



**GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE #20  
-- THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!**

**Introduction:**

- A. **(Slide #2)** In Our Last Lesson, God Brought Israel To Mt. Sinai. 19:1,2
  - 1. Three months after leaving Egypt, Israel came to Mt. Sinai!
  - 2. They traveled from Rephidim to the Mount.
- B. God Commands Israel To Ready Themselves So He Can Establish His Covenant With Them.

**I. (Slide #3) Israel Is To Prepare Themselves To Meet God! Ex. 19**

- A. God Told Moses Of His Plans For Them.
  - 1. Ex. 19:3-6 “And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: <sup>4</sup>‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. <sup>6</sup>And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”
  - 2. His promise is conditional -- they will be a special treasure above all people, they will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation “if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant.” 5
  - 3. Moses was to inform them of God’s promise.
- B. Israel Was To Ready Themselves To Meet God! Ex. 19:7-15
  - 1. Moses first informed the elders of the people of the words of the LORD. 7
  - 2. The people’s response: “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.” 8  
Moses informed God of their vow.

3. God explained that He would speak in a thick cloud; they people could hear and know that God was speaking to Moses. 9 Moses told the people what would happen.
4. The LORD told Moses to have the people to consecrate themselves that day and the next; they were to wash their clothes and be ready for the LORD to speak to them on Mt. Sinai. 10,11
5. Moses was to put boundaries around the mountain so no one would touch it! 12
  - a. No person or animal was to touch the mountain; if they did, they would be put to death either by stoning or being shot with an arrow -- no one was to touch the person or animal! 13
  - b. They were to approach Mt. Sinai when they hear a long trumpet sound! 13
6. The people began to ready themselves to meet God! 14,15
  - a. They washed their clothes.
  - b. They were to have no sexual relations during those days.
7. **(Slide #4) Events on the third day: 16-25**
  - a. In the morning, a thick cloud ascended upon the mountain accompanied by thunder and lightning and the sound of a very loud trumpet! 16
  - b. The people literally trembled! 16
  - c. Moses led the people out of the camp to the foot of Mt. Sinai. 17
  - d. The mountain was completely covered with smoke and was struck by a great earthquake. 18
  - e. The blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder. 19
  - f. Moses spoke and God answered him in a voice. 19
  - g. The LORD called Moses to come up to the top of the mountain; Moses obeyed. 20
  - h. God told Moses to warn the people to not break through the boundary at the base of the mountain; if they did, they would perish. 21
  - i. The priests who would serve the Lord were to consecrate themselves. 22
  - j. God sent Moses back down to bring Aaron up with him; he was to warn the priests and the people not to break through the perimeter boundary! 23-25

## **II. (Slide #5) God Gave Israel The 10 Commandments! Ex. 20:1-17**

- A. He Reminded Them Of Who He Is! 1,2
  1. “And God spoke all these words, saying: <sup>2</sup>*I am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”
  2. He is the LORD their God! He was their deliverer from Egyptian slavery.

3. They should keep the blessings of the LORD before them, be so in AWE of the LORD, and be SO EAGER to hear His Commands and to enter into a Covenant with Him!

**B. (Slide #6) The First Commandment:**

1. “You shall have no other gods before Me.” 3
2. This is THE fundamental principle of the commands -- it requires respect for God and for His authority!
3. The “One God” concept is not denying the Godhead!
  - a. Dt. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is one!*”
  - b. This word focuses upon the unity of the Godhead.
  - c. It is the same word as Gen. 2:24 “one flesh.”
4. This command forbade worship of the gods Israel would face in Canaan -- Baal (Canaanites, Phoenicians, and Moabites), Ashtoreth (Phoenicians), Chemosh (Moabites), or Dagon (Philistines). It also forbade worship of the gods of the Egyptians.
5. The penalty for Israel worshiping other gods -- Death! Dt. 6:14,15

**C. (Slide #7) The Second Commandment:**

1. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or 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; <sup>5</sup>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 on the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup>but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.” 4-6
2. They were not to make images and they were not to worship those images.
3. Why is this so dangerous?
  - a. It can lead to men viewing God as gold, silver, stone, etc.
  - b. Man loses his sense of and understanding of God.
  - c. Many will begin to exalt himself and worship the creation instead of the Creator.
4. The punishment for violating this command:
  - a. Dt. 13:6-11
  - b. Ex. 32:28 3,000 who worshiped the golden calf were killed by the Levites.

D. (Slide #8) The Third Commandment:

1. "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." <sup>7</sup>
2. God demands respect for His holy nature and name!
3. His name was to be held in highest esteem!
  - a. Ps. 8:1 "O LORD, our Lord, How excellent *is* Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!"
  - b. Ps. 111:9 "Holy and awesome *is* His name."
4. God was not commanding the Israelites to NEVER speak His name; He was demanding that it be used with respect and in a high and holy way. Blasphemy, cursing, or using His name in a common, trivial, or insignificant way is wrong! The point -- PURPOSE in the use of His name makes the difference.
5. The penalty of violating this command -- death! Lev. 24:15,16 "Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. <sup>16</sup>And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name *of the Lord*, he shall be put to death.'"

E. (Slide #9) The Fourth Commandment:

1. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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." <sup>8-11</sup>
2. God is required corporate worship on the Sabbath Day -- Saturday.
3. The penalty for violating the Sabbath -- death! Nu. 15:32-36 "Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. <sup>33</sup>And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. <sup>34</sup>They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him. <sup>35</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, 'The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.' <sup>36</sup>So, as the LORD commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died."

F. (Slide #10) The Fifth Commandment:

1. “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” <sup>12</sup>
2. This command required respect for parents and care for them. Mk. 7:10-13 “For Moses said, ‘*Honor your father and your mother*’; and, ‘*He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.*’” <sup>11</sup> But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me *is Corban*’--’ (that is, a gift *to God*), <sup>12</sup> then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, <sup>13</sup> making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”
3. The penalty for dishonoring parents -- Ex. 21:15,17 “And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.....” <sup>17</sup> And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.””

G. (Slide #11) The Sixth Commandment:

1. “You shall not murder.” <sup>13</sup>
2. This command required the Israelites to show respect for human life! It shows God’s utmost respect for human life. God pointedly told Cain who had killed his brother Abel, “The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.”
3. This command did not include all killing:
  - a. God commanded Israel to kill their enemies.
    1. God told Moses to command Israel to kill their enemies in Canaan. Dt. 7:1-3
    2. Saul was commanded to utterly destroy the Amalekites. I Sa. 15:3
    3. He destroyed everyone in Jericho but Rahab’s family. Josh. 6
  - b. Capital punishment of those who violated certain civil laws was commanded. A murderer would be tried; the avenger of blood would take carry out the capital punishment.
    1. Nu. 35:16-19
    2. Dt. 13:9 (this is the same word as in Ex. 20:13)
    3. Rom. 13:1-4
  - c. One who accidentally killed another person could flee to a city of refuge; he would be tried; if found innocent, he was required to remain in the city until the High Priest died; then he could leave the city of refuge and return to his normal life. However, if he left the city of refuge while the High Priest still lived, if the avenger of blood saw him, he could slay him.
    1. Nu. 35:10-35
    2. Dt. 19:1-13
    3. Josh. 20:1-19

- d. Self-protection.
- 4. It condemned premeditated murder!
- 5. The penalty for premeditated murder -- death!
  - a. Gen. 9:6 “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”
  - b. Ex. 21:12 “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.”
  - c. Nu. 35:15-19 “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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.”

H. (Slide #12) The Seventh Commandment:

- 1. You shall not commit adultery.” 14
- 2. God requires mates to be faithful to their spouse.
- 3. He is upholding the sacredness of marriage.
- 4. This is a condemnation of sexual relations with ANYONE other than one’s mate.
- 5. Such is a sin against God!
  - a. Joseph knew this when Potiphar’s wife enticed him. Gen. 39:9 “*There is* no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”
  - b. When Nathan confronted David about his adultery with Bathsheba, David said, “Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight -- That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.” Ps. 51:4
- 6. The penalty for adultery -- death!
  - a. Lev. 20:10 “The man who commits adultery with *another* man’s wife, *he* who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.”
  - b. Lev. 18:20 “Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor’s wife, to defile yourself with her.”

I. **(Slide #13)** The Eighth Commandment:

1. "You shall not steal." 15
2. This requires a respect for the property of others; it is a safeguard for their belongings.
3. The penalty for stealing:
  - a. Restitution of an animal -- 5 oxen for 1 ox; 4 sheep for 1 sheep. Ex. 22:1
  - b. If he cannot pay for restitution, he would be enslaved. 22:3
  - c. If a man was killed in the process of stealing at night, the one who killed him would not be guilty of violating the Sixth Command. Ex. 22:2

J. **(Slide #14)** The Ninth Commandment:

1. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." 16
2. This forbade lying, slander, or perjury.
3. God has always hated lying! This is among the things that God hates and that are an abomination to Him. Pr. 6:19 "A false witness *who* speaks lies,"
4. The penalty -- there was to be a trial, the person who lied was punished. Dt. 19:16-19

K. **(Slide #15)** The Tenth Commandment:

1. "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." 17
2. Covetousness is a desire for what another has to the point that you will disobey God and take advantage of the other person to seize his possession or gift.
3. It can be his possession, his mate, or anything that is his.
4. Covetousness is not just a sin of the wealthy; some of the least wealthy can be some of the MOST covetous!

### III. (Slide #16) The Significance Of The 10 Commandments:

#### A. They Were The Basis Of Every Command That God Gave Israel.

1. The 10 Commandments were the foundation of God's commands to Israel!
  - a. "And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: <sup>4</sup>'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. <sup>6</sup>And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.'" Ex. 19:3-6
  - b. They were the foundation of His Covenant with Israel.
  - c. There were 613 commands in all.
    1. Negatives -- 365
    2. Positives -- 248
2. The 10 Commandments could be summed up in two commands:
  - a. Mt. 22:25-30 "Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" <sup>38</sup>This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>And *the* second *is* like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*' <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'"
  - b. They were to love God and to love their fellowman!
3. The 10 Commandments were the Law for Israel for the next 1,500 years!
4. Some become irate at the phrase "Law of Moses;" however, it IS a Biblical term.
  - a. Josh. 8:31,32
  - b. Josh. 23:6
  - c. I Ki. 2:3 David charged Solomon: "And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the **Law of Moses**, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;"
  - d. II Ki. 14:6
  - e. II Ki. 23:25
  - f. II Chr. 23:18
  - g. II Chr. 30:16
  - h. Ezra 3:2
  - i. Ezra 7:6 "this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he *was* a skilled scribe in the **Law of Moses**, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him."



- j. Neh. 8:1
- k. Dan. 9:11,13
- l. Mal. 4:4
- m. Lk. 2:22
- n. Lk. 24:44 Jesus said, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the **Law of Moses** and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.”
- o. Jn. 7:23
- p. Ac. 15:5
- q. Ac. 28:23 Paul taught from “both the Law of Moses and the Prophets.”
- r. I Cor. 9:9
- s. Heb. 10:28

B. God Was Giving His Expectations To Israel.

**III. (Slide #17) The People’s Reactions: Ex. 20:18-26**

- A. “Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. <sup>19</sup>Then they said to Moses, ‘You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.’ <sup>20</sup>And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.’ <sup>21</sup>So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God *was*. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. <sup>23</sup>You shall not make *anything to be* with Me--gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves. <sup>24</sup>An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you. <sup>25</sup>And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it. <sup>26</sup>Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.’”

B. They Were Terrified; They Wanted Moses To Speak To God!

#### IV. (Slide #18) Observations:

A. (►) When Men Are In A Proper Relationship With God, They Will Determine To Be In A Proper Relationship With Our Fellowman!

B. (►) The 10 Commandment Law Was Not An ETERNAL Covenant!

1. It would last as long as Israel kept their side of the covenant.
2. God promised that He would give a NEW covenant to Israel!
  - a. Jer. 31:31-34 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah--<sup>32</sup>not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup>No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”
  - b. Paul told the Hebrews that this had actually occurred! Heb. 8:8-12
3. The Law of Moses was NEVER intended to last forever! Gal. 3:21-29
4. The Law of Moses was nailed to the Cross! Eph. 2:11-22; Col. 2:13,14
5. To attempt to submit to the Law of Moses and the Gospel of Christ simultaneously is to commit spiritual adultery!! Rom. 7:2-7

C. (►) Observe That Two Of The Commands Were Positive, Eight Were Negative!

1. Today many only want positive preaching.
2. They do not have the “mind of God.”
3. God’s tells man what to do; He also tells man not to do many things.