A detailed painting depicting Jesus with his disciples in a temple setting. Jesus, with long dark hair and a beard, is shown in profile, wearing a white robe, looking towards the right. He is surrounded by several men in traditional Jewish attire, including striped head coverings and robes. The background features a grand building with classical columns and arches, with other figures visible in the distance. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the figures against the darker background.

The Greatest Commandments, the Law, and the Prophets

Introduction

Course Outline

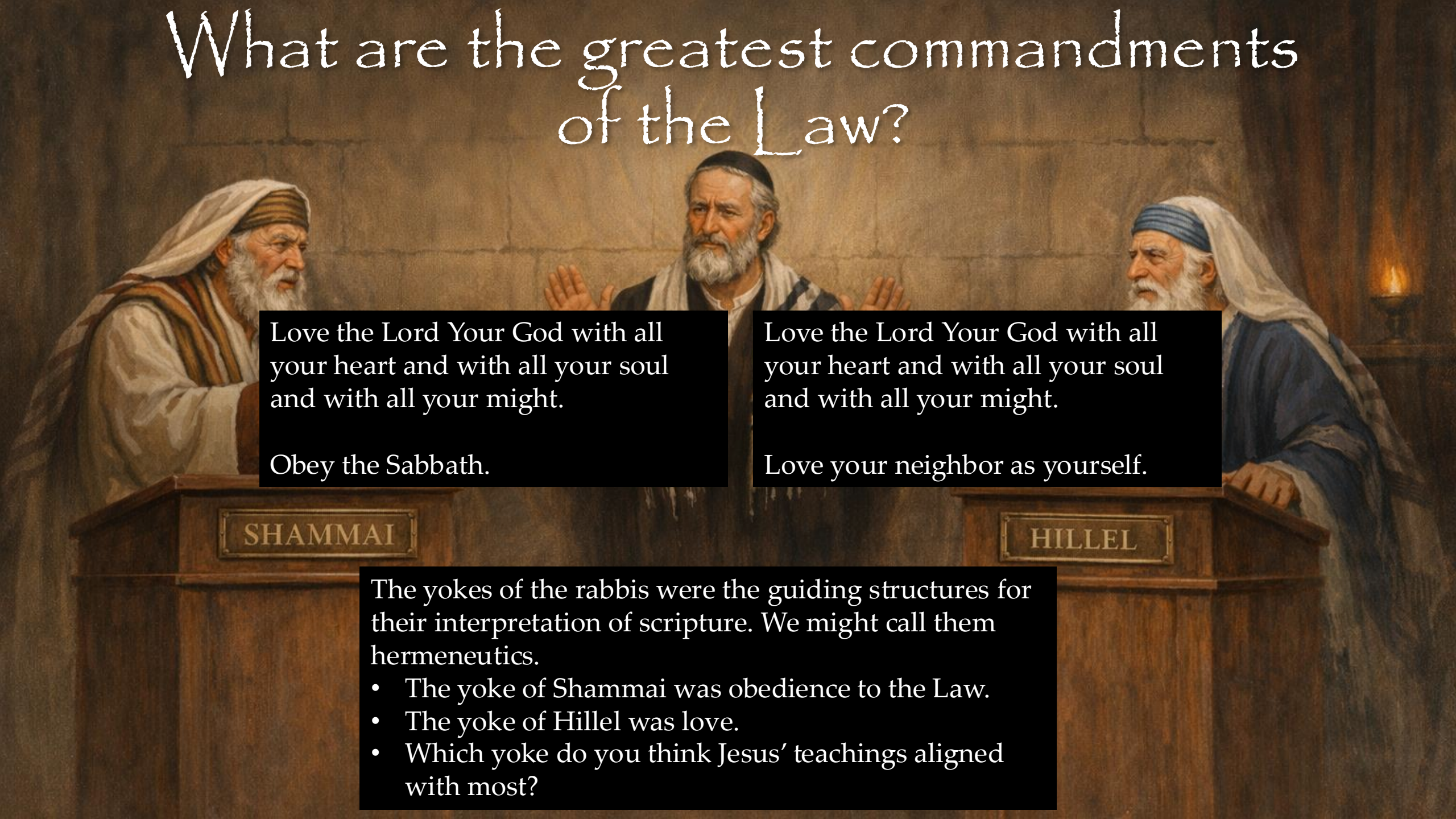
- Week 1 – The Greatest Commandments
- Week 2 – Loving God and Neighbor Before the Law
- Week 3 – The Greatest Commandments and the Law, Part 1: The Ten Commandments and Ceremonial Law
- Week 4 – The Greatest Commandments and the Law, Part 2: Civil Law
- Week 5 – Remember Where You Came From: The Why of Obeying the Greatest Commandments
- Week 6 – Guest teacher day (Spring Break)
- Week 7 – The Greatest Commandments and the Prophets, Part 1: A Failure to Love God
- Week 8 – The Greatest Commandments and the Prophets, Part 2: A Failure to Love Neighbor
- Week 9 – Still Losing the Plot: The Parties of Judaism in Jesus' Day
- Week 10 – The Greatest Commandments and the Teachings of Jesus
- Week 11 – The Greatest Commandments and the Life of Jesus
- Week 12 – The Greatest Commandments and the Growth of the Early Church
- Week 13 – The Greatest Commandments and the Thriving Christian and Modern Church

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”



What are the greatest commandments of the Law?



Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Obey the Sabbath.

Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

The yokes of the rabbis were the guiding structures for their interpretation of scripture. We might call them hermeneutics.

- The yoke of Shammai was obedience to the Law.
- The yoke of Hillel was love.
- Which yoke do you think Jesus' teachings aligned with most?

To what commandments in the Law was Jesus (and Hillel) referring?



- Deuteronomy 6:4-5
 - Homework: Read Deuteronomy 6
 - What reasons does God give for loving Him in Deuteronomy 6?
- Leviticus 19:18
 - Homework: Read Leviticus 19:9-18
 - Who were the people to care for/treat with justice? What neighbors were included in the command to love one's neighbor, at least in this passage?

What is the relationship between the greatest commandments?

Was Jesus saying one was primary and the other was secondary in importance?

What would Paul (Romans 13:8-10) and John (I John 4:20-21) have to say in answer to these questions?

Who is my neighbor?



- Luke 10:25-37 – The Parable of the Good Samaritan
 - What is the context in which Jesus tells this parable?
 - What did Jesus have to say about the teaching that this lawyer held to?
 - When the lawyer asked “who is my neighbor”, what was Jesus’ response?
 - He tells the parable.
 - What question did Jesus ask after telling the parable? What was his response to the answer?
 - What would have been a better question for the lawyer to ask in the first place, given Jesus’ response?
 - In our time and place, should we be concerned with answering the question “who is my neighbor” or another question?