



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

I. ARRIVING AT MOUNT SINAI (19)

A. (v. 1-2)

1. **"In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount."**

a. "the third month" - Sivan 1

1) It has been 45 days since they left Egypt, and they finally arrive at Mt. Sinai.

a) They left Egypt on the 15th day of the *first* month (12:37; Num. 33:3).

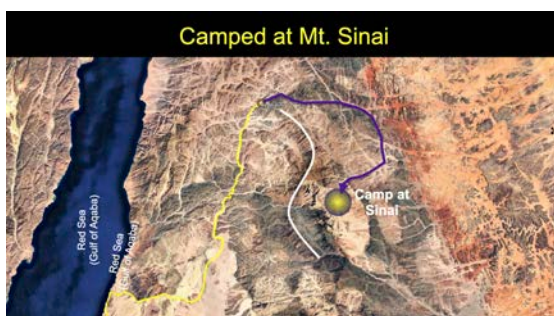
b) They arrived in the Wilderness of Sin on the 15th day of the *second* month, exactly 30 days after leaving Egypt (16:1).

c) They now arrive at Mt. Sinai on the first day of the *third* month, thus 45 days since leaving Egypt. (19:1-2)

b. "there Israel camped before the mount"

1) Israel will be camped here for the next 11 months and 20 days (Num. 10:11), until God leads them out of the Sinai area.

a) **NOTE:** We will be camped in Sinai for the next 58 CHAPTERS!!! (Exodus 19-40; Leviticus; Numbers 1-10:10)





Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"



B. (v. 5-6)

1. ***"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel."***

a. "peculiar treasure" - Heb. "treasured possession; valued property"¹

1) Our modern English word "peculiar" has the idea of strange or odd, but the KJV is using the old English word for "belonging exclusively to" or "special; particular".

2) **Q** = Do you realize how valuable you are to God?...

a) Cf. **Matthew 10:29-31** - Jesus said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of **more value** than many sparrows."

b) Cf. **Acts 20:28** - "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

¹ Cf. Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Isaiah 43:21; Malachi 3:17
2 of 16



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- c) Cf. **Ephesians 1:17-18** - Paul the apostle said that his prayer for the Church was, "*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of **His inheritance in the saints,***"

- b. "kingdom of priests"
 - 1) A priest was a man who stood before God representing the people, but he also stood before the people representing God. The Nation of Israel was to be a special people who would represent God before the world.
 - 2) The whole world was to be able to look at the Nation of Israel as a way to know God.
 - a) **NOTE:** The N.T. also teaches the priesthood of all believers in the Church (**Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6**).
 - i. **Q** = As Christians today, we are God's representatives. The world is watching you. What kind of representative are you?...
 - b) **KEY:** The Lord is giving this promise to the Nation of Israel, and is fulfilled in Jewish Believers today (the Remnant of Israel)! (**1 Peter 2:9-10**)
 - i. **NOTE:** Jewish believers today are part of the Church, thus have a *dual* priesthood as the Nation of Israel and as part of the Church!

- c. "an holy nation"
 - 1) "holy" - Heb. *qadosh* - "*sacred; consecrated; separated*"
 - a) Israel became a *nation* at Sinai and became *holy* through their separation from the whole of humanity.



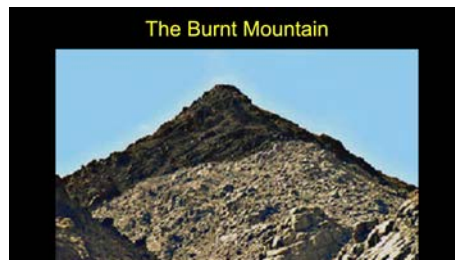
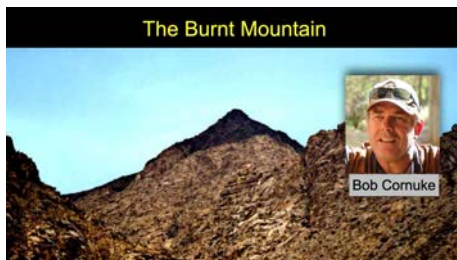
Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- d. Cf. **1 Peter 2:9-10** - The Apostle Peter, in speaking of Jewish believers, said, "*But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*"
- 1) **KEY:** The apostle Peter, in his first epistle, was writing to JEWISH BELIEVERS in the Diaspora,² declared that believing Jews today (the Remnant of Israel) are the fulfillment of Israel's original calling! Though the rest of Israel has failed throughout their history, the true Israel are those that are believers in Jesus, their Messiah.

C. (v. 18)

1. "**And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.**"

- a. "the LORD descended upon it in fire"

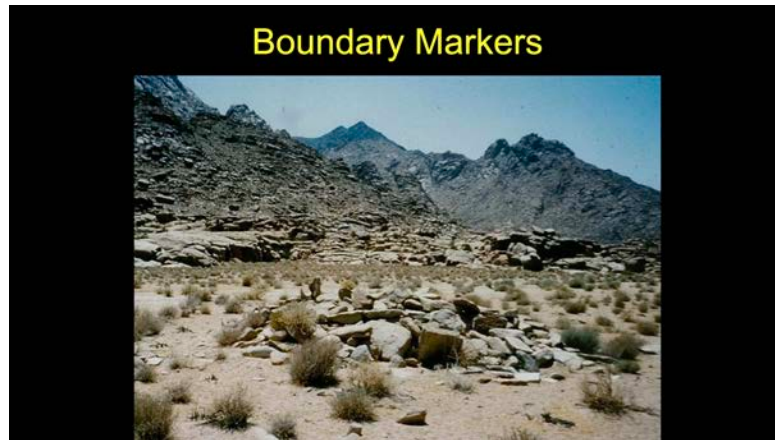




Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

D. (v. 23)

1. ***"And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it."***
 - a. "Set bounds about the mount"



E. (v. 24)

1. ***"And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them."***
 - a. Evidently, there were those that did not heed the word of the Lord and tried to approach the mountain without being sanctified, and they died!
 - 1) Cf. **Hebrews 12:25-26** - *"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven."*



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- a) There were those that *refused* to listen to God and thought they had a special right to come before Him.
- b) Today, there are those that think they are above the rules and that God will make special provision for them.
 - i. "I know what I'm doing is wrong, but God knows my heart."
 - ii. "I know the Bible says that what I'm doing is sin, but He's a loving and forgiving God."
- c) **KEY:** You cannot come to God in your own way or on your own terms! You have to come His way and through His provision.

II. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (20)

FIRST TABLE – RELATIONSHIP TO GOD:

A. (v. 2-3) **COMMANDMENT #1 – *No Other gods before YHVH***

1. "I am the LORD thy God"

- a. God has revealed Himself to them. (19:16-24)
 - 1) He revealed Himself as the Creator of the universe, that brought it into being out of nothing. He is the Self-Existent, Everlasting, Eternal God.
 - a) Cf. **Hebrews 10:31** - "*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*"
 - b) Cf. **Hebrews 12:29** - "*For our God is a consuming fire.*" (w/ **Deut. 4:24; 9:3**)
 - 2) The trouble with every one of us is that we don't know God.
 - a) If you truly knew His character, and that He was watching everything you do (even in secret), it would impact the way you live. Knowing the eye of God is upon us, we should be so concerned with our behavior and attitudes.



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- b. God has revealed Himself as LIGHT & HOLY.
- 1) Cf. **1 John 1:5** - "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is **light**, and in him is **no darkness at all.**"
 - 2) Cf. **James 1:17** - "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from **the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**"
 - 3) Cf. **1 Timothy 6:16** - "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light **which no man can approach unto**; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."
 - a) **KEY:** Any person that was in the presence of God saw themselves in the light of God, and they realized their own sinfulness.
 - i. Cf. **Isaiah 6:1-7** - Isaiah said, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips..."
 - ii. Cf. **Luke 5:8** - When Peter saw the miracle that Jesus did and realized Who He was, "he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

2. "before" - Heb. "in the presence of; besides"

- a. This does *not* mean that God needs to just be first in your life, but then you have have other gods too after Him.
- b. God is saying that there are to be NO OTHER GODS! Period!
 - 1) Jesus said, "It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and **Him only** shalt thou serve." (**Matthew 4:10; Deut. 6:13**)
- c. He wants to have top priority in your life. Any desire, wish, ambition that you might have that is greater than your desire for Him, is idolatry.
- d. **KEY:** We are not to have anything else as a god in our lives (i.e. husband, wife, children, career, material things, pleasure, etc.) The top priority in my life should be to have a right relationship with God. That should exceed every other pursuit.



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- 1) Jesus asked, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36)
- e. **Q** = How about you this morning, would you say that you have a right relationship with God? Is your relationship with Him the most important thing in your life? Do you love Him and always put Him first in everything?...

B. (v. 4-6) **COMMANDMENT #2 – Do Not Make Idols**

1. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:..."

- a. This is NOT a prohibition to making carved images for decorative or artistic purposes, but only those used in *religious worship*.
 - 1) God would have them make cherubim on top of the Ark of the Covenant (25:18), but they would not worship it or bow down to it. Actually, the people were forbidden to even see it, and the high priest would only go in once a year on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16).
 - 2) It's okay to have crosses, angels on your fireplace, etc., the prohibition is to *bow down* and *serve* them.
- b. **Q** = Why are we not to make images?... Because all of them detract from the glory of God!
 - 1) To reduce God to an image that man makes is to detract God from Who He is and takes away from His everlasting glory! Therefore, away with images!

c. **APPLICATION:**

- 1) Be careful about religious symbols and images as reminders of God.
 - a) Some people say that they need a cross over their doorway or picture of Jesus on their wall to remind them that God is with them. That's a violation of the 2nd commandment. They've made an image to represent God.
 - b) Those that need an image to remind them about God have lost a consciousness of the presence of God.



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- 2) People today don't bow down to wooden or stone idols, but some people make a god of their own minds and a god that suits them.
 - a) Some people want to believe in a god that is loving and merciful, but not holy and just. They don't want to believe in a god of wrath and judgment. That is forming an idol in your mind and fashioning a god of your own making. Idolatry!
 - b) Someone might say, "Well, I don't agree with what the Bible says. If I were God...", and in saying that, you are making a god up of your own imagination. God has revealed Himself, and to disagree with what He says is to make your own image of God.
 - c) **NOTE:** A person's god is usually a projection of themselves, and because they want to worship a god that they are projecting, they are in essence worshiping themselves!
 - i. "I think God is like this because I want to think He is like that. Thus, I will worship the God that I think He should be." Idolatry.
 - ii. "Why would God do that?! If I were God, I would do it differently." Idolatry.

2. "...for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God..."

- a. The word "jealous" when used of God is different than human jealousy, which is sinful ([Galatians 5:20](#)).
 - 1) God is not *jealous* because He doesn't have something He wants or needs. He is jealous for what rightly belongs to Him.
 - a) **Illust.** - If some guy started flirting with my wife, my jealousy would be justified and right. She's my girl! In contrast, if I wasn't married, and a guy was flirting with a girl that wasn't dating me, my jealousy would be wrong because she doesn't belong to me and I'm wanting her to fulfill my need of companionship!
 - 2) God is jealous when anyone or anything else steals the devotion of His beloved. However, it is not because He lacks



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

or needs anything, but He is jealous FOR us because He knows that devotion to anything else will only hurt us!

a) NOT: "I'm jealous because I need you."

b) BUT: "I'm jealous because you need Me!"

3) **KEY:** God is not *jealous* because He needs our love and devotion, but He's *jealous* because we need Him! He wants us to be filled with His love, and He knows that idolatry brings death.

3. "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

a. This is not saying that God will pass the *guilt* of the father upon the children ([Ezekiel 18:20](#)), but the *consequences* of the father's sins are passed on to the third and fourth generation "of them that hate Me".

1) You can see in society that the *propensity* towards certain sins are passed on from generation to generation.

a) A lot of alcoholics have a parent that was an alcoholic, and they follow in their footsteps.

b) There are children that are born addicted to drugs because the mother was on drugs when she was pregnant, so the child struggles with drug use during their life.

b. However, if the children will *love* God and follow Him, they can break the chain and God will show mercy!

C. (v. 7) **COMMANDMENT #3 – Do Not Blaspheme**

1. **Profanity:** We are not use God's name as a cuss-word.

a. "OMG"; "Jesus Christ" in a derogatory manner; "Good God"; "Oh my Lord". This is taking the name of the Eternal God in vain!

2. **Hypocrisy:** It is so much more than profanity, it also has the idea of calling Him "Lord" ("Master"), but not allowing Him to be the *Lord* of your entire life.



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- a. Cf. **Luke 6:46** - Jesus said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
- b. **KEY:** If you're not obeying Him, you've taken His name in vain. That's hypocrisy!
 - 1) If you call yourself a Christian, but you're living contrary to the Word of God, you are taking His name in vain.
 - a) **KEY:** The greatest blasphemy is not what you hear in an R-rated movie or on the job site, but the greatest blasphemy is that of those who make an acknowledgment of God in their words, and maybe even in their deeds by attending church and so forth, and yet God doesn't have a place in their daily life through the week.

D. (v. 8-11) COMMANDMENT #4 – Keep the Sabbath Day

1. "Remember" - Heb. "recall; think about; be mindful"

- a. Every week, they were to *think about* the Sabbath day and *set it apart* ("keep it holy").
 - 1) This is not to be a day like any other day in the week where you do your normal tasks. God wants one day for Himself because He knows how busy we are and that we are prone to forget Him!
- b. God is saying, "One day in seven, stop everything and give it to Me! Worship Me; think about Me; praise Me!"
 - 1) **Q** = Are there other things in your life that become a priority than to worship God for one day a week?...
 - a) I'm amazed at some of the excuses we make and things we do instead of coming to Church.
- c. **KEY:** I'm not talking about Sabbatarianism. I don't believe in that. It's not Legalism! It's this: Thank God that we have one day that we can give entirely to Him!

2. There are those that say that Christians are violating the Sabbath day by worshiping on Sunday.

- a. They'll say that it's Biblical to worship on Saturday, and that if you worship on Sunday, you're in sin. Some even go so far as to say that you've taken the Mark of the Beast if you worship on Sunday.



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

b. **Q** = Are we as Christians supposed to observe the Sabbath day on Saturday?...

1) The Sabbath was not instituted to enslave people, but to benefit them.

a) Cf. **Mark 2:27** - The Sabbath day was instituted as a day of rest and worship, and Jesus corrected the distorted views of the Pharisees when He said, "*The Sabbath was made from man, and not man for the Sabbath.*"

2) The Sabbath day was a shadow of the redemption that we would have in Christ, and it symbolized the ceasing from our own works and *resting* in His finished work.

a) Cf. **Deuteronomy 5:15** - The Sabbath observance was associated with redemption.

b) Cf. **Colossians 2:16-17** - Paul the apostle said, "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*"

c) Cf. **Hebrews 4:3-6, 9-10** - "*For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: ... There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."*

3) New Testament believers are not under the O.T. Law.
(**Acts 15:1-32; Romans 6:14; Galatians 3:24-25**)

4) The Early Church gathered for worship on the first day of the week, i.e. Sunday. (**Acts 20:6-7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2**)

a) They gathered on Sundays because:

i. Sunday was the day Jesus rose from the dead.
(**Matt 28:1; John 20:1**)



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

- ii. Sunday was the day Jesus appeared to His disciples the following week after His resurrection ([John 20:26](#)).
- iii. Sunday was the day the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost. ([Lev 23:15-16](#); [Acts 2:1-4](#))
- iv. Sunday was the day that Jesus was publicly announced as the Messiah to the Nation of Israel. ([Daniel 9:25](#); [Luke 19:28-44](#))
- v. The writings of early church fathers affirmed that believers were meeting on Sundays as the Lord's Day—Barnabas, Justin Martyr, Didache, Ignatius, Dionysius, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian, Cyril of Jerusalem, Origen, etc.
 - a. There are those that say that the Church started worshiping on Sunday because of Constantine in the 4th century, however, that's just not historically accurate.

5) Thus, the SPIRIT of the Sabbath observance is continued in the NT observance of rest and worship on the first day of the week!

- a) Cf. [Romans 14:5](#) - Paul the apostle wrote, "*One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*"
 - i. I'm of the persuasion that every day is alike! I worship God every day.

SECOND TABLE — RELATIONSHIP TO OTHERS:

E. (v. 12) COMMANDMENT #5 — Honor Your Parents

- 1. The Family unit is the foundation of society, and is a REFLECTION of our relationship to God.**
 - a. God is our Heavenly *Father*.
 - b. He is the One that brought Fatherhood and Motherhood into being. He ordained the family, and all these things are a reflection of our relationship to Him.
2. Cf. [Ephesians 6:1-3](#); [Colossians 3:20](#)



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

F. (v. 13) **COMMANDMENT #6 – Do not Murder**

1. **Q** = Why are we not to murder another human being?... Because they were made in the image of God!
 - a. Cf. **Genesis 9:6** - "*Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*"
 - b. Each individual is created by God and made in His image. To murder someone is to violate God's image and to declare their life as worthless.
2. Cf. **Matthew 5:21-22** - Jesus took it a step further when He said, "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*"

G. (v. 14) **COMMANDMENT #7 – Do Not Commit Adultery**

1. **God ordained that one man and one woman should come together and become "one flesh" in marriage.** (**Genesis 2:24**)
 - a. Cf. **Mark 10:6-9** - "*But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore **God** hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*"
 - 1) God makes that married couple ONE, and you must not break that apart because you would be violating something that God has ordained.
2. Cf. **Matthew 5:27-28** - Again, Jesus showed that the Law was spiritual and governed the heart when He said, "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*"

H. (v. 15) **COMMANDMENT #8 – Do Not Steal**



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

1. **When we steal from someone, we are taking away from what God has given him. You are really taking something that belongs to God.**
2. Cf. **Ephesians 4:28** - "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

I. (v. 16) **COMMANDMENT #9 – Do Not Lie**

1. When you lie about someone else, you are declaring the opposite of what God knows to be true. He is Omniscient, and you are rebelling in the face of that knowledge.

J. (v. 17) **COMMANDMENT #10 – Do Not Covet**

1. Cf. **Romans 7:7-14** - Paul, in writing to the church at Rome, said, "*What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*"

K. (v. 24)

1. **"An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee."**
 - a. "An altar"
 - 1) We could call this "the Alter of Moses."



Exodus 19-20 | "The Ten Commandments"

