

AMBASSADORS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

EXODUS 20:1-17 Introduction

September 21, 2025

- I. Where are we? (Ex Chaps 19, 20)
 - A. Theme 19:1-15: God prepares His people, the Sons of Israel, to receive the covenant relationship that He is going to establish with them through Moses as His mediator.
 - B. Theme 19:16-25: God descends on Mount Sinai to speak in the hearing of all His people the Ten Commandments, which will provide the basis of His Covenant relationship with them.
 - C. Theme Chapters 20-31: The covenant relationship between God and Israel, where obedience is a response to God's grace and a means of maintaining fellowship with Him. (not salvation but right worship)
 - 1. The Ten Commandments (ten words) (20:1-17)
 - 2. The Law and ordinances (20:18 – 31:18; remainder of Pentateuch)
 - 3. Deut 6:1 Commandments and statutes and ordinances
- II. The far-reaching effects of Ten Words (part of the Law)
 - A. Why are we here?
 - 1. God is fulfilling His promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3; Deut 7:12; Gal 3:9, 29; Rev 22:3,4)
 - 2. Preparation for entering the Land as they obey by His grace (**Deut 7:12, 8:1ff**)
 - 3. The fulfillment in believers today. (**Gal 3:9, 29; Rev 22:3,4**)
 - B. How do we get from here (Ex 20) to there (Rev 22 new heavens and earth)?
 - 1. The superiority of Christ (Heb 3:5-6; 8:6)
 - 2. Not the abolishment of the Law but it's fulfillment (Matthew 5:17; Gal 5:14, 18)
- III. Why do these Ten Words matter?
 - A. God is speaking (Gen 1:3; Luke 9:35; Rev 21:3; John 11:25f)
 - B. Old Testament - The OT: He's coming (and why He needs to come)!
(Gen 2:16-17; Ex 20:20; Deut 29:29; 30:5-6, 11, 19f; See also Heb 10:9f, 1 Tim 2:5)
When God gave the Law to the children of Israel, He included the standard of expected behavior, the punishment when the law was transgressed, and the corresponding atonement needed to restore the sinner back into fellowship (not salvation) with God and His people.
 - C. New Testament - He came (Gospels), this is what His coming meant (Acts & the epistles), and He's coming again (Revelation)
(Romans 6:23; Heb 10:1-4; Romans 3:19-20; Gal 3:24; Romans 8:1-4; Philippians 2:13; 1John 2:3-5)
As Christ-followers, we are still obligated to obey God's commands, but now we have the Spirit of God in us giving us the ability, the desire, and the power to do so.

D. Comparison: Old vs. New (Ps 119:96)

1. Example comparisons of the old life under “the law” and the new life we live by God’s forgiving grace. (Heb 10:9-18)
2. The rest of the Scriptures are but a commentary on the Ten Commandments. It should be carefully observed that in the things expressly commanded or forbidden there is always implied more than is formally stated. Arthur W. Pink
 - a) In each Commandment the chief duty or sin is taken as representative of all the lesser duties or sins. (Ex 20:13 cf. Matt 5:21-23)
 - b) When any vice is forbidden the contrary virtue is enjoined, and when any virtue is commanded the contrary vice is condemned. (Ex 20:7 cf. Matt 6:9)
3. It cannot be too much stressed that Old Testament moral teaching ... is not inferior to that of the New Testament, let alone the conventional standards of our time. J. I. Packer
 - a) By giving truer expositions (a comprehensive description and explanation), he (*Jesus*) actually republished the law.
 - b) The negative form of the Commandments has positive implications.

IV. Application

- A. God gave the Law as a temporary measure to enable His people to enter His presence and live in obedience to His will. The death and resurrection of Christ represented the final atonement for sin, and it is only through faith in Christ that anyone can find peace with God. Nevertheless, the Ten Commandments still present principles of godliness that the Lord expects of His people today.
- B. Many New Testament passages demonstrate this. Jesus came to fulfill the Law by providing free access into the presence of God through His final sacrifice, and He gave us His Holy Spirit to enable us to fulfill the principles of godliness—the principles outlined in the Ten Commandments—in our own lives. Those principles of godly behavior are as important today as they were in Moses’ day.
- C. As God’s new creation we actually want to obey His law – not because it gets us anything, but because of our love for Him. We still say with the Psalmist in his ageless words, “I delight (*i.e.. desire*) to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.” (**Psalm 40:8**)

Next Week: A look at each of the Ten Words (Ex 20:1-7)

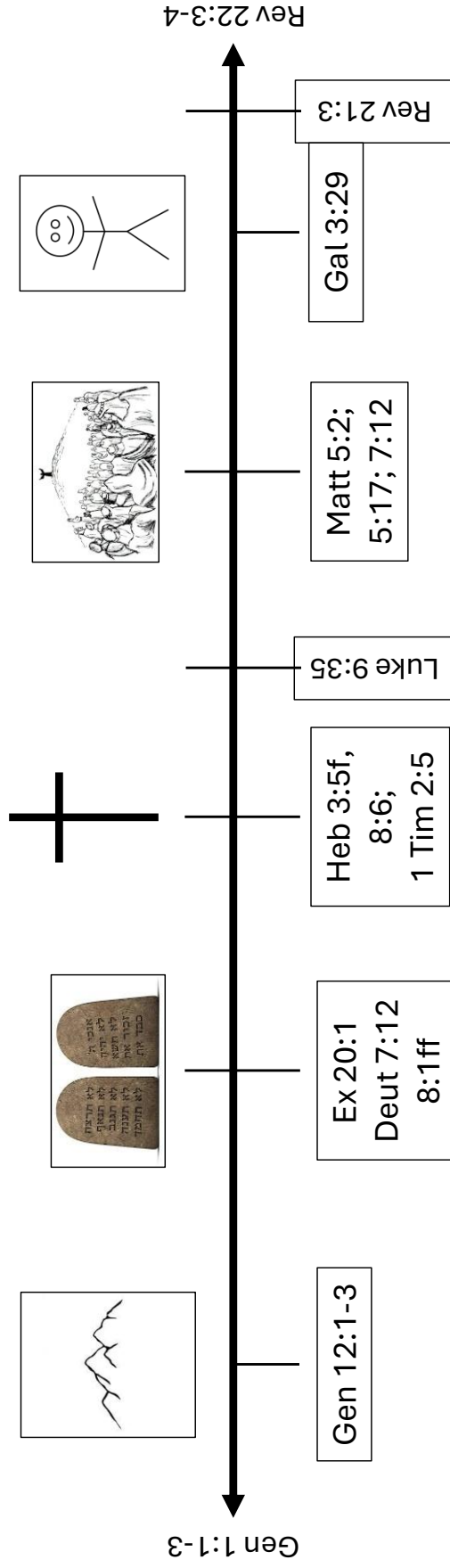
Attachment: 1.The Big Picture
2.Ten Commandments Chart

Context of the Ten Words, The Big Picture

The Theme of the Bible: God is redeeming a people by His Son, for His Son, to His own glory.

OT: He is coming (and why He needs to come)

NT: He came, what His coming meant, He's Coming again



The Ten Commandments			
Commandment	O.T. Statement	O.T. Death Penalty	N.T. Restatement
1st Polytheism	Ex. 20:3	Ex. 22:20; Deut. 6:13–15	Acts 14:15
2nd Graven Images	Ex. 20:4	Deut. 27:15	1 John 5:21
3rd Swearing	Ex. 20:7	Lev. 24:15, 16	James 5:12
4th Sabbath	Ex. 20:8	Num. 15:32–36	Col. 2:16 nullifies
5th Obedience to Parents	Ex. 20:12	Ex. 21:15–17	Eph. 6:1
6th Murder	Ex. 20:13	Ex. 21:12	1 John 3:15
7th Adultery	Ex. 20:14	Lev. 20:10	1 Cor. 6:9, 10
8th Theft	Ex. 20:15	Ex. 21:16	Eph. 4:28
9th False Witness	Ex. 20:16	Deut. 18:16–21	Col. 3:9, 10
10th Coveting	Ex. 20:17	—	Eph. 5:3
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