place? If we could successfully answer this question, we could more easily free our lives and resources for more important pursuits. An interesting article (7 Reasons We Buy More Stuff Than We Need) gave these seven reasons, and there are more. Let's start with them. 1. We think it will make us secure. 2. We think it will make us happy. 3. We are more susceptible to advertising than we believe (i.e., we are pushed into buying). 4. We are hoping to impress other people. 5. We are jealous of people who own more. 6. We are trying to compensate for our deficiencies. 7. We are more selfish than we like to admit. On the surface, I agree with this article's summation; however, they are purely motivating factors and are not the actual cause. **The Torah tells us what the issue is. For Believers, it stems from their failure to observe the Ten Commandments** (Hebrew Aseret Ha-dibrot). Let me briefly review them for us here and then show you how and why. Shemoth (Exodus) 20:2-17 1. "You shall have no other elohim before Me" 2. "You shall have no carved images or any likeness of anything" 3. "You shall not use the name of YHWH in vain" 4. "You shall keep the Sabbath set apart" 5. "You shall honor your father and mother" 6. "You shall not commit murder" 7. "You shall not commit adultery" 8. "You shall not steal" 9. "You shall not bear false witness" 10. "You shall not covet." **Believers accumulate trillions of dollars of stuff because we don't hear and obey the Commandments.** If we follow, the desire for these things will diminish, and the will to give it way will become stronger. **THE PRACTICE OF YHWH COMMANDMENTS RESULTS IN TWO THINGS – LOVE AND A CONTENTED LIFE.** This is basically what the law was designed to do for mankind. In fulfilling the Commandments, we can eliminate want, lust, covetousness, and hoarding. The well-being of others becomes our greater priority and purpose. Consider the Apostle John's words, "*But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of Elohim abide in him?*" Yochanan Alef (First John) 3:17. Yeshua said, "*He answered and said to them, 'He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise'*" Luka (Luke) 3:11. What are they talking about? The Law of Moses! That is why Shiloh said, "*17 Think not that I am come to weaken, or destroy the Torah (Law), or the neviim (prophets): I have not come to weaken, or destroy, but to completely reveal it in its intended fullness.* 18 *For truly I say to you, Until the current shamayim (heaven) and earth pass away, not one yud, or one nekudah shall by any means pass from the Torah, until all be fulfilled*" Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:17-18. What is the intended fullness of the Torah? It is to love Elohim and our neighbor and to hate sin. I am not perfect; I am just as guilty as anyone else of breaking the Commandments. I had closets full of stuff I did not need, and I realized the truth and gave it away. Amazingly, when I started to audit my life and fix these little things, the true wealth of the Kingdom became apparent to me. It is beautifully listed in Mattityahu (Mathew) 5:2-12. I will dedicate a whole teaching on this topic alone.