

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
JANUARY 29, 2025
EXODUS 20:1-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Three times in the Old Testament, we read the words “Ten Commandments.”
 - a) **EXODUS 34.28:** “He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.” This happened after God spoke to Israel directly.
 - b) **DEUTERONOMY 4.13:** “So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.”
 - c) **DEUTERONOMY 10.4:** “And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the LORD had spoken to you in the mountain...”
2. These were “commandments” that were to be obeyed. (Ex. 25.22)

I. THE CHARACTER OF THE LAW

- A. The Ten Commandments were just.
 1. **NEHEMIAH 9.13:** “and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them just ordinances”
 2. Just (yasar): “straight (not crooked or twisted); by extension, something morally straight” [Mounce]. Synonymous with “saddiq.” (cf. Ezek. 18.25-29; 33.17-20)
 3. Only God defines what is morally right. (Deut. 12.8,25; Judges 21.25; Jer. 44.16-18)
- B. The Ten Commandments were true.
 1. **NEHEMIAH 9.13:** “and spoke with them from heaven, and gave them...true laws”
 2. True (emet): “faithfulness, reliability, trustworthiness” [Mounce].
 3. The laws of God are consistent and without contradiction. (John 17.17; Ps. 86.11)
- C. The Ten Commandments were good.
 1. **NEHEMIAH 9.13:** “and gave...good statutes and commandments.”
 2. Good (tob): “to do well, do good, prosper.” In concept is that which is beneficial. In the Old Testament, it is often used in reference to material prosperity. (Deut. 28.11,12)
 3. The laws of God were written for our benefit. (Deut. 12.13; Jer. 32.30; Ps. 19.7-11)

II. THE CONTENT OF THE LAW

- A. The Ten Commandments can be divided into two sections.
 1. Laws pertaining to God. These consist of the first four commandments. (Ex. 20.1-11)
 2. Laws pertaining to man. These consist of the last six commandments. (Ex. 20.12-17)
 3. The Ten Commandments: the foundation of all the precepts, statutes, and judgments.
- B. All of the commands center around love.
 1. All the law is based on two commands. (Matt. 22.34-40)
 - a) **MATTHEW 22.37,38:** “You shall love the Lord your God”
 - b) **MATTHEW 22.39:** “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”
 - c) **MATTHEW 22.40:** “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
 2. All commandments are based on one truth. (Mark 12.37,38)
 3. **ROMANS 13.8-10:** “he who loves another has fulfilled the law... Love is the fulfillment of the law.”

III. THE CONSTRAINT OF THE LAW

- A. The Ten Commandments were limited in scope.
 1. They were given exclusively to the children of Israel. (Deut. 4.7,8; Rom. 3.1,2; 9.4)
 2. What governed the behavior of those outside of Israel? (Rom. 2.12-16)
- B. The Ten Commandments were limited in time.
 1. They were given only until Christ. (Luke 16.16; Eph. 2.14,15; Gal. 3.19-25)
 2. Today, we do not follow the Ten Commandment. (Gal. 6.2)
- C. The Ten Commandments were limited in effectiveness. (Acts 13.39; 2 Cor. 3.4ff)