

Exodus 20

Verses 1- 3

Then God spoke all these words, saying, ²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³“You shall have no other gods before Me.

Before we cover the 10 commandments let's look at some background issues concerning them. Were these commandments new? Some were and some were not.

The following commandments were not new:

1. The 2nd Commandment, the prohibition against idols, was known to Jacob who commanded his family to get rid of them.

See Genesis 35:2- 4

Then God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” ² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Remove the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments; ³ and let's arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me on the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” ⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.

This took place almost 300 years before the 10 commandments were given.

2. The 6th Commandment, You shalt not kill, had been around since the time of Noah

See Genesis 9:6

**⁶Whoever sheds human blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made mankind.**

This took place about 2550 years before the 10 commandments were given.

3. The 7th commandment, not committing adultery was known and accepted as law as early as Judah's order for Tamar to be burnt.

See Genesis 38:24

²⁴ Now it was about three months later that Judah was informed, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar has prostituted herself, and behold, she is also pregnant by prostitution.” Then Judah said, “Bring her out and have her burned!”

This took place about 275 years before the 10 commandments were given.

4. Some of the other 10 commandments may have been in existence also but without a specific example it cannot be stated as fact.

5. The one commandment that we know for sure was new was the commandment to keep the Sabbath.

See Exodus 16:23

²² Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, ²³ then he said to them, “This is what the Lord meant: Tomorrow is a Sabbath observance, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning.”

Now let's take a look at each of the 10 commandment.

1st Commandment

³ You shall have no other gods before me.

Why is this first commandment so important?

1. If there is more than one God, we cannot love God with all of our heart

See Matthew 22:37-38

³⁷ And He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

⁴⁰ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”

2. If there is more than one God, there is no real authority for the commandments.
3. If there is more than one God then there is no God because he is not all knowing or all powerful.

Verses 4 - 6

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love me and keep my commandments.

2nd Commandment

“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not worship them or serve them;

The use of sacred images degrades mankind.

See Romans 1:22 - 23

²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasoning's, and their senseless hearts were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.

The early church (100 to 400 AD) rejected the use of images in the church. However, the Catholic Church introduced images into the Church during the Middle Ages (500 to 1500 AD)

They introduced graven images of various saints and Mary. This led to people showing veneration and praying to these saints and to Mary. The Catholic Church even declared Mary to be without sin.

See Pic 2005



If anyone thinks this is not a problem then they should ask themselves why the Catholic Church has removed the 2nd commandment from the 10 commandments.

See Video 2010 The Catholic 10 commandments

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.3.html>

The Catholic Church teaches that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was sinless her entire life, both from conception and throughout her life. This belief is rooted in the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, which states that Mary was conceived without any stain of original sin and remained free from personal sin.

No doubt some people will say that this is Catholic bashing but when did telling the truth become improper. Doesn't the bible say that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God? The only exception to this statement was the son of God.

There is one funny note concerning idols. On a visit to Japan's Diabutsu (Giant Buddha) there was a great wooden temple surrounded by many niches housing various idols. On that day, there were large signs in black and red letters in two languages that said, "**Sorry, these gods are out for repair!**"

See Pic 2015 below



Sorry that the signs are not visible in this picture but we all get the irony.

Verse 7

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,” for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

3rd Commandment

This includes all of the following.

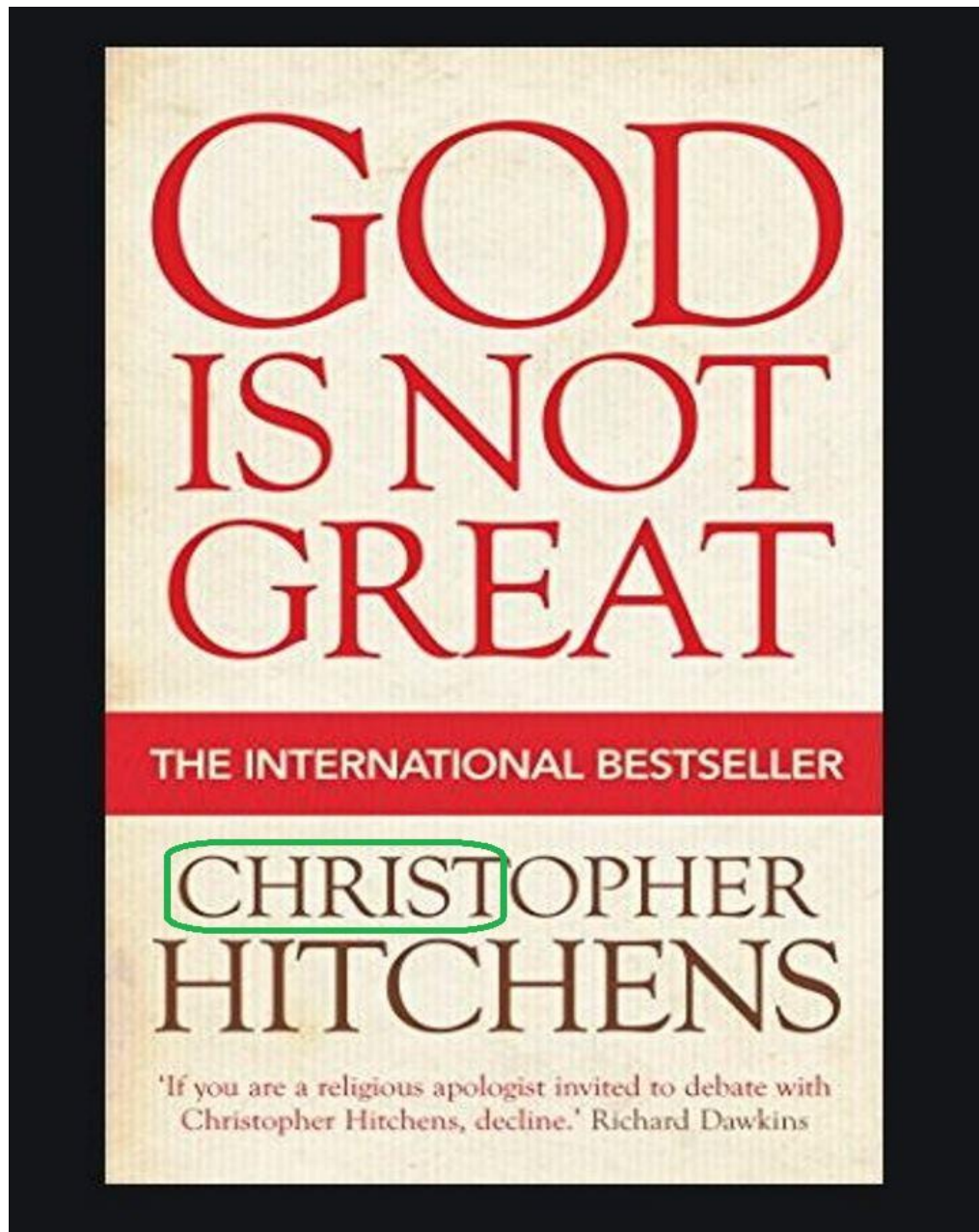
1. Using God’s name to swear or curse.
2. To call on God’s name, but not in truth or righteousness

See Isaiah 48:1

**“Hear this, house of Jacob, who are named Israel
And who came from the waters of Judah,
Who swear by the name of the Lord
And invoke the God of Israel,
But not in truth nor in righteousness.”**

3. Saying or writing things that are meant to diminish God

See pic 2020



The fact that his first name contains the title/name of Christ seems somewhat ironic considering his book.

He obviously had a problem with religion and spoke with fervor about it, but many of the things he said about false religions were right on the mark.

He will be missed but one can only hope he had a last hour conversion.

Verses 8 -11

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 a Sabbath of the Lord your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

4th Commandment

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

The Sabbath was meant to be a blessing (a day of rest) but even this became a curse (a host of legal requirements) under the religious leaders of Jesus day.

¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Moses compares the 6 days of creation with the 6 day work week. We should all be glad that the days of creation were 6 literal 24 hour days and not billions of years or we would never get to rest.

Also, when God creates the new “Heaven and Earth” we will have to wait for billions of years for it to be completed. ☺

Verse 12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

5th Commandment

The honoring of father and mother comes from God.

See Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), ³ so that it may turn out well for you, and that you may live long on the earth.

In Jewish practice, "corban" could be used to designate property or resources as vowed to God. This practice was used by some to exempt themselves from the obligation of helping their parents.

See Matthew 15:3 - 6

³ And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves also break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'The one who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.' ⁵ But you say, 'Whoever says to *his* father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God," ⁶ he is not to honor his father or mother.' And *by this* you have invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

Verse 13

You shall not murder.

6th Commandment

1. This is not a prohibition against serving in the military. Killing in war was not viewed as murder. Jesus never suggested that soldiers give up their service in the Roman army. However, war is not a license to engage in torcher, sex crimes, or stealing.

2. This is not a prohibition against keeping the peace. State and local governments have the responsibility to protect the public from mobsters, criminals, and mentally deranged people

See Romans 13:1- 5

Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

² **Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.** ³ **For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;** ⁴ **for it is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.** ⁵ **Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for the sake of conscience.**

3. This is not a prohibition against capital punishment. It is the law of God that murderers shall be put to death by society.

See Genesis 9:6

**⁶ Whoever sheds human blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made mankind.**

4. This is not a prohibition against self-defense

See Luke 22:36

³⁶ And He said to them, “But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his cloak and buy *one*.

It is a command that no one should deliberately kill another person. To do so is to put yourself in the place of God. God has given us a judicial system run by the government so vigilante justice does not turn into anarchy. It may not always be fair, but it's the best system we know of to keep the peace

Verse 14

You shall not commit adultery.

7th Commandment

See Matthew 5:27- 28

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; ²⁸ but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

This commandment was addressed to married men.

Did God forget to give the exceptions to this rule? No He didn't, there are none! Some men may think, hope, and wish that there were some exceptions, but breaking this commandment is like breaking the law of gravity. If you jump off a tall building, you don't break the law of gravity, you confirm it.

Verse 15

You shall not steal.

8th Commandment

This commandment recognizes and safeguards the right of property. People have the right to own property and their property is protected under the law. Christians are commanded to work so they can help others.

See Ephesians 4:28

²⁸ The one who steals must no longer steal; but rather he must labor, producing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with the one who has need.

Verse 16

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor

9th Commandment

Perjury, making false statements under oath, is a crime.

Slander, telling a falsehood that damages the reputation of another, is a crime.

Gossip may not be a crime but it can definitely hurt your neighbor.

Verse 17

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor

10th Commandment

Covet means to crave after something that belongs to another person.

This includes but is not limited to your neighbor's house, wife, male servant, female servant, ox or His donkey.

This is the most comprehensive commandment because it can involve any aspect of life

See Romans 7:8 - 9

⁷ What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? Far from it! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸ But sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin *is* dead.

Covetousness is a deadly sin.

See Ephesians 5:5

⁵ For this you know with certainty, that no sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, which amounts to an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

David broke this commandment when he took the wife of Uriah. He also broke the 7th commandment when he slept with Bathsheba. He also broke the 6th commandment when he had Uriah killed.

The only person to break more commandments at one time was Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at one time. 😊😊

Verses 18 - 21

All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.” ²¹ So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.”

Having experienced (seeing and hearing) the physical signs that took place the people had a healthy fear (respect) for God. They preferred that Moses would act as an intermediary between them and God because of their fear.

²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.”

It was good for the people to fear God but they came to the wrong conclusion about how their fear of God should be demonstrated. It made them back away from God rather than letting the fear of God keep them from sinning.

Verses 22 - 26

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.’ ²³ You shall not make *other gods* besides me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves. ²⁴ You shall make an altar of earth 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 cause my name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you. ²⁵ If you make an altar of stone for me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. ²⁶ And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, so that your nakedness will not be exposed on it.’

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.’ ²³ You shall not make *other gods* besides me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves.

Since God is in heaven He must be a spirit therefore men should not make other gods that are made from physical items like silver or gold.

²⁴ You shall make an altar of earth 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 cause my name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you.

During the wilderness wanderings, the tabernacle would be moved from place to place which included 42 places in all. That amounted to about a one place per year.

After they conquered the Promised Land, it stayed in Shiloh for more than 300 years.

See chart 2025

Location of the Tabernacle while Israel was in the wilderness

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Num. 33	42 locations	1445	1406	39

Location of the Tabernacle after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Joshua 5:10	Gilgal	1406	1396	10
Joshua 18:1	Shiloh	1396	1070	326
Jeremiah 7:14	Shiloh destroyed	1070		
	Not sure	1070	1020	50
I Sam 21	Nob	1020	1000	20
I Chron. 16:39-40	Gibeon	1000	959	40

Tabernacle replaced by the temple

I Kings 8:3-4	Solomon's Temple	959	586	373
Zachariah 4:9	Zerubbabel's temple	516	20 BC	496
Secular History	Herod's temple	20 BC	70 AD	90

The tabernacle will be completed 9 months from now.

See pic 2030 The Tabernacle



Solomon's temple will replace the tabernacle in 959 BC, about 500 years from now.

