

# Great Stories of the Bible - 2/20/22

## The Ten Commandments

**TEXT** – Exodus 20:1-17

**INTRO** – The Ten Commandments are not the ten suggestions. They are God’s written law of appropriate behavior. They start with “Thou shalt not.” There are many things we should do that are positive commands but the first revelation into God’s character He states “Thou shalt not.”

Marvin and Tina were not a very religious couple but tried their best; they only went to church once a year. As they were leaving the church, the pastor said, “Marvin, it sure would be nice to see you and Tina at Mass more than once a year” “I know,” replied Marvin, “We’re very busy people, leading active lives but at least we keep the Ten Commandments” “That’s great,” the pastor said. “I’m glad to hear that you keep the Commandments.” “Yes, we sure do” Marvin said proudly, “Tina keeps six of them and I keep the other four”.

### The First four commandments are in relation to God

**I. The First Commandment: Exodus 20:3** *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

**II. The Second Commandment: Exodus 20:4** *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

**III. The Third Commandment: Exodus 20:7** *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

**IV. The Fourth Commandment: Exodus 20:8** *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

### The Last six commandments are in relation to man.

**V. The Fifth Commandment: Exodus 20:12** *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

**VI. The Sixth Commandment: Exodus 20:13** *Thou shalt not kill.*

**VII. The Seventh Commandment: Exodus 20:14** *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

**VIII. The Eighth Commandment: Exodus 20:15** *Thou shalt not steal.*

**XI. The Ninth Commandment: Exodus 20:16** *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

**X. The Tenth Commandment: Exodus 20:17** *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.*

The two great commandments summarize these two categories.

**Matthew 22:36-40** *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

### Why Were the Ten Commandments Given?

- Some people believe that they have to follow the law they can go to Heaven. But God never intended for us to be able to keep them to have eternal life.

**A. The Ten Commandments reveal our sin.** Romans 3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

- The commandments were given to us to show us that we are sinners.

**B. The Ten Commandments reveal our suffering.**

- Everyone who has not kept the commandments has a curse upon them.

**Galatians 3:10** *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God . . .*

- What is this curse? Paul tells us that spiritual death is this curse.

Paul teaches in **Romans 6:23**, *“For the wages of sin is death.”*

- Everyone has sinned. Everyone has broken a commandment, if not more. Therefore, everybody is under the curse of death.

**C. The Ten Commandments show us the one and only Savior.**

- The commandments cannot forgive sin.

**Galatians 5:4** *Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*

- The most important lesson of the Ten Commandments is that we are all sinners and need Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Galatians 3:24-25** *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

- The law can be looked at like a teacher.

- The law shows us our need of a Savior.

**Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- The moment you receive Jesus as your Savior, you receive forgiveness of your past, purpose for your present, and security for your future.

#### **D. God gave the Ten Commandments for our personal well-being.**

**Exodus 20:2** *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

- The Israelites had already been redeemed at this point. The law was given for their personal well-being.

The Ten Commandments laid the foundation for the establishment of mankind's legal systems. In modern law, the crimes of deliberate homicide, rape, theft, and blasphemy are all derived from the sins listed in the Ten Commandments. The commandments and laws enshrined by Jehovah for the Israelites not only have had a profound impact on human law, but have also played a key role in the establishment and formation of moral civilization and democratic institutions in society. It is because of the limits imposed by these laws that mankind any order.

#### **E. The law was given to serve as a foundation for the nation of Israel.**

There are three essentials for any nation:

A nation has to have a common people, a common land, and a common law or constitution.

God had already given the Israelites a common people when he called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldeans. They were headed to their common land, the land of Canaan. But what they needed to bind them together was a constitution, a law. That's what we find, beginning the Exodus 20.

#### **The Ten Commandments**

**Exo 34:28** *And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.*

**Deu 4:13** *And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.*

**Deu 10:4** *And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly and the LORD gave them unto me*

- **The Ten Commandments were placed in the Ark of the Covenant.**

**Hebrews 9:4** *Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;*

**CONCL – Before the Ten Commandments the only guiding law for civilization was that given to man at creation. His morality had been deeply tainted by sin.**