

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### “The Lord of Life”

Ex 20:13 “You shall not murder.” (NIV)

*It is interesting to note that the commandment against murder is the sixth commandment. Six is the biblical number of man. Man was created on the sixth day. The beast is given the number of a man, 666 (Rev. 13:18). The sixth commandment is the first commandment that deals specifically with man’s relationship to man. One can dishonor God, but one can not literally murder Him (Jesus gave up his life). The first command with regard to man’s relationship to man seems also to be the most drastic one. “Don’t murder your fellowman,” God says. Now there is a relationship building key if there ever was one. Nothing seems to dampen a relationship more severely than good, old fashioned murder!*

*Murder is different than killing. Because of sin, killing became necessary (Gen. 3:21).*

Eccl 3:1-3, 8

- 1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. (NIV)

*As stated before, all of the Ten Commandments codified on Exodus are exhibited in Genesis. In God’s creation of the heavens and the earth, we understand that there are no other gods. In creating man in His image, we understand that man is not to try to make images of Him. The holiness of the Name is seen by the patriarchs giving homage and worship to God by calling upon it. The Sabbath was made holy the first time it occurred. Canaan’s cursing and Reuben’s loss of birthright showed the penalty of dishonoring parents. The sixth commandment is no different than the rest. Murder reared its ugly head early in human history.*

Gen 4:1-7

- 1 Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."
- 2 Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.
- 3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.
- 4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,
- 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. **So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.**
- 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?"
- 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching [*Heb. rabats*] at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it." (NIV)

[NIV Study Note: *rabats* is the same as an ancient Babylonian word referring to an evil demon crouching at the door of a building to threaten the people inside. Sin may thus be pictured here as just such a demon, waiting to pounce on Cain- it desired to have him.]

*Many things are at work in this narrative. Cain is the firstborn, yet he works the soil which had been cursed because of his father's sin. Abel is a shepherd, associating him with all that lambs would come to represent. Abel brought the fattest of the firstlings of his flock. Cain simply discharged his duty by bringing an offering of the fruit of the ground. God had no respect towards Cain's offering.*

*The problem wasn't so much with the quality of the gift as it was with the heart of the giver and the type of gift itself. God had already shown by clothing Adam and Eve with hides that an animal, blood sacrifice was the necessary sacrifice to deal with sin. Cain was angry because God was not accepting him on his own terms. With regard to his countenance having fallen, look at Joshua.*

Josh 7:6-11

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.

7 And Joshua said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!

8 O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies?

9 The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"

10 The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?

11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. (NIV)

*This particular expression in the Hebrew deals primarily with falling on one's face in worship or respect. I believe the scene in Genesis 4 is like that in Joshua. It wasn't that Cain was pouting and God said, "Why are you pouting?" I believe Cain was on his face in a physical attitude of worship and God said, "What are you doing down on you face? If you do what is right, won't you be accepted?" But Cain decided to not master the sin. The Bible says that whatever is not of faith is sin (Rom. 14:23). Cain had no faith in the blood sacrifice.*

Heb 11:4

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. (NIV)

Gen 4:8-16

8 Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

- 10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.
- 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.
- 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."
- 13 Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear.
- 14 Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."
- 15 But the LORD said to him, "Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.
- 16 So Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden. (NIV)

*The startling thing about this exchange is the Lord's mercy. Cain is aware that capital punishment awaits the murderer (vs. 14). God clearly defines this as law later in Genesis 9.*

Gen 9:6

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. (NIV)

*In this case, though, God reserves judgment for Himself (no other man is allowed to kill Cain) and lets Cain live. Why? Many expositors like the symmetry of making Cain's children all unbelievers and Seth's children all God fearing. Though it is true that Seth represents the believer's line and Cain the unbeliever's line, simple experience will tell us that not all Seth's children could have been saints (by the time of Noah, only he and his family were) or all of Cain's sinners.*

*God shows His mercy to forefathers that He might reap their children. From Cain's line came Jubal, a harp and flute player from whose name we get the term jubilee, and Naamah, who Jewish commentators say was Noah's wife.*

Genesis 4:22

Of Naamah nothing more is spoken in the Scriptures; by the Targum of Jonathan ben Uzziel makes her the inventress of funeral songs and lamentation. R.S. Jarchi says she was the wife of Noah, and quotes Bereshith Rabba in support of the opinion. Some of the Jewish doctors say her name is recorded in Scripture because she was an upright and chaste woman. (from Adam Clarke Commentary)

*What was central to Cain's murder of Abel? Anger springing from envy.*

Gen 27:34-36, 41

- 34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter [*translated angry in Judg. 18:25 KJV*] cry, and said to his father, "Bless me — me also, O my father!"
- 35 But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

36 And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

41 So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob." (NKJ)

*Esau's anger is exhibited in the bitterness of his cry and the hatred towards his brother. Scripture tells us that "Jacob I loved, Esau I hated." (Rom. 9:13)*

Gen 49:5-7

5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers — their swords are weapons of violence.

6 Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstringed oxen as they pleased.

7 Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel. (NIV)

*In the Law, the Lord made the merciful provision for the one guilty of manslaughter. Manslaughter is the accidental killing of somebody. God provided cities of refuge where the manslayer could go and be safe from the avenger of blood. His case was to be tried by the elders of the city of refuge. If it was deemed that the killing was accidental, then the manslayer was given refuge in the city. He had to stay there until the death of the high priest, then he could return to where he fled from and the avenger of blood no longer had the right of retribution.*

*But in judging the case, certain criteria were used to determine whether or not the killing was manslaughter or murder.*

Num 35:16-21

16'But if he strikes him with an iron implement, so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

17 And if he strikes him with a stone in the hand, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

18 Or if he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

19 The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.

20 If he pushes him out of hatred or, while lying in wait, hurls something at him so that he dies,

21 or in enmity he strikes him with his hand so that he dies, the one who struck him shall surely be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him. (NKJ)

*The Law says that if one hits another with a weapon (iron, stone, or wood) and the person dies, it is murder. In other words, if you are in a fight and use a weapon with deadly force, or if you hit someone intentionally with a weapon and the person dies, it is murder. But implements of destruction are not the only criteria. Verse 20 says that if the manslayer pushed the other man out of **hatred** and the man dies, it is murder. Intent and opportunity.*

Deut 19:11-13

- 11 But if a man hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him, assaults and kills him, and then flees to one of these cities,
- 12 the elders of his town shall send for him, bring him back from the city, and hand him over to the avenger of blood to die.
- 13 Show him no pity. You must purge from Israel the guilt of shedding innocent blood, so that it may go well with you. (NIV)

*Murder is not only destructive to the life of the one taken by it, if left unpunished it actually defiles the land.*

Num 35:33-36:1

- 33 So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.
- 34 Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel." (NKJ)

Hos 4:1-3

- 1 Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land.
- 2 There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.
- 3 Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying. (NIV)

*Blood on the land seeking justice is seen in the Cain and Abel account.*

Gen 4:10-11

- 10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.
- 11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. (NIV)

*We see the same sort of thing in the book of Revelations.*

Rev 6:9-11

- 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.
- 10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"
- 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. (NIV)

*God is a just God. He will not let the murder of His saints go unpunished. All will be made right in the end.*

*Keeping the command "thou shalt not murder" would seem simple enough. How many of us know of someone who has actually murdered someone (excluding the national epidemic of abortion)? To simply not kill, though, would be obeying just the letter of the law.*

Matt 5:21-24

- 21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'
- 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.
- 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. (NIV)

1 John 3:12-18

- 12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.
- 13 Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.
- 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.
- 15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.
- 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
- 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?
- 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (NIV)

John 13:34-35

- 34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
- 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (NIV)

John 15:9-14

- 9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.
- 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.
- 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
- 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
- 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
- 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. (NIV)

*Why? He who would be a disciple of Jesus must take up his cross (die) and follow Him (Luke 9:23-24; 14:27). Greater love has no man than to lay down his life down for his friends.*

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)

*The cross was a joint effort. God gave His only begotten Son and the Son laid His life down willingly. By doing so, He accomplished the payment of our sin and the condemnation of the greatest murder there ever was.*

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (NIV)

*At the very least, this verse means that the devil was responsible for the murder of the race of man kind by the lies he told in the garden. Adam was complicity in this sin, which amounted to spiritual suicide. Blood must be paid for in blood.*

Deut 21:22-23

22 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,  
23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God. (NKJ)

Gal 3:13-14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written:  
"Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."  
14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. (NIV)

*His death on the cross paid for all of our lawbreaking, including murder. His pure blood paid the price for the loss of purity in Adam's blood that caused us all to be born in sin.*

Heb 12:22-25

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,  
23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,  
24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.  
25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? (NIV)

Luke 24:5

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? (NIV)

Acts 10:42-43

42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (NIV)

Rom 14:9

For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. (NIV)

Rom 14:10-13

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'"

12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way. (NIV)

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; (NIV)

Rev 1:18

I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (NIV)

*It is our job to proclaim the better things of the blood of Jesus. Not a cry for judgment against wrongdoers, but a proclamation of the payment God made through the Lamb. It is not enough for citizens of Zion not to murder. I dare say it is not enough not to move in anger or hatred towards our fellowman. We must love one another and the world and proclaim the good news of the gospel that we might impart life to a dying world for Jesus is the Lord of Life. Amen!*