



The Exodus

Lesson 9: The Ten Commandments

(Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 5:1-33)

Of all the law God gave to the Israelites as part of His covenant with them, God directly spoke ten commandments to them. The rest were told to the Israelites through Moses. Israel had gathered at Mount Sinai and God descended upon it. The people saw smoke, the mountain shook violently, a trumpet sounded loudly, and God spoke to the people (Exodus 19:17-20). Although there were more laws than just these ten commandments, the rest of law was built on these ten.

God spoke the first commandment and said, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:2-3).

God spoke the second commandment and said, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God....” (Exodus 20:4-6).

God spoke the third commandment and said, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7).

God spoke the fourth commandment and said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work....” (Exodus 20:9-11).

God spoke the fifth commandment and said, “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12).

God spoke the sixth commandment and said, “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).

God spoke the seventh commandment and said, “You shall not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14).

God spoke the eighth commandment and said, “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).

God spoke the ninth commandment and said, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).

God spoke the tenth commandment and said, “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's” (Exodus 20:17).

The first four commandments God gave to Israel were focused on their service and worship of God. They were not allowed to worship or serve any false gods (idols). God is the one who really is God and is the only one who deserves to be worshiped and served. Then, they were to make the seventh day of the week a special day. They were not to do work on this day. And, God would use this day for the people to worship Him.

The last six commandments gave the Israelites instructions about how they were to treat other people. Children needed to be respectful to their parents. People were not allowed to kill people or take things that did not belong to them without permission. They were to respect marriage between a husband and wife. They were not to lie about other people. And, they were not allowed to wish for the things other people have.

After the people heard God speak these commandments to them, they were afraid when they heard the thunderings, saw the lightning flashes, heard the sound of the trumpet, and saw the mountain smoking. They told Moses to speak with them from now on or else they would die. After this, God would give His laws to Moses, who would then tell the people.

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: CS48

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Study Questions:

1) Where were the Israelites when they received the ten commandments?

2) Who spoke the ten commandments to Israel?

3) What were the ten commandments?

4) Why were the Israelites not to worship and serve other gods?

5) What day of the week was special?

6) What were the Israelites not allowed to do on this special day?

7) What did the Israelites need to do for their parents?

8) Why were the Israelites afraid after they received the ten commandments? What did they want Moses to do?

Memory Verse:

“Therefore, you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left” (Deuteronomy 5:32).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: