

WRITTEN WRITTEN IN STONE IN STONE

Prioritize God FIRST | Written in Stone

Exodus 20:1-3

Can I repeat the Ten Commandments?→Anyone?→**10 Commandments**

→**What is the FIRST commandment and why does it matter?**

The Ten Commandments emerge at a pivotal moment in the Israelites' journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land. God had set them free and He now desires that they LIVE FREE. These divine laws, given on Mount Sinai, represent God's expectations for a covenantal relationship with this newly formed nation and provide a moral and ethical foundation for a just and faithful society. God's people must live as representations of God!

If we want to live out the famous commands of Jesus to "Love God and love people, we better pay attention to the principles behind these commandments! Because, even though Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of perfect obedience to the expectations of God, we are still expected to LIVE FREE after He saves us! That is why these commandments were WRITTEN IN STONE. So let's hide God's Word in our hearts and meditate on their Truth.

Exodus 20:1-3: *Then God gave the people all these instructions:*

2 *"I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.*

3 *"You must not have any other god but me.*

We must learn to LOVE the Law.→Legalism...works righteousness...ignorance...I can live any way i want!

- 613 laws...God DOES tell people what to do!
 - "Approximately **43% of the Bible is made up of narrative**, from historical narrative to parables. Roughly **33% of the Bible is poetry**, including songs, reflective poetry, and the passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets. The remaining **24% of the Bible is prose discourse**, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay." - The Bible Project→God's moral law is written in stone: **moral**, ceremonial, & civil.
 - Living by God's Law leads to LIFE...because it has PURPOSE.→God comes to give life.→John 10:10
 1. **Revealing God's Holiness:** Exodus 20:7-8
 2. **Establishing God's Covenant:** Exodus 34:28
 3. **Guiding Moral and Ethical Behavior:** Exodus 20:12
 4. **Maintaining Social Order:** Exodus 21:23-25
 5. **Teaching Love and Compassion:** Leviticus 19:18
 6. **Revealing God's Will:** Psalm 119:105
 7. **Revealing Humanity's Sinfulness:** Romans 3:20
 8. **Pointing to Christ:** Galatians 3:24
 - We are set free, to LIVE FREE.→We cannot earn salvation. God has already earned it for us.→EGYPT!→Gal. 5:1
 - Love motivates us to obey (relationship!).→Grind...Gift?→Have to...get to?→Jn 14:15
 - VISION: We want to love the Law like David loved the Law→Psalm 1:1-3→Prayer: Lord, help us to love the Law.
- TRANSITION: Don't you love God's Law now?

We must not have any other gods.→This is the matter of the ALLEGIANCE of our hearts..→Egypt (430 years)

- Other gods? 29/Over 2k.→PLAGUES: Judgements on Egypt's Gods (1).→Egypt's those other gods.
 1. **Water Turned to Blood: Hapi - Egyptian God of the Nile:** Challenged Hapi's association with the Nile River.
 2. **Frogs: Heket - Egyptian Goddess of Fertility:** Heket, often depicted with the head of a frog, saw her sacred animal, the frog, flood Egypt during the second plague.
 3. **Lice: Geb - Egyptian God of the Earth:** Geb's connection to the earth was challenged as Aaron's rod turned dust into lice, affecting the land itself.
 4. **Flies: Khepri - Egyptian God of the morning sun & creation:** Khepri, represented with the head of a fly or scarab, saw swarms of flies plague Egypt.
 5. **Death of Cattle: Hathor - Egyptian Goddess of Love:** Hathor, depicted with cow horns, was challenged as the cattle of the Egyptians died.

6. **Boils and Sores: Isis - Egyptian Goddess of Medicine:** Isis, associated with medicine and healing, couldn't prevent the outbreak of painful boils and sores.

7. **Hail: Nut - Egyptian Goddess of the Sky:** The hail, falling from the sky, challenged Nut.

8. **Locusts: Seth - Egyptian God of Storms:** Seth, connected to storms and disorder, couldn't stop destruction.

9. **Darkness: Ra - The Sun God:** Directly challenged Ra, the sun god, who couldn't bring sunshine.

10. **Death of the Firstborn: Pharaoh - King of Egypt:** Pharaoh, believed to be divine, experienced the death of his firstborn, along with all Egyptian firstborns, challenging his authority and status as the king of Egypt.

• **Prioritize God FIRST.** → Do we have other gods...allegiance?! → Cain/Abel: Gen. 4 → Zarepheth widow: 1 Kings 17 → Jesus: "You can't serve two masters! Luke 16 → Who is serving who? → Is it serving me as I serve Jesus?"

1. **Technology:** Do we prioritize our devices, social media platforms, and the internet?

2. **Wealth & Materialism:** Do we prioritize our pursuit of wealth, luxury, and material possessions?

3. **Celebrities & Influencers:** Do we prioritize pop culture, celebrities, social media influencers?

4. **Science & Knowledge:** Do we prioritize our scientific understanding and knowledge?

5. **Health & Fitness:** Do we prioritize our physical well-being and fitness? Human body worship?

6. **Nationalism & Politics:** Do we prioritize extreme patriotism and political ideologies that lead to the worship of a nation or a particular political leader, with unwavering loyalty and devotion?

7. **Consumerism & Brands:** Do we prioritize our brands and consumer products where they hold significant sway over people's lives?

8. **Nature & Environmentalism:** Do we prioritize the worship of nature and environmental causes?

9. **Substances, Drugs, & Medications:** Do we prioritize the substances in our lives that make us feel better regardless of the intensity or their consuming nature or their steady but hostile take over of our lives.

10. **Entertainment & Pop Culture:** Fandoms and fan cultures around movies, TV shows, books, and music can be quite intense, with fans showing unwavering loyalty to their favorite franchises and artists.

11. **Self-Image & Identity:** The pursuit of self-improvement and self-identity can become a form of self-worship. People may focus on personal development, self-expression, and self-discovery with great zeal.

• **Thank God He didn't bring up football?** → We bought NFL Ticket...because this video wall serves Jesus!

• When we prioritize God FIRST...we recognize when... → Who serves who? → **Is it serving me as I serve God?**

• **VISION:** We are a church that serves God ALONE. → Joshua 24:15 → Prayer: Lord, we see YOU ALONE.

→ **TRANSITION:** Let's move from the rule to the principle...we must **PRIORITISE GOD.**

We prioritize God by pursuing God with all of our heart, mind, soul, & strength. → Priorities require decisions & effort.

• Mk 12:29-31... → Do I love God with all my heart, mind, soul, & strength? → Holding Hands illustration.

• Heart, mind, soul, & strength → Another way? → Do I pursue God with my **TIME? ...TALENT? ...TREASURE?**

• **VISION:** "We commit, with the help of the HS, to prioritize God FIRST in our lives." → Prayer: Lord, help us!

→ **TRANSITION:** May God help us.

→ **We will prioritise God FIRST.**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What kind of rules are important in my closest relationships? Why are rules important?

2. Why is it important to understand the context of "The Exodus" to understand how these moral laws still influence our lives today? How do they relate to the the most important laws according to Jesus?

3. In what ways does legalism come into play when discussing the 613 laws in the Bible, and what is the importance of understanding the purposes of Prose Discourse/Law/Commandments?

4. How does prioritizing God by pursuing Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength manifest in our daily lives, and what are some practical examples of this prioritization in action?

5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help us to see the beauty of your Law so we can live free!"

TEACHING NUGGETS:

Why commandments? What is the purpose of the Law?

1. **Revealing God's Holiness:** Exodus 20:7-8 (NLT) - "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
2. **Establishing God's Covenant:** Exodus 34:28 (NLT) - "Moses remained there on the mountain with the Lord forty days and forty nights. In all that time, he ate no bread and drank no water. And the Lord wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments—on the stone tablets."
3. **Guiding Moral and Ethical Behavior:** Exodus 20:12 (NLT) - "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you."
4. **Maintaining Social Order:** Exodus 21:23-25 (NLT) - "But if there is further injury, the punishment must match the injury: a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot."
5. **Revealing God's Will:** Psalm 119:105 (NLT) - "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
6. **Teaching Love and Compassion:** Leviticus 19:18 (NLT) - "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."
7. **Revealing Humanity's Sinfulness:** Romans 3:20 (NLT) - "For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are."
8. **Pointing to Christ:** Galatians 3:24 (NLT) - "Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith."

God Challenges the Egyptian gods (yes...they only get a little "g") in the Plagues

1. **First Egyptian Plague - Water Turned to Blood**
 - Hapi - Egyptian God of the Nile: This plague challenged Hapi's association with the Nile River as it turned the Nile's water into blood.
2. **Second Egyptian Plague - Frogs**
 - Heket - Egyptian Goddess of Fertility: Heket, often depicted with the head of a frog, saw her sacred animal, the frog, flood Egypt during the second plague.
3. **Third Egyptian Plague - Lice**
 - Geb - Egyptian God of the Earth: Geb's connection to the earth was highlighted as Aaron's rod turned dust into lice, affecting the land itself.
4. **Fourth Egyptian Plague - Swarms of Flies**
 - Khepri - Egyptian God of the morning sun & creation: Khepri, represented with the head of a fly or scarab, saw swarms of flies plague Egypt during the fourth plague.
5. **Fifth Egyptian Plague - Death of Cattle**
 - Hathor - Egyptian Goddess of Love: Hathor, depicted as cattle, was challenged as the cattle of the Egyptians died.
6. **Sixth Egyptian Plague - Boils and Sores**
 - Isis - Egyptian Goddess of Medicine: Isis, associated with medicine and healing, couldn't prevent the outbreak of painful boils and sores during the sixth plague.
7. **Seventh Egyptian Plague - Hail**
 - Nut - Egyptian Goddess of the Sky: The hail, falling from the sky, challenged Nut, the goddess of the sky.
8. **Eighth Egyptian Plague - Locusts**
 - Seth - Egyptian God of Storms: Seth, connected to storms and disorder, witnessed the locusts' destruction during the eighth plague.
9. **Ninth Egyptian Plague - Darkness**
 - Ra - The Sun God: The ninth plague, complete darkness, directly challenged the supreme status of Ra, the sun god.
10. **Tenth Egyptian Plague - Death of the Firstborn**
 - Pharaoh - King of Egypt: Pharaoh, believed to be divine, experienced the death of his firstborn, along with all Egyptian firstborns, challenging his authority and status as the king of Egypt.

VIDEOS:



QUOTES / SONGS:

- "Approximately **43% of the Bible is made up of narrative**, from historical narrative to parables. Roughly **33% of the Bible is poetry**, including songs, reflective poetry, and the passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets. The remaining **24% of the Bible is prose discourse**, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay." - [The Bible Project](#)

ARTICLES / BOOKS:

- ["Ten Words to Live By: Delighting in and Doing What God Commands"](#): but Jen Wilkin

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- [Psalm 1:1](#) - Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
- [Psalm 1:2](#) - But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.
- [Psalm 1:3](#) - 3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.
- [Galatians 5:1](#) - So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.
- [John 10:10](#) - The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
- [John 14:15](#) - "If you love me, obey my commandments.
- [Mark 12:29-31](#) - 29 Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. 30 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31 The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."
- [Matthew 5:17](#) - "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.
- [Joshua 24:15](#) - 15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."
- [Exodus 20:1-17](#) - Then God gave the people all these instructions:
2 "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.
3 "You must not have any other god but me.
4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.
5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. 6 But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.
7 "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.
8 "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 You have six days each week for your ordinary work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.
12 "Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
13 "You must not murder.
14 "You must not commit adultery.
15 "You must not steal.
16 "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.
17 "You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

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