



## The 10 Commandments The Law and Life

### **God's Covenant Relationship**

The 10 Commandments were first spoken by God in an audible voice to the people of Israel and then personally written on two tablets of stone by the finger of God. If we know the Messiah as Savior and Lord—God has written them on our hearts!

#### **A. A Covenant Relationship for Israel *Exodus 20:1-2***

- 1. The Abrahamic Covenant:** God's covenant with Abraham is the basis for the 10 Commandments. The 10 Commandments are really a 'renewal' of the covenant with Abraham. (*Gen 22:15-18; Ex 2:23-24*)
- 2. Undeserved deliverance:** [Ex 20:2] First is the Exodus from bondage THEN the giving of the Law. The commandments follow the gospel [good news] of undeserved deliverance. These are the commands of Yahweh the Liberator—who desires that His people STAY free and out of bondage.
  - a. Law or Liberty? The 10 commandments great limits that produce growth and life. A fish is limited to water—but that is where it can grow and have life and 'freedom.' [*Jam 1:25*]
- 3. The 10 Commandments...the Covenant Stipulations...**
  - a. Spoken: The people hear God's voice [*Ex 20:1; Deut 4:12-13*]
  - b. Written: Hand written by God [*Ex 31:18*]
  - c. Relation to God: The first four commandments
  - d. Relation to man: The last six commandments
  - e. Second person singular: 'You shall' is the KJV 'thou' meaning the commandments FIRST apply to the individual.

#### **B. A New Covenant Relationship for ALL Believers**

- 1. God's promise:** [*Deut 7:9*] Throughout the Old Testament God promises to be faithful to the covenant that He has made.
- 2. Ezekiel's vision:** [*Ezek 37:3*] Nothing short of 'resurrection life can deliver lost sinners from the wrath their sins deserve.
- 3. The promise of a King:** [*Isa 53*] When Jesus arrives to fulfill Old Testament prophecy, He brings a New Covenant, the kingdom of the King. He does NOT, however, wipe out the old.
- 4. Jesus fulfills the law:** [*Mat 5:17-18*] Rather than wipe out the Law—Jesus came to fulfill it.

*"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."*
- 4. Jesus transforms the Law:** [*Mat 5:43-48*] The entire Sermon on the Mount transforms the 10 Commandments into a matter of heart-love and heart-obedience to God.
- 5. Undeserved deliverance:** Just as Israel was first DELIVERED from the bondage to Egypt and then given the Law, so we are delivered by the saving work of Christ on the cross—and then out of love and empowered by the Spirit, walk in obedience to His commands. *Joh 14:15; Joh 15:9-12; 1 Tim 1:5; 1 Joh 3:23; 1 Joh 5:2; 2 Joh 1:6*

#### **Exodus 20:2-17 (NKJV)**

**(Intro) :1** And God spoke all these words, saying: :2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

**(1) :3** "You shall have no other gods before Me.

**(2) :4** "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; :5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, :6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

**(3) :7** "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.

**(4) :8** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. :9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, :10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. :11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

**(5) :12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

**(6) :13** "You shall not murder.

**(7) :14** "You shall not commit adultery.

**(8) :15** "You shall not steal.

**(9) :16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

**(10) :17** "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."