

# MYTH BUSTERS

## DAY FOUR: MYTHS ABOUT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS *THE GIVING OF THE LAW AT MOUNT SINAI*

Exodus 20

Introduction:

1. The events that happened at Mount Sinai are fascinating and exciting to study.
2. It was an important day in the history of God's people under the Old Testament.
3. Yet, many have misunderstood the law that was given there and its purpose.
4. There are many myths that exist and that are taught about the Ten Commandments.
5. In this lesson, we will find out what the Bible teaches about the Ten Commandments.

- I. The Giving of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19)
  - A. Three months after coming out of Egypt, the Israelites came to Mount Sinai.
  - B. God declared that He had brought them unto Himself in order to make a covenant with them.
    1. They would become God's people.
    2. They would become a kingdom of priests.
    3. They would become a holy nation.
  - C. The people agreed to this and desired to enter into this covenant with God.
  - D. Thus, God manifested His presence and appeared on Mount Sinai.
    1. In the morning of the third day
    2. With thunder and lightning
    3. In a thick cloud upon the mountain
    4. With the sound of an exceedingly loud trumpet
    5. In fire and rising smoke
    6. With an earthquake
  - E. The people trembled with fear and awe at the amazing power of God.
  - F. Then, God Himself spoke in an audible voice from the mountain and gave Israel the Ten Commandments! (Cf. Exo. 20:1; Deut. 4:33, 36; 5:4, 22-27)
- II. The Meaning of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
  - A. **"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me"**
    1. This commandment is based upon the fact that there is no other God besides Jehovah."
    2. God had proven this by defeating the false gods of Egypt with the 10 Plagues and the destruction of the Egyptian army at the Red Sea.
    3. Thus, idolatry – worshipping any other god – was forbidden.
    4. This command is foundational to all others that would follow.
  - B. **"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image"**
    1. Since there is no God but Jehovah, one should not create false idols.
    2. One must not seek to represent God with anything inferior to Him.

- a. God is a spirit (John 4:24).
    - b. Thus, He cannot be represented by anything that is physical.
  - 3. God must be understood and followed as He truly is – in all aspects of His nature and character.
- C. **“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain”**
  - 1. God must be revered and respected.
  - 2. His name is not to be profaned or used lightly.
- D. **“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy”**
  - 1. The keeping of this commandment demonstrated great faith in God.
  - 2. It reminded them of His power, provisions, and promises.
  - 3. Its purpose was to honor God.
- E. **“Honor thy father and thy mother”**
  - 1. This commandment emphasized the sanctity of the home.
  - 2. Note that a home is one man and one woman joined together in marriage for life (Gen. 2:21-25; Matt. 19:1-9; Rom. 7:1-4).
  - 3. As parents, they have authority over and responsibility for the home (Eph. 6:1-4).
  - 4. Thus, children must respect and obey their parents.
- F. **“Thou shalt not kill”**
  - 1. This commandment emphasized the sanctity of life.
  - 2. Literally, it states: “Thou shalt do no murder.”
  - 3. All life is precious and must be treated so by society.
- G. **“Thou shalt not commit adultery”**
  - 1. This commandment emphasized the sanctity of marriage.
  - 2. The vows of marriage must be held sacred and respected.
    - a. By those who have taken them (by remaining faithful)
    - b. By those outside of the marriage (by not interfering)
- H. **“Thou shalt not steal”**
  - 1. This commandment emphasized the sanctity of personal property.
  - 2. This principle is foundational to a free and just society (cf. Amos 8:4-6).
  - 3. It is wrong to take from another that which is not one’s own.
- I. **“Thou shalt not bear false witness”**
  - 1. This commandment emphasized the sanctity of one’s word.
  - 2. It mean that men should not lie to or about one another.
  - 3. Honesty is foundational to a righteous life and a just society.
- J. **“Thou shalt not covet”**
  - 1. This commandment emphasized the sanctity of one’s heart.
  - 2. It forbids and inward attitude of greed, envy, or lust.
  - 3. To keep one’s self from sin, one must learn to discipline the mind.

### III. Myths about the Ten Commandments

- A. **Myth One: *The Ten Commandments are God’s eternal law.***
  - 1. This argument is usually made by those who want to bind the 10 Commandments on men today, especially the keeping of the Sabbath Day.
  - 2. They claim that the 10 Commandments are eternal – and, always have been and always must be kept by men who follow God.
  - 3. What they fail to understand is that the 10 Commandments were a part of a covenant that God made with Israel at Mount Sinai.
  - 4. There are three Bible Ages or Dispensations of history:
    - a. The Patriarchal Age – *from Creation to Mount Sinai*
    - b. The Mosaic Age – *from Mount Sinai to Pentecost*

- c. The Christian Age – *from Pentecost to the end of time*
- 5. Obviously, those during the Patriarchal Age did not keep the 10 Commandments, for they had not been given.
  - a. This does not mean that they were allowed to murder, etc.
  - b. But, those commands were given as a part of the law that they lived under (cf. Gen. 4:10; 9:6; etc.).
- 6. The Sabbath Day was not kept until the Law of Moses was given.
  - a. They claim that, in the beginning, God created six days for man to use, but the seventh day belongs to Him.
  - b. Genesis 2:3 states that God sanctified the Sabbath, but it does not state when that happened.
    - i. Remember that Moses wrote Genesis 2,500 years after the events occurred.
    - ii. Grammatically, God sanctified the seventh day after He had rested in it; thus, it was not sanctified at its creation.
  - c. There is no record of anyone keeping the Sabbath Day during the Patriarchal Age.
  - d. The Sabbath is not mentioned until Exodus 16:22-23, in connection with and in preparation for the Law of Moses.
  - e. Moses was not aware of the Sabbath until God told him about it (cf. Num. 15:32-36).
  - f. God made known the Sabbath at Mount Sinai (Neh. 9:13-14).
- 7. The 10 Commandments were given specifically to the people of Israel as a part of their specific covenant with God.
- 8. They are not an eternal law that men are still bound by today.
- B. **Myth Two:** *We are still under the Ten Commandments today.*
  - 1. The 10 Commandments were not given to us, but to the nation of Israel (Deut. 5:1-6, 12-15; cf. 4:7-8).
  - 2. The 10 Commandments are a part of the Law of Moses – which law has been taken away (Ezra 7:6; Neh. 8:1-8; Luke 2:22-24; Heb. 10:9).
  - 3. Christians are “dead” to the 10 Commandments (Rom. 7:1-7).
  - 4. The 10 Commandments are “done away” (2 Cor. 3:5-11).
  - 5. Christians are “redeemed from” the 10 Commandments (Gal. 3:11-29).
  - 6. The 10 Commandments are “broken down” (Eph. 2:11-17).
  - 7. The 10 Commandments are nailed to the cross (Col. 2:13-17).
  - 8. The 10 Commandments were given through Moses; but, our lawgiver today is Jesus (Mark 7:10; John 7:19; Jam. 4:12; Heb. 10:28-29).
  - 9. The 10 Commandments no longer have authority (Matt. 28:18; 5:17).
  - 10. The 10 Commandments cannot save (Gal. 2:14-21; Heb. 10:1-4, 9-14).
- C. **Myth Three:** *We are supposed to keep the Sabbath Day still today.*
  - 1. Those who make this claim really do not believe what they say.
  - 2. They only want Christians to assemble for worship on Saturday instead of Sunday.
  - 3. They do not keep the many restrictions that were a part of observing the Sabbath Day.
    - a. No work was to be done (Exo. 16:26; 20:10; 31:14-15; 35:2).
    - b. No fire was to be kindled (Exo. 16:23; 35:3).
    - c. No travelling was to take place (Exo. 16:29; Acts 1:12; Mat. 24:20).
    - d. No buying or selling was to be done (Amos 8:5; Neh. 10:31; 13:15ff)
    - e. No burden was to be borne (Jer. 17:21-22).
    - f. One’s pleasure was not to be done (Isa. 58:13).

4. Because the Sabbath Day was a part of the 10 Commandments (the Law of Moses), they are no longer binding upon us.
  5. Today, all men live under the Law of Christ – the New Testament.
  6. Under the Gospel, Christians are to assemble to worship on the Lord's Day, the first day of the week (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:2, 9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10).
- D. **Myth Four:** *If you don't believe in the Ten Commandments, you believe it is okay to murder, steal, etc.*
1. This is not true because every instruction given in the 10 Commandments is also given in the Gospel of Christ – with one exception, the law to remember the Sabbath Day.
  2. **“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”** (Matt. 4:10; 6:24; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; etc.).
  3. **“Thou shalt not make ...any graven image”** (Acts 17:29; 19:26ff; Gal. 5:19-20; 1 John 5:21; etc.).
  4. **“Thou shalt not take the name of ...God in vain”** (Matt. 5:33ff; 6:9; 26:16ff; Eph. 4:29; Jam. 5:12).
  5. **“Honor thy father and thy mother”** (Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20; Matt. 19:19).
  6. **“Thou shalt not kill”** (Matt. 5:21-26; Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:21; 1 Tim. 1:9; 1 John 3:12-15; etc.).
  7. **“Thou shalt not commit adultery”** (Matt. 5:27-32; Rom. 7:2-3; Gal. 5:19; Heb. 13:4; 2 Pet. 2:14; etc.).
  8. **“Thou shalt not steal”** (Matt. 15:19; Luke 3:13-14; John 12:6; 1 Cor. 6:10; Eph. 4:28; etc.).
  9. **“Thou shalt not bear false witness”** (Eph. 4:31; 1 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 3:3; Jam. 4:11; 1 Pet. 3:10; etc.).
  10. **“Thou shalt not covet”** (Luke 12:15; 1 Cor. 6:10; Phil. 3:19; Col. 3:15; 1 Tim. 6:6ff; etc.).
  11. We keep these rules because they are a part of the Gospel of Christ, not because they are the 10 Commandments!

Conclusion:

1. It is important to know and understand what law we live under today.
2. Much confusion is caused when men try to bind parts of both the Old and New Testaments upon people today.
3. We are to learn from the Old Testament Scriptures, but they are not God's binding law for men today (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:1-11; etc.).
4. Today, all men are accountable to the Gospel of Christ (Heb. 1:1-2).