

The Book of Exodus

The Ten Commandments

Text: Exodus 20:1-17

Introduction:

1. Before giving the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel, God manifested Himself in power on Mount Sinai.
2. He instructed the Israelites to prepare and sanctify themselves for their meeting with Him.
3. On the third day, God spoke to the people and delivered the Ten Commandments.

I. “Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Before Me” (Exodus 20:1-3)

- A. This command is based upon the oneness of God – there is no other.
 1. God had proved this in the Exodus and the destruction of Egypt.
 2. Thus, there were no other gods to be placed before or equal to Jehovah.
- B. This command is foundational to all others that would follow.
 1. If God is, then He has all authority.
 2. The duty of man is to recognize and submit to that authority.
- C. This command was to govern every aspect of life.
- D. In the New Testament (Matt. 4:10; 6:24; 1 Cor. 8:4-6).

II. “Thou Shalt Not Make ...Any Graven Image” (Exodus 20:4-6)

- A. Since there is no God but Jehovah, one should not create false idols.
- B. Also, one must not seek to represent God (who is spirit) by anything that is physical.
 1. To idolize is to focus on certain aspects while ignoring others.
 2. God must be understood and followed as He truly is – in all aspects of His character.
- C. In the New Testament (Acts 17:29; 19:26ff; Gal. 5:19-20; 1 John 5:21)

III. “Thou Shalt Not Take The Name Of ...God In Vain” (Exodus 20:7)

- A. Since Jehovah is God – and the only God – He must be revered and respected.
- B. His name is not to be profaned or used lightly.
 1. It is not a curse to be pronounced upon others.
 2. It is not a mystical word with magic powers.
 3. It is not to be used in dishonest oaths.
- C. In the New Testament (Matt. 5:33ff; 6:9; 26:16ff; Eph. 4:29; James 5:12)

IV. “Remember The Sabbath Day” (Exodus 20:8-11)

- A. The keeping of this command would demonstrate great faith in Jehovah.
- B. Though it brought benefits to man, its purpose was to honor God.
- C. In the New Testament – *this command is not given in the New Testament!*

A SUMMATION OF THE FIRST FOUR COMMANDS:

1. God is to be known and obeyed.
2. God is to be worshipped.
3. God is to be revered.
4. God is to be trusted.

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- V. “Honor Thy Father And Thy Mother” (Exodus 20:12)
- A. The Sanctity of the Home
 - B. The home is the oldest, God-ordained institution – beginning in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:21-25; cf. Matt. 19:1-9).
 - 1. One man and one woman are joined together in a union that is to last for life.
 - 2. As parents, they have authority over and responsibility for the home (Eph. 6:1-4).
 - C. The home is foundational to society; thus, the nation would be preserved (cf. Deut. 6:2; 25:15; Eph. 6:2-3).
 - D. In the New Testament (Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20; Matt. 19:19)
- VI. “Thou Shalt Not Kill” (Exodus 20:13)
- A. The Sanctity of Life
 - B. Literally, the command is: “Thou shalt do no murder.”
 - C. All life is precious – from conception to death – and must be held so by society.
 - D. In the New Testament (Matt. 5:21-26; Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:21; 1 Tim. 1:9; 1 Jn. 3:12-15)
- VII. “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery” (Exodus 20:14)
- A. The Sanctity of Marriage
 - B. The vows of marriage must be held sacred and respected.
 - 1. By those who have taken them
 - 2. By those outside of the marriage
 - C. In the New Testament (Matt. 5:27-32; Rom. 7:2-3; Gal. 5:19; Heb. 13:4; 2 Pet. 2:14)
- VIII. “Thou Shalt Not Steal” (Exodus 20:15)
- A. The Sanctity of Personal Property
 - B. This principle is foundational to a free and just society (cf. Amos 8:4-6).
 - C. In the New Testament (Matt. 15:19; Luke 3:13-14; John 12:6; 1 Cor. 6:10; Eph. 4:28)
- IX. “Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness” (Exodus 20:16)
- A. The Sanctity of One’s Word
 - B. This command applied to a court of law, but also to the general slander of another.
 - C. Honesty is foundational to a righteous life and a just society.
 - D. In the New Testament (Eph. 4:31; 1 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 3:3; Jam. 4:11; 1 Pet. 3:10)
- X. “Thou Shalt Not Covet” (Exodus 20:17)
- A. The Sanctity of One’s Heart
 - B. This command does not forbid an outward act, but an inward attitude.
 - C. To keep one’s self from sin, one must learn to discipline and control the mind.
 - D. In the New Testament (Luke 12:15; 1 Cor. 6:10; Phil. 3:19; Col. 3:15; 1 Tim. 6:6ff)