

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exo 20:1-17 ^{NKJ}

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:

THE FIRST TABLET

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

I. ² "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.

II. ⁴ "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; 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 on 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.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

THE SECOND TABLET

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

V. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

VI. ¹³ "You shall not murder.

VII. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

VIII. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

IX. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

X. 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."

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear¹ may be before you, so that you may not sin."

¹ Not the slavish fear of death, wrath, and damnation which Moses just urged them against; but a reverence of the divine Majesty, an awe of his greatness, glory, and holiness.