

Exodus 20:1-17 **Ten Commandments**

1 And God spoke all these words, saying:

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The entire text of the Moral Law is found in [Exodus 20:1 through Exodus 23:33] beginning with the **Ten Commandments**, ending with **instructions for inheriting the Promised Land**.
- ✧ The people are with Moses near the foot of the mountain. [Exodus 19:17 and 25]
- ✧ The people heard the voice of Elohiym as He spoke the words of the law from heaven. [Exodus 19:9, 19:19, and 20:22]
- ✧ God identified Himself as **Yehowah Elohey** (the Lord your God) **Who brought Israel out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage**.
- ✧ This special historical act of God, in bringing Israel out of bondage in Egypt and making them a special nation, was done for the purpose of showing the world that the God of

Israel is the only true God of all creation and that no other god that is worshiped by men is comparable to Him. [Exodus 7:5, 14:18, 18:11, 29:45]

- ✧ This one act becomes the special identifying act of God throughout all time for Israel to acknowledge when ever reference is made to God.
 - ✧ People today forget that God created the heavens and the earth in the first place and want to believe that it happened by itself through the process of evolution without any god, so God made this special fact in history an identifying act of revelation of Himself to the world, and still people today deny that the Exodus from Egypt ever happened.
 - ✧ Refusal to recognize the mighty acts of God reveals the true hardness of the heart of mankind to their infamous shame.
 - ✧ So the first two commandments deal with the fact that there is no other god.
- ☆ The commandments:
1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
 2. You shall not make any image of anything to represent God or to be worshiped.

With this commandment God reveals His character as a jealous God Who will not tolerate idolatry and will hold men accountable for their choices of worship.

Here God reveals that He will bring severe judgment against the people of the generations that hate Him, but will show mercy to those who love and obey Him. Thus God makes a distinction in His acceptance of people based on their attitude toward Him and His commandments.

3. You shall not take the name of Yehowah Elohey (the Lord your God) in vain.

God does not want His name connected to any kind of deceit or perjury, and He will hold anyone accountable for doing so.

4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

In this commandment God goes back to the original days of creation [Genesis 2:1-3] and reminds us that in the precedent He established by resting on the seventh day when He made that day holy, He intended for man to follow His example and make the seventh day a day of rest to honor God throughout all time.

This commandment applies to everyone, Jew and Gentile alike. It was established from the very beginning and given to the Gentiles long before it was stated as a commandment for Israel at Mount Sinai (Mount Horeb).

5. Honor your father and mother.

This is the first commandment that comes with a promise of blessing for honoring it, that it might go well with you and you may be long upon the land which Yehowah Elohey (the Lord your God) is giving you. [Ephesians 6:2]

6. You shall not murder (**rtsaach**).

This Hebrew word (**rtsaach**) is translated as “kill” in the old King James translation which has led to many false doctrinal concepts in Christendom where

they apply it to the death penalty in our laws, killing animals, and killing in battle, etc. However **the primary meaning is murder** of another human being.

The word (**muwth**) is the word used to **require** the death penalty God demands for various sins also included in the moral laws of God.

The death penalty handed out by mankind against the murderer is fully in conformity with God's command to Noah that "'Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.'" [\[Genesis 9:6\] NKJV](#)

7. You shall not commit adultery.

This command continues as a law for the Church today as it is included in the judgment handed down to the Gentile believers by the Apostles in [\[Acts 15:20, 29, 21:25\]](#)

In [\[Revelation 21:8, 22:15\]](#) we learn that those who practice sexual immorality will have no place in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth God has prepared for the Saints.

8. You shall not steal.

Theft is the fruit of covetousness which is forbidden in the last of the ten commandments.

9. You shall not bear false witness.

Perjury in court wrests justice from the one on trial, and because of the damage to the reputation of the innocent, it is fully forbidden by God's laws. This also applies to slander, gossip, and the like. All liars will have their part in the eternal Lake of Fire. [\[Revelation 21:8\]](#)

10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to another.

The last of the ten commandments deals with the basis of most of mankind's sins. God will fully hold us accountable for our attitude toward covetousness.

☆ All these commandments were heard by the Children of Israel from the voice of God Himself as He spoke to Moses from the mountain in their hearing while the Children of Israel stood near the foot of the mountain.