

The Ten Commands

Focal Passage: Exodus 20

Cross References: Matthew 5:17-48

Key Vs: Ex 20:2-3 *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. :3 "You shall have no other gods before me.*

Central Idea: God instructed His people how to respond to Him and to each other.

Lesson Idea: Though Jesus Christ sets us free from the bondage of the Law, we are expected to live godly and holy lives that will reflect the eternal truths found in the Ten Commandments.

Historical Context: The descendants of Israel were slaves to Pharaoh and had spent 400 years in Egypt (which fulfilled to prophecy given to Abraham in Gen 15:13-14). God used Moses and ten plagues to set them free and bring them out of Egypt. The word "exodus" means "a mass departure" and the people of Israel probably numbered well over a million. As they left, Pharaoh changed his mind and pursued them, but God miraculously parted the Red Sea and allowed His people to walk through it but drowned Pharaoh's army in it when they tried to pursue Israel.

God brought Israel to Mount Sinai to receive the commands and instructions that would form them into the people of God and the nation of Israel. He gave Moses these ten commands that would form the foundation of how they should live before God and with each other.

Ex 20:1-11

How to Treat God

1 And God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

WORD STUDY:

In English translations when you see the word **LORD** in all capital letters, it indicates that the covenant name YAHWEH ("I Am") has been used (see Ex 3:14). In verse 2 the first three words in the Hebrew text are all nouns which refer to God. First comes the personal pronoun for "I" or "I myself," then comes the proper name for God "Yahweh" or "Jehovah" which can be translated in many ways: "I Am" or "I Am Who I Am" or "I Am the only true existing God" or "I will be who I will be." The third word is "Elohim" which is a plural, majestic name for "God" which seems to encompass the idea of the deity and transcendence and fullness of God. For Christians the plural form of this noun is another reason we believe in the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit).

The three words together emphasize the preeminence of God as He begins His commands to His people. "I Myself, Yahweh, the only true and living God, the One who always was, always is, always will be, the eternal and majestic God, the God who rescued you from Egypt and slavery, I am **your** God, so don't dare try to have any other 'gods' that you make up for yourselves."

QUESTIONS:

In vs 3 the first command in the English translations that say not to have any other gods "before" or "above" Yahweh could be misinterpreted that people could have other gods, but that Israel's God wanted to be put first above all the others. How does understanding what God's name mean help to avoid that wrong view?

Vs 4 prohibits making any idols that would be worshipped instead of God. An idol is anything that takes from the time, love or allegiance that you should give to God and gives it to someone or something else. What kind of idols do people have today?

What warning is given in vs 5 about the consequences of sin?

What promise is given in vs 6 about the blessings of obeying God?

What will future generations of your family receive from the way you live your life?

The third commandment talks of honoring God's name by not "misusing" it (NIV) or "taking it in vain" (KJV). We know this means not to use God's name or Jesus' name in a curse word, but what are some other ways that people misuse His name "in vain" or without due respect?

The Sabbath day was set apart as a day of worship and rest. After Jesus' resurrection the church began to look upon Sunday as "the Lord's Day" and devote it to the principle of rest and worship. How should we honor the principle of the Sabbath command?

Ex 20:12-17

How to Treat Each Other

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

QUESTIONS:

What does it mean to "honor" someone?

What promise is given about honoring our parents and why do you think that blessing follows this command?

The NIV translates vs 13 as a command not to "commit murder" instead of just "you shall not kill." Why is that distinction important for our understanding?

Last Sunday was "Sanctity of Life Sunday." Pray that people will see that abortion is truly the taking of an innocent life and in violation of this command.

Adultery begins with forming improper relationships outside of your marriage. What kind of situations ought to be avoided to guard against the spirit of adultery?

Adultery is a major and prevalent sin in our area. Pray for marriages to be strengthened and adultery avoided.

Most people acknowledge that it's wrong to steal, but what are some ways that people might be stealing without really acknowledging it (such as cheating in school or on income taxes, not doing the work you are getting paid to do, etc.)?

Vs 16 is a prohibition against lying, but what are some ways that people think they are keeping this command, but are really being dishonest or not completely truthful?

"Coveting" involves both wishing you had something that belongs to someone else and resenting someone else's good fortune. When do you feel the "green-headed monster" of jealousy trying to pop up in your life?

Ex 20:18-231

Israel's Response

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites this: `You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: 23 Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.

QUESTIONS:

How should the fear of God keep you from sinning?

APPLICATION

Read Matthew 5:17-48. How does Jesus treat the commandments?

Are there areas in your life that you might not be breaking the letter of the law, but you are violating the Spirit of God's commands? If yes, confess them, repent of them, and seek to please God in all that you say and do (see Colossians 3:17).

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

January 24, 2010

Read the Bible Through

Highlights of the Week:

January 18-24, 2010

Ex 5-6: Moses approaches Pharaoh

Ex 7-11: The Ten Plagues

1. Water to blood (Ex 7)
2. Frogs (Ex 8)
3. Gnats (Ex 8)
4. Flies (Ex 8)
5. Livestock dies (Ex 9)
6. Boils (Ex 9)
7. Hail (Ex 9)
8. Locusts (Ex 10)
9. Darkness (Ex 10)
10. Firstborn dies (Ex 11-12)

Key vs. Ex. 7:17 *This is what the LORD says: "By this you will know that I am the LORD..."*

Ex 12: The Passover & the exodus

Ex 14: Parting of the Red Sea

Ex 15-16: The LORD provides

Ex 18: Jethro, Moses & delegation

Ex 20: The Ten Commandments

Ex 21-27: Laws and instructions for life and worship

January 24th is

Faith at Work Sunday

If you are a member of a ministry team, or would like to get involved in one of our ministries, meet in the Youth HOUSE at 4:00 pm.

Church Conference at 6:00 pm followed by the January Birthday Fellowship.

Bible in a Year Daily Readings

January 2009

Jan 1 Genesis 1 - 4

Jan 2 Genesis 5 - 8
Jan 3 Genesis 9 - 12
Jan 4 Genesis 13 - 17
Jan 5 Genesis 18 - 20
Jan 6 Genesis 21 - 23
Jan 7 Genesis 24 - 25
Jan 8 Genesis 26 - 28
Jan 9 Genesis 29 - 31
Jan 10 Genesis 32 - 35
Jan 11 Genesis 36 - 38
Jan 12 Genesis 39 - 41
Jan 13 Genesis 42 - 43
Jan 14 Genesis 44 - 46
Jan 15 Genesis 47 - 50
Jan 16 Exodus 1 - 4
Jan 17 Exodus 5 - 7
Jan 18 Exodus 8 - 10
Jan 19 Exodus 11 - 13
Jan 20 Exodus 14 - 16
Jan 21 Exodus 17 - 20
Jan 22 Exodus 21 - 23
Jan 23 Exodus 24 - 27
Jan 24 Exodus 28 - 30
Jan 25 Exodus 31 - 34
Jan 26 Exodus 35 - 37
Jan 27 Exodus 38 - 40
Jan 28 Leviticus 1 - 4
Jan 29 Leviticus 5 - 7
Jan 30 Leviticus 8 - 10
Jan 31 Leviticus 11 - 13

To sign up for an email service that will send you each day's reading visit <http://www.bibleinayear.org/>