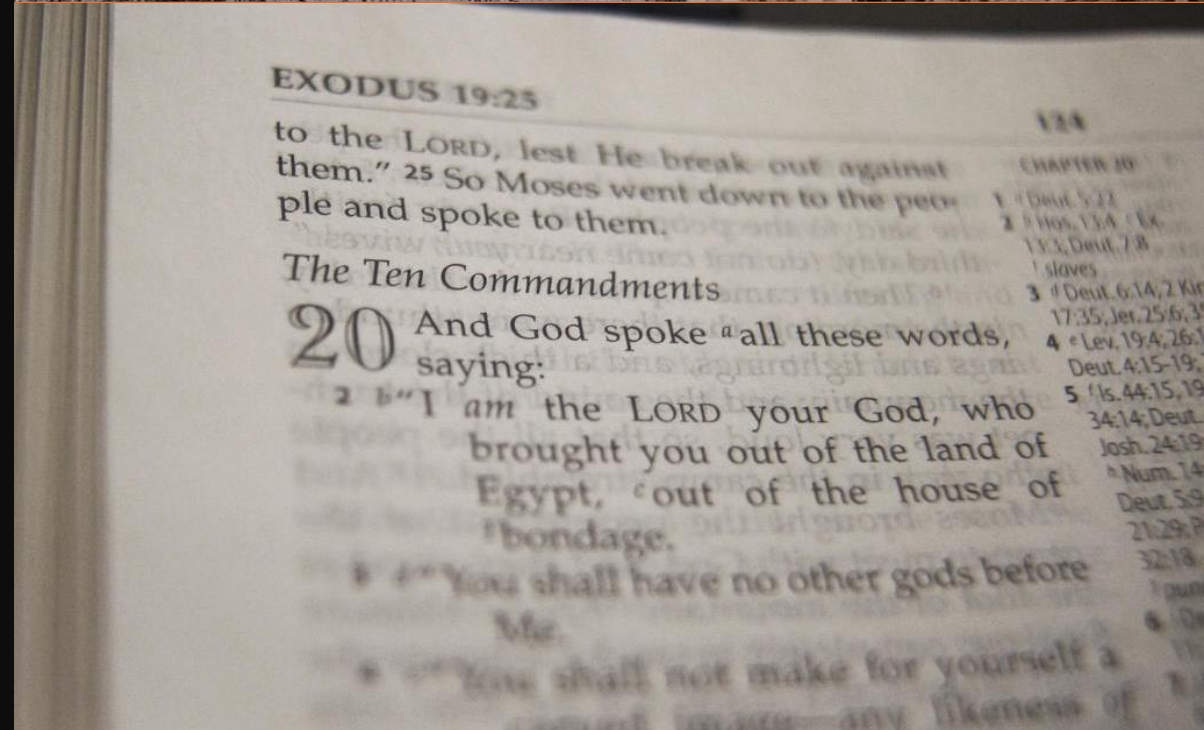

Ambassadors Sunday School Class

09/28/2025



The Context

- Ten Commandments
 - These commandments encapsulated the entire law
 - They teach us today, just as they did the Israelites
 - They teach us what it means to follow God's moral law
- The Law (moral, ceremonial, civil)
 - God gave to Moses on subsequent trips up the mountain
 - Far more detailed than the Ten Words (613)

Introduction

Vs. 1

- God Himself is speaking these words (Deut 5:4,5)
 - “The LORD spoke to you face to face”
 - “to declare to you the word of the LORD”
 - “you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain”

Introduction (Cont.)

Vs. 2

- The word translated LORD in the Old Testament (often printed in small capitals, as in the *New American Standard version*) is translated *Jehovah*, meaning “the existing one.”
- The name is also sometimes spelled Yahweh as in the *Legacy Standard Bible*, the personal name for God. The same person who brought them out of Egypt

Introduction (Cont.)

Vss. 20:3–17

- The Ten Commandments are formed as a precept or direct command
 - Given in the second person
 - Addresses the reader directly, speaking to them
- Ancient codes were casuistic (case law) in 3rd person
 - Refers to people outside of the conversation

Introduction (Cont.)

The Ten Commandments may also be grouped into two broad categories:

- Vertical, man's relationship to God (1st four, vv. 2–11)
 - A prohibition followed by an explanation or reason
- Horizontal, man's relationship to the community (last six, vv. 12–17)
 - Concisely listed prohibitions

1st Commandment Vs. 3

- It literally means, “You shall have no other gods *in My face*”
 - No other gods “in my presence”
 - God’s people are to worship and serve Him alone
- They are to take care not to allow anything else become a false god in their lives
 - When they worship false gods they are plunged into religious confusion (Judges 17 & 18 regarding Micah)

2nd Commandment Vss. 4-6

- It is in our sinful human nature to desire a god that can be seen and managed, but God calls His people to walk by faith rather than by sight (see 2 Corinthians 5:7).
- We risk making anything an idol when we give it authority in our lives, or allow something to determine our daily schedule, or make something a top financial priority.

2nd Commandment Vss. 4-6 (Cont.)

- A man who worships something besides the one true God will pass on that idolatry to his children
 - And God's judgment will also last for several generations
- Anyone who allows an idol to take precedence in his life hates God (Matthew 6:24).
- Verse 6 underscores that God's mercy is far greater and far more frequent than His wrath

3rd Commandment Vs. 7

- We are permitted to know His name
 - But we are equally forbidden to abuse that name
- In the OT this included oaths and vows
- For the NT believer we need no verification
 - Our life should exhibit the truth
 - Let our yes be yes and our no be no (Matt5:37, James 5:12)

4th Commandment Vss. 8-11

- Each seventh day belonged to the Lord
 - Would not be a workday
 - But one set apart (i.e., holy) for rest (Gen 2:1-3)
 - For time devoted to the worship of Yahweh
- Jesus would later warn against legalistic observation of the Law, including this Sabbath law (Mark 2:27, Gal 2:16)

4th Commandment Vss. 8-11 (Cont.)

- In the early Christian community, observance of the sabbath gave way to observance of what the Christians called the “Lord’s day” (Rev. 1:10)
- The first day of the week was probably chosen because it was the day on which Jesus rose from the dead (Matt. 28:1)
- The principle remains: Set aside time for worship of God which is now on the first day of the week

5th Commandment Vs. 12

- The key to societal stability
 - Reverence and respect for parents
 - And their authority
- In the New Testament, Paul echoed this teaching of the Law
 - In Ephesians 6:1–3 he quotes from Deut 5:16

6th Commandment Vs. 13

- The divinely imposed (irreversible) sentence of death for intentional murder (cf 21:12; Num. 35:17–21) stands without parallel in ancient Near Eastern literature and legal codes (cf Gen. 9:5, 6)
- Jesus would remind people of this law and teach them undue anger is no better (Matthew 5:21–22)
- By this command, people would be reminded and exhorted to strive after carefulness in the affairs of life so that, on the person-to-person level, no one would die by their hand

7th Commandment Vs. 14

- This command, protected the sacredness of the marriage relationship
 - applicable to both men and women
- Jesus took this commandment seriously
 - He taught that lust in the heart was equal to adultery in the body
 - In terms of its culpability before God (Matt 5:27–28)

8th Commandment Vs. 15

- Any dishonest acquiring of another's goods or assets greatly disturbs the right of ownership of private property
 - An important principle for societal stability
- Stealing seriously questions God's unquestionable ability to properly provide for His people.
- Nothing changed from OT > NT
 - Paul wrote, Ephesians 4:28

9th Commandment Vs. 16

- Justice is never served by untruthful testimony
- Practically all societies have recognized this principle and adjure all witnesses in courts “to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.”
- Jesus taught the penchant to lie against one’s neighbor comes straight from man’s heart—and defiles him (Matthew 15:18–19)

10th Commandment Vs. 17

- The thoughts and desires of the heart do not escape God's attention.
 - A strong longing to have what another has is wrong
 - You murder and covet and cannot obtain. (James 4:1–3)
- Coveting gets us nowhere

Conclusion:

The Ten Commandments are still valid for Christians today

- God gave the Law as a temporary measure to enable His people to enter His presence and live in obedience to His will (Gal 3:19-25)
- 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 (John 3:16)
- Nevertheless ...

Conclusion (Cont.)

The Ten Commandments are still valid for Christians today

- Nevertheless, the Ten Commandments still present principles of godliness that the Lord expects of His people today (WCF, Chap 19, #7)
- Those principles of godly behavior are as important today as they were in Moses' day. (Matthew 5:17ff)
- Also see CBC media, Ambassadors Sunday School class for 09/21/25 by Mike Alexander)

Personal Response

1. Which of the Ten Commandments convicts you of sin?
How might the Lord be leading you to change this week?
2. Are you living by the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:36-40)? How can you deepen your love of God? How can you deepen your love for others?

Next Week

Ex 20:18-26

God's Terrifying Presence: The Lord next reminds His people that they should not take lightly their privilege of entering His presence