

Moses—Exodus 20

God Gives Moses the Law

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. The Hebrew name which is rendered in our King James Version as the ten commandments occurs in [Ex 34:28](#); [Deu 4:13](#); [10:4](#). It literally means “the Ten Words.” The Ten Commandments are also called the law, even the commandment [Ex 24:12](#), the words of the covenant [Ex 34:28](#), the tables of the covenant [Deut 9:9](#), the covenant [Deut 4:13](#), the two tables [Deut 9:10](#), [17](#), and, most frequently, the testimony (e. g. [Ex 16:34](#); [25:16](#)), or the two tables of the testimony (e. g. [Ex 31:18](#)). In the New Testament they are called simply the commandments (e. g. [Mat 19:17](#)). [Barnes].
2. Verse 4... “Young states [*Concise Critical Comments*] ‘the prohibition is not against making statues or pictures of any object for ornament, (witness the *cherub* work in the tabernacle, Ex 25:18-20; compare Ex 25:34; 26:32; Num 41:8-9; *the twelve oxen*, 1 Kgs 7:25; *the fourteen lions*, 1 Kgs 10:20; *the brazen serpent*, Num 21:9, etc.); but for *religious adoration* as the next verse explicitly shows.” [TSK].
3. Verse 5... JEALOUS GOD—“**Jealousy** Doubtless, the root idea of both the Greek and the Heb translated “jealousy” is “warmth,” “heat.” Both are used in a good and a bad sense - to represent right and wrong passion. When jealousy is attributed to God, the word is used in a good sense. The language is, of course, anthropomorphic; and it is based upon the feeling in a husband of exclusive right in his wife. God is conceived as having wedded Israel to Himself, and as claiming, therefore, exclusive devotion. Disloyalty on the part of Israel is represented as adultery, and as provoking God to jealousy. See, e.g., [Deu 32:16](#), [32:21](#); [1Kgs 14:22](#); [Psa 78:58](#); [Ezk 8:3](#); [16:38](#), [16:42](#); [23:25](#); [36:5](#); [38:19](#).” [ISBE].
4. Verse 5... VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS—“**Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children** - This necessarily implies - if the children walk in the steps of their fathers; for no man can be condemned by Divine justice for a crime of which he was never guilty; see Ezekiel 18.” [Clarke].
5. Verse 7... “Although there is no God beside Jehovah, the absolute One, and His divine essence cannot be seen or conceived of under any form, He had made known the glory of His nature in His name ([Ex 3:14](#)., [6:2](#)), and this was not to be abused by His people.” [K&D].
6. Verse 8... From Exodus 16:21ff it is clear that there was no observance of the Sabbath before it was legislated here by the Lord in the law He gave at Mt. Sinai.
7. Verse 18... Cf., Ps 139:7-8; Jer 23:23 to see the folly of this action on the part of the Israelites.
8. Verse 20... [Gen 20:11](#); [Deu 6:2](#), [10:12](#); [Jos 24:14](#); [Neh 5:15](#); [Job 28:28](#); [Pro 1:7](#); [3:7](#); [Isa 8:13](#)
9. Verse 26... Ex 28:42.

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: Wilderness Wandering.

Almost all ancient worshipers had statues of one or more of their gods. The Israelites were the outstanding exception to this rule (Ex 20:4). When Pompey the Great entered the temple in

Jerusalem in 63 B.C., he and his men were deeply impressed that they found no image of God in the sanctuary. [*The Life and Times Historical Reference Bible*, p. 110].

III. Summary.

This chapter lists for us the Ten Commandments. Surely these commandments have been the basis of better society wherever and whenever they have been adhered to in a society. The basic principles of these commandments (excepting #4) are included in the Law of Christ, the New Testament. We are no longer under the Ten Commandments in that these were nailed to the cross by our Savior (Col 2:14).

Accompanying the stating of these laws were visible thunderings, lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, with the mountain smoking (v. 18). The people were frightened and “stood afar off.” There is a beautiful expression of the reason for these happenings in verse 20. The purpose was that this people would not sin. What a wonderful God is our God, Who does not want His people to sin and separate themselves from Him. There is a repeated emphasis upon rejecting idolatry. This would be a continual problem among these people and they are warned in the clearest of language to refrain from it.

IV. Outline.

1. God spoke (Ex 20:1).
2. The Ten Commandments (Ex 20:2-17).
3. Circumstances surrounding the giving of the Law (Ex 20:18).
4. The people ask Moses to be the intermediary between them and God (Ex 20:19).
5. The purpose for the Law (Ex 20:20).
6. Moses is given further instructions to pass on to the people (Ex 20:21-26).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ God told the children of Israel to hew Him out an altar of stone.
02. _____ The God of the Bible is a jealous God.
03. _____ A promise from God is attached to the 5th Commandment.
04. _____ The people did not want God to speak to them directly.
05. _____ God came before the people to prove them.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ God began by reminding the people that He had brought them out of: (a) great wickedness; (b) evil men; (c) the house of bondage.
07. _____ The ones to whom God shows mercy are the ones who: (a) love Him; (b) keep His commandments; (c) a & b; (d) none of the above.
08. _____ The sabbath was hallowed because it is the day that the Lord: (a) rested; (b) chose; (c) confirmed.
09. _____ Anything belonging to a neighbor was not to be: (a) stolen; (b) coveted; (c) a & b.
10. _____ The people stood afar off, but Moses—(a) rebuked them; (b) entreated them to come near; (c) drew near—to the thick darkness where God was.

Fill in the Blanks

11. “... for the Lord will not hold him _____ that taketh his name in _____.”
12. “And they said unto _____, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not _____ speak with us, lest we die.”

13. “Thou shalt not commit _____.”
14. The number of items listed that must not be coveted was _____, with the last one being a very general statement, covering everything.
15. “And _____ spake all these words, saying.”

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-66 ... [01—True, Ex 18:2; 02—False, Ex 18:27; 03—False, Ex 18:9; 04—False, Ex 1:22; 05—True, Ex 18:16; 06—b, Ex 18:1; 07—c, Ex 18:7; 08—a, Ex 18:11; 09—b, Ex 18:15; 10—c, Ex 18:12; 11—Gershom, Eliezer, Ex 18:3-4; 12—depart, went, own, land, Ex 18:27; 13—not, good, Ex 18:17; 14—hard, Ex 18:26; 15—endure, Ex 18:23.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, ...** (Ex 20:5). The only way we can know about the traits and qualities of God is by reading what He has revealed about Himself in His written word. This revelation makes use of a figure of speech called ANTHROPOMORPHISM. This is the giving of human qualities to deity so as to help us better understand the nature of God. Jealousy can be good or evil. In the instances where it is applied as a description of God, of course, it is used in its good sense. What would we think of a man who would not be jealous if his wife were flirting with another man? The proper response of man to the jealousy of God is to serve him with ZEAL (Titus 2:14; Rev 3:19).
2. **...for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain** (Ex 20:7). This sin has become so common in our society today, we surely need to be reminded of this warning God gave to the children of Israel. Here is a principle that carries over into the doctrine of Christ. It has never been acceptable to disrespect God’s name and it is a sin that multitudes of people need to be urged to avoid.
3. **...that thy days may be long upon the land...** (Ex 20:12). That God would attach such a wonderful promise as long days to this command expresses well the fact that this is a very important matter. It has to do with order in the home as God would have it to be and as He intends it to be. Inspiration draws attention to this promise in a New Testament text that gives instruction regarding the seriousness of the command for Christians (Eph 6:2). If the home is not as it ought to be, then neither will the church be as it ought to be. The importance of ordering our home lives as God intends needs to receive much more emphasis than it seems it is being given.
4. **Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house...** (Ex 20:17). Again, there seems to be an attempt to **emphasize** this command by the fact that there is a listing of seven different things Israel is instructed not to covet. The last of the seven is broad enough to cover anything that might occupy the covetous mind. I suggest that the reason for this emphasis is that God knows well what a temptation it is to COVET. He is stressing the sinfulness of this attitude and drawing attention to it. I am convinced in my own mind that on Judgment Day, more Christians will be separated to eternal torment because of this particular sin than because of any other.
5. **...and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not** (Ex 20:20). What a beautiful expression of God’s love for His people!!! His desire is not to catch them disobeying so that He might zap them into eternal punishment. It is the desire of the Lord that all men be saved and that only comes through avoiding sin. God does not want men to sin and be lost (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9). What a loving God we serve!!!

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

Q A Z X S W E D C V F N I A V N I R F V
 B G T E Y H N J S S E N T I W E S L A F
 N M J G U J M I E K L O P I U J M N H Y
 T G B A V F R E D A C X S W Q J A Z X S
 W E D M C V F R T G L B N H Y U J M K I
 O L P I M J U C Y H N O B G T R F V C D
 E D C N X S W O Q A Z X U S W E D C V F
 R T G E B G T V Y H N M J S U I S K L O
 P U J V M N H E T G B V F R E D D C X S
 W Q A A Z X S T E A L S W E O D C V F R
 T G B R N H Y U J M K I O G Y H N B L R
 F V C G E D W S X Z A Q R W S X C E L R
 F V B G T Y H N J U I E Y M N H Y T I G
 R U O N O H V F R E H D C R V C X Z K Q
 W E D C V F R T B T G T Y H E N U J M K
 R F V C D E W S O X Z A Q W S T X C D E
 R F V B G T Y O U J M K I O L P L T G B
 E D C V F R N T G B N H Y U J M K U I Y
 H N B V C X Z E R T E D C V R F T G D B
 V C X D E H T A B B A S V B N Y U R E A

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Exodus 20:3-17--³Thou shalt have **no other gods** before me. ⁴Thou 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: ⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a **jealous** God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; ⁶And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. ⁷Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God **in vain**; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. ⁸Remember the **sabbath** day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: ¹⁰But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

¹²**Honour** thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. ¹³Thou shalt not **kill**. ¹⁴Thou shalt not commit **adultery**. ¹⁵Thou shalt not **steal**. ¹⁶Thou shalt not bear **false witness** against thy neighbour. ¹⁷Thou shalt not **covet** thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.