

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS “The Two Mountains”

Ex 19:1-8

- 1 In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt--on the very day--they came to the Desert of Sinai.
- 2 After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.
- 3 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel:
- 4'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.
- 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,
- 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."
- 7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.
- 8 The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD. NIV

Note that verse 5 gives the condition for Israel becoming a kingdom of priests unto God. The condition was obedience to the covenant. Did all of Israel belong to the priesthood? No. But if the nation obeyed, they would serve the world as a nation and kingdom of priests.

1 Peter 2:7-10

- 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"
- 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.
- 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. NIV

God's standard has not changed. The disobedient stumble. In contrast, the obedient, the believers, are a royal priesthood to God.

Rev 5:7-10

- 7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.
- 8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- 9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.

10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." NIV

The purpose of the purchase was to have a kingdom of priests to serve God and reign on earth. The entrance to the priesthood is being blood cleansed and then obeying the will of God.

Ex 19:9-25

9 The LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you." Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

10 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes

11 and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

12 Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

13 He shall surely be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on him. Whether man or animal, he shall not be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they go up to the mountain."

14 After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.

15 Then he said to the people, "Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations."

16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.

17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently,

19 and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

20 The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up

21 and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish.

22 Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them."

23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.'"

24 The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."

25 So Moses went down to the people and told them. NIV

God announces His arrival with the trumpet blasts. Cecil B. DeMille could not do this scene justice. In verse 9, the Lord tells Moses that He would declare His word audibly to the people

that the people would believe the prophet. Later, this law would be written that the prophet might teach the people.

Ex 20:1-20

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.

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."

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." NIV

Over the course of the next several weeks, we are going to be examining the core tenants of the law, the Old Covenant, the Ten Commandments. As we have just read, they were delivered first by God to the nation of Israel in audible voice from Mount Sinai.

Heb 12:18-25

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm;

- 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them,
20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned."
21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."
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

As we study this law, I do not want us to forget that our residence is Mount Zion. We need to examine this law, but not as a shaking congregation at the foot of a shaking and smoking mountain. We need to look at it from the vantage point of New Jerusalem.

Gal 4:22-31

- 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman.
23 His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.
24 These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.
25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.
26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.
27 For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."
28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.
29 At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.
30 But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son."
31 Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman. NIV

The purpose of this examination is not to place ourselves under the law. We are children of promise, citizens of New Jerusalem in heavenly Mount Zion. But our God does not change. If we are to understand what we were set free from and to what we were set free for, we must understand the Ten Commandments.

Rom 3:19-31

- 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.
- 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.
- 21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.
- 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,
- 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
- 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-
- 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.
- 27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.
- 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.
- 29 Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,
- 30 since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.
- 31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. NIV

It isn't by faith that the law is made void. Far from it, by faith it is upheld. The Ten Commandments are the standard of God's righteousness. They are the oracles of God. In the Temple of Solomon, the holy of holies was called the oracle of God. It contained the ark of the covenant and the ark of the covenant contained the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Rom 3:1-2

- 1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?
- 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed **the oracles of God**. KJV

Acts 7:38

This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received **the lively oracles** to give unto us: KJV

1 Peter 4:11

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. KJV

Heb 5:12

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be **the first principles of the oracles of God**; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. KJV

Now Hebrews 5:12 is an encouraging word. We tend to think of the law as a heavy thing. God says it's milk. Walking by the Ten Commandments is like being a nursing infant whose loving parents tend to say to him/her more often than not, "No, don't touch. No, don't do that. No, stay here. No. . . No. . . No." In our examination, we will not stay in Sinai. We must proceed forward to Zion's perspective, the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:2).

Heb 9:3-4

3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,
4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. NIV

The Old Covenant was written on stone tablets by the hand of God. They were external to the worshipper.

2 Cor 3:3-18

3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
4 Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God.
5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.
6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant-not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was,
8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?
9 If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!
10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory.
11 And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!
12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.
13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away.
14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.
15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.
16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.
17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. NIV

This law that we are going to examine has been written in your heart by the Holy Spirit if you are born again. By looking at this law with our faces unveiled, we will be set free and be transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory. Amen!