

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exo 20:1-17 ^{NKJ}; also [Deu 5:6-21]

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, [that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.] 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 field,] 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.