



Go for God!

“THE TEN & YOU!” **Exodus Chapter 20**

(v1-2) Here God reminds Israel of His divine deliverance! God never intended for the Ten Commandments to be a set of regulations by which the people of Israel would earn salvation. God's favor had already been freely granted! This was overwhelmingly demonstrated by His deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage (Deut 4:37). Therefore, at the heart of the covenant relationship lay an act of divine GRACE.

(v3-11) The first FOUR COMMANDMENTS:

- **COMMANDMENT #1** - ***"You shall have no other gods before Me"*** (Ex 20:3). Since God's character forms the basis of the covenant with His people. He demands absolute loyalty. And when the intent of the heart is to put God first, a person's outward actions will reveal it. Then others will see what God's character is like through the actions of His people. (*John 1:14-18; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8.*)

- **COMMANDMENT #2** - ***"You shall not make for yourself a carved image"*** (Ex 20:4). The second commandment is necessary because people do not always keep the first. The Israelites made a golden calf to worship even as the Lord gave the laws to Moses. And since Israel had so many contacts with people who did worship images, including replicas of their earthly rulers, God gave them this law. God has never been a tangible, visible Being (Deut 4:12), but always a Spirit (John 4:24). (*Stephen reveals the folly of Israel in Acts 7:37-43.*)

- **COMMANDMENT #3** - ***"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain"*** (Ex 20:7). God's name and His character are inseparable. Using His holy name lightly in a vain, empty manner is insulting and degrading. This could be done by perjuring oneself in a court of law or by cursing. However, this commandment also applies to hypocritical worship, using God's name in meaningless prayer and praise (**Isaiah 29:13** - *Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me. **What's in His name?**"* - *John 15:9-16; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9-13; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 3:7-13.*)

- **COMMANDMENT #4** - ***"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"*** (Ex 20:8). Sabbath means "rest," but God intended for this day to stand for more than an absence of work. It was to be a day of worship as well as day for setting aside all thoughts of materialistic gain and thinking about Him.

> **Understanding the Sabbath Day:** It is often claimed that "God instituted the Sabbath in Eden" because of the connection between the Sabbath and creation in Exodus 20:11. Although God's rest on the seventh day (Genesis 2:3) did foreshadow a future Sabbath law, there is no biblical record of the Sabbath before the children of Israel left the land of Egypt. Nowhere in Scripture is there any hint that Sabbath-keeping was practiced from Adam to Moses.

The Word of God makes it quite clear that Sabbath observance was a special sign between God and Israel: ***"Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed"*** (Exodus 31:16–17).

In Deuteronomy 5, Moses restates the Ten Commandments to the next generation of Israelites. Here, after commanding Sabbath observance in verses 12–14, Moses gives the reason the Sabbath was given to the nation Israel: ***"And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day"*** (Deuteronomy 5:15).

Notice the word therefore. God's intent for giving the Sabbath to Israel was not that they would remember creation, but that they would remember their Egyptian slavery and the Lord's deliverance. Note the requirements for Sabbath-keeping: A person placed under that Sabbath law could not leave his home on the Sabbath (Exodus 16:29), he could not build a fire (Exodus 35:3), and he could not cause anyone else to work (Deuteronomy 5:14). A person breaking the Sabbath law was to be put to death (Exodus 31:15; Numbers 15:32–35).

- An examination of New Testament passages shows us four important points:

1) **Whenever Christ appears in His resurrected form and the day is mentioned, it is always the first day of the week** (Matthew 28:1, 9, 10; Mark 16:9; Luke 24:1, 13, 15; John 20:19, 26).

2) The only time the Sabbath is mentioned from Acts through Revelation it is for evangelistic purposes to the Jews and the setting is usually in a synagogue (Acts chapters 13–18). Paul wrote, ***"to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews"*** (1 Corinthians 9:20). Paul did not go to the synagogue to fellowship with and edify the saints, but to convict and save the lost.

3) Once Paul states, ***"from now on I will go to the Gentiles"*** (Acts 18:6), the Sabbath is never again mentioned.

4) instead of suggesting adherence to the Sabbath day, the remainder of the New Testament implies the opposite (including the one exception to point 3 above, found in **Colossians 2:16**).

Looking more closely at point 4 above will reveal that there is no obligation for the New Testament believer to keep the Sabbath, and will also show that the idea of a Sunday "Christian Sabbath" is also unscriptural. As discussed above, there is one time the Sabbath is mentioned after Paul began to focus on the Gentiles, ***"So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ"*** (Colossians 2:16–17). The Jewish Sabbath was abolished at the cross where Christ ***"wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us"*** (Colossians 2:14).

This idea is repeated more than once in the New Testament: ***"One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it"*** (Romans 14:5–6a). ***"But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years"*** (Galatians 4:9–10).

But some claim that a mandate by Constantine in A.D. 321 "changed" the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. On what day did the early church meet for worship? Scripture never mentions any Sabbath (Saturday) gatherings by believers for fellowship or worship. However, there are clear passages that mention the first day of the week. For instance, **Acts 20:7** states that ***"on the first day of the week the disciples came together to break bread."*** In 1 Corinthians 16:2 Paul urges the Corinthian believers ***"on the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper."***

Since Paul designates this offering as "service" in 2 Corinthians 9:12, this collection must have been linked with the Sunday worship service of the Christian assembly. Historically Sunday, not Saturday, was the normal meeting day for Christians in the church, and its practice dates back to the first century.

The Sabbath was given to Israel, not the church. The Sabbath is still Saturday, not Sunday, and has never been changed. But the Sabbath is part of the Old Testament Law, and Christians are free from the bondage of the Law (Galatians 4:1-26; Romans 6:14). Sabbath keeping is not required of the Christian—be it Saturday or Sunday. The first day of the week, Sunday, the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:10) celebrates the New Creation, with Christ as our resurrected Head. We are not obligated to follow the Mosaic Sabbath—resting, but are now free to follow the risen Christ—serving. The Apostle Paul said that each individual Christian should decide whether to observe a Sabbath rest, ***“One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind”*** (Romans 14:5). We are to worship God every day, not just on Saturday or Sunday. (By Jonathan R. Wilson – From *“Why Church Matters: Worship, Ministry & Mission in Practice”*)

- Commandment #5 – “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, THAT YOUR DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GIVING YOU”

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The word “honor” means to esteem and respect one’s parents. This is the most basic of all human relationships, parents and children. With this command comes a promise of long life.

- In Ephesians 6:1-4 - *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

- CHILDREN are to OBEY their parents IN THE LORD! HONOR your parents, ESTEEM (hold them in high regard) and RESPECT (to show regard or consideration for) them.

**- PRACTICE THE CHILDREN’S “ABC’s of HONOR”:
“A” – ATTITUDE – CHRIST LOVE FOR PARENTS!
“B” – BIBLE – BELIEVE, PRAY AND OBEY!
“C” – COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS -- BE THANKFUL! CARE FOR YOUR PARENTS WHEN THEY CAN’T CARE FOR THEMSELVES! (Matthew 15:3-9)**

- Commandment #6 – “YOU SHALL NOT MURDER” – In some versions of the Bible you’ll read, “Thou shalt not kill,” the word for kill in Hebrew is *ratsach*, which means murder, or intentional killing.

- Commandment #7 – “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY” - Willful sexual intercourse with someone other than one's husband or wife. Jesus expanded the meaning of adultery to include the cultivation of lust: *“Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart”* (Matthew 5:28). (1 Corinthians 6:9).

- Commandment #8 – “YOU SHALL NOT STEAL” – Stealing makes one a thief! You can steal objects for personal gain, steal time from your employer, steal in regards to taxes, and steal from God in tithes and offerings. (1 Timothy 6:10)

- Commandment #9 – “YOU SHALL NOT LIE” – One commentator writes, “While stealing robs a man of property, the bearing of a false witness may rob a person of his good reputation.” (Ephesians 4:15-16)

- **Commandment #10** – “**YOU SHALL NOT COVET**” - An intense desire to possess something (or someone) that belongs to another person.

(v18-25) THE WITNESS & THE TESTIMONY:

(v18-21) The people witnessed the awesome power of God on Mt. Sinai, which brought the fear of sin into their hearts!

(v22-26) Here is the testimony of God:

- God talked with them from heaven!
- God reiterates that they are not to make any carved images of Him!
- All altars of worship are to be natural, not man-made. At all offerings made to God He will **RECORD HIS NAME AND HE WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE!**

> The TEN COMMANDMENTS, GOVERNMENT and YOU:

- **The TEN COMMANDMENTS represent GOD’S GOVERNMENT OVER MAN! GOD commands us for our own good to give up wrongs and not rights! HIS system always results in LIBERTY and FREEDOM!**

- **The CONSTITUTION and the BILL OF RIGHTS are built on this foundation, which provides for punitive justice. It is not until one damages another’s person or property that he can be punished. Whereas, The Marxist (socialist/communist) system leads to bondage and GOD’S system leads to LIBERTY! Once again God’s plan:**

1. *Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.*
2. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.*
3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath to keep it Holy.*
5. *Honor thy father and mother.*
6. *Thou shalt not murder.*
7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
8. *Thou shalt not steal.*
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness.*
10. *Thou shalt not covet.*

- Directly above the **Chief Justice’s** chair is a tablet signifying the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**.

- When the **Speaker of the House in the U.S. Congress** looks up, his eyes look into the face of **Moses**.

- **Andrew Jackson**, seventh President of the United States said, “*The Bible is the Book upon which this Republic rests.*”

- **Noah Webster** said, “*The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.*”

> **Alexis De Tocqueville** a famous French statesman Traveled to America in the 1830's to discover the reasons for the incredible success of this new nation, he said, *"I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors...; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. **Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great. The safeguard of morality is religion, and morality is the best security of law as well as the surest pledge of freedom. The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other.**"*

- **Thomas Jefferson** said, *"The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest."*

- **Abraham Lincoln** said, *"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."*

- **Sir Alex Fraser Tytler (1742-1813)** Scottish jurist and historian said, *"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse of the public treasury. From that time on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the results that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: from **bondage to spiritual faith**; from spiritual faith to **great courage**; from courage to **liberty**; from liberty to **abundance**; from abundance to **selfishness**; from selfishness to **complacency**; from complacency to **apathy**; from apathy to **dependency**; from dependency back again to **bondage.**"*

> **A SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO:** The Communist Manifesto represents a misguided philosophy, which teaches the citizens to give up their RIGHTS for the sake of the **"common good,"** but it **always ends in a police state.** This is called preventive justice. **Control is the key concept.** Read carefully:

1. Abolition of private property.
2. Heavy progressive income tax.
3. Abolition of all rights of inheritance.
4. Confiscation of property of all emigrants and rebels.
5. Central bank.
6. Government control of Communication & Transportation
7. Government ownership of factories and agriculture.
8. Government control of labor.
9. Corporate farms, regional planning.
10. Government control of education.

> **Alexis de Tocqueville** warned America with these insightful and prophetic words, *"The American republic will last until the populace discovers that it can vote for itself largesse out of the public treasury."*

> **Benjamin Franklin** in 1787 shared his concerns about government greed and power under the guise of “doing good” he said, *“There are two passions which have a powerful influence in the affairs of men. These are ambition and avarice; the love of power and the love of money. Separately, each of these has great force in prompting men to action; but when united in view of the same object, they have in many minds the most violent effects. Place before the eyes of such men a post of honor that shall at the same time be a place of profit, and they will move heaven and earth to obtain it.”*

> Author **Rus Walton** said, *“Government is not a producer; it is a taker, a taxer, and a spender. Every dollar spent by the public sector is a dollar the government must take from the private sector, from the workers and earners and investors. The dollar taken by government cannot be spent or invested by that productive sector.”*

> Professor **Thomas Sowell** of Stanford University, a brilliant black scholar writes, *“The amount of money necessary to lift every man, woman and child in America above the poverty line is one-third of what in fact is being spent on poverty programs. Clearly, much of the transfer ends up in the pockets of highly paid administrators, consultants, and staff.”*