

Shema Yisrael:

Parting of the Red Sea, The Great Command to The Ten Commandments

“When Pharaoh temporarily relented after the 10th plague, Moses led Israel’s out of Egypt 12:37. They took the mummified body of Joseph 13:19 and a mixed multitude.

The Exodus began at Rameses and to Pithom before reaching the Red Sea.

Before the Hebrews were out of Goshen Pharaoh hardened his heart once more and entered the delta with 600 war chariots. Israel had just seen God’s mighty acts in the plagues and the Passover. Israel being visibly guided by a cloud in the day and fire at night.

Nevertheless they panicked so God placed His angel between Israel and Egypt and told Moses how to get his people across the sea.

Much has been written on the crossing on the Red Sea or “Reed Sea” as the Hebrew puts it. The term “Reed Sea” can be applied to the both the Western leg of the Red Sea and the bitter lakes. The Bible does not specify where in the region this took place, other than there was a barrier of water that needed God’s intervention.

Some maps show the line of Exodus north to the marsh land along to the Mediterranean where there can be a physical passage through the reeds. Another option is that the line of march was the western leg of the Red Sea where there is deep water. No specific point of crossing can be identified somewhere along the length of the (Hebrew) “Reed Sea” God worked a miracle and there was a crossing but not for Pharaoh’s army which was destroyed.

Once safely across the “Reed Sea” Moses sang praise to God for victory and salvation Exodus 15:1-18

In ancient Egyptian funerary text the soul of the dead person passed over the Sea of Reeds into the next world. Moses would have been well aware of Egypt’s religious jargon and might have seen a parallel and that now the Hebrews were to be set apart as Holy and pure Nation. They were Baptized as Paul states.

I Corinthians 10:1-3 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;² And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴ And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

Exodus 19:3-8 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; ⁴ Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and [*how*] I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [*is*] mine: ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These [*are*] the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. ⁷ And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. ⁸ And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Exodus 19:10-19 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, ¹¹ And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. ¹² And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, [*that ye*] go [*not*] up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: ¹³ There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether [*it be*] beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.¹ ¹⁴ And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵ And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at [*your*] wives. ¹⁶ And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people

that [*was*] in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. 18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. 19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Some of the commandments had been known for ages. No. 2, the prohibition of sacred images, was known to Jacob who commanded his family to bury such things "under the oak by *Shechem*" (Genesis 35:4). No. 6, "Thou shalt not kill" had been a capital offense ever since God's commandment to Noah (Genesis 9:6). No. 5, on honoring father and mother, was known upon the occasion of Noah's cursing of Canaan (Genesis 9:20-25). No. 7, regarding adultery, was known and accepted as God's law even as early as Judah's order for Tamar to be burnt (Genesis 38:24). Thus, the heart of the Decalogue was already accepted as the Law of God for centuries prior to this chapter. There are 613 total Laws in the Pentateuch. Some have referred to the Ten Commandments as a summary of God's moral Laws during the O.T. period.

The Law Code of Hammurabi - was discovered in 1901 Morgan Iran, precipitating one of those intellectual somersaults so typical of the Biblical non-believing critics. First they said the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch was impossible because "codes of laws in such detail as that of the Bible did not exist so early." Hammurabi's code dated between 2067-2025 BC (some moderns date him 1810 BC - 1750 BC) When it was found, then alleged by the critics said that Moses copied his code from Hammurabi ...We know, of course, that such allegations are merely the knee-jerk response of unbelievers to Divine truth.

"The differences are so obvious and numerous they show the originality of the Law of Moses. Hammurabi ascribes his laws to the Sun God ignorant of the true light that lighteth every man coming into the world. Hammurabi speaks endlessly of "slaves" and "gentlemen."

It has no prohibition against lust. It is preoccupied with spells cast by witches.

The Ten Commandments were given to Israel as a Covenant Nation.

Deuteronomy 5:2-3 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, [even] us, who [are] all of us here alive this day.

The Ten Commandments

The first and great commandment of God, having an expanded meaning was given by Christ, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength"

Mark 12:29-31 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: (cf: Deut. 6:4-5) this [is] the first commandment. 31 And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (cf: Lev. 19:18) There is none other commandment greater than these.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Shema Israel

She-ma, yis-ra-el, Adonai (Hebrew)

Hear O' Israel the Lord (English)

E-lo-hey-nu, Adonai, e-had (Hebrew)

our God is one Lord. (English)

Ba-ru-kh, shem, ke-vod (Hebrew)

Blessed be the Name (English)

Mali-hu-to, le-O'lam, va-ed (Hebrew)

of His glorious Kingdom for all eternity (English)

Notice the 2nd half of the Shema “blessed be the name of His glorious Kingdom for all eternity” is not taken from Deuteronomy 6 and they orthodox Jews do not dare quote verse 5 because that is exactly what Jesus said. Therefore to deny Christianity they invented the 2nd half and Praise God Look at What God has every orthodox Jew doing 7 times a day. What is the Kingdom of God? THE CHURCH, God has orthodox Jews blessing the Church 7 times a day and they are too stupid to know it.

"The Lord is one ..." Jewish scholars take this as a denial of the doctrine of the Trinity, but the word for "one" here is [echad], which means a compound unity, being used here and in such statements as "the people are one." The word for an absolute unity is ['achid]. The use of plural words for God in Genesis and also here in Deuteronomy strongly suggests plurality in the Godhead. (Father, Son & Holy Spirit)

“The first of all the commandments [is], This is true because all other commandments derive from it. Why is it a sin to murder? ... "Because all men are made in God's image, making the crime of murder a crime against God. Joseph identified adultery as primarily a "sin against God" (Genesis 39:9); and so on, for all the others.

Do people today need this injunction? Indeed they do. The pantheon of the old pagan gods is no longer around, Venus sex, Bacchus wine, Mars war & power, and all the rest of them: Gold, Fashion, Fame, Ease, Intellect, Travel, War, Passion, Chance, Drink, etc. are all very much still in business! Science, especially, is the god of humanism.

Humanism is the current popular "god", the same being nothing other than the deification of man himself. Here is the present-day echo of the primeval rebellion against God, "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (cf: Genesis 3:5) as Satan promised in Garden of Eden.

Therefore, if mankind would improve world conditions, if they would reduce crime, conquer selfishness, procure any measure of peace and happiness to the world, or destroy the fatal cancer of lust and hatred gnawing at the vitals of society, then let them acknowledge our dependence upon God. Let them honor the first and great commandment. The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20

which is the account of God Himself speaking the commandments to the people when they were delivered from Egypt. The second account is 40 years later in Moses final sermon and charge to the people found in Deuteronomy 5.

In Deut 4:13 They are called *as-certh hadd-eb-arim*, "The Ten Words"

In Exodus 19:5 God calls them *eth berithi*, My Covenant. The word Covenant here evidently refers to the Laws given in this chapter as is evident in Deut 4:13. Frequently they are called The Decalogue, which is a literal translation into Greek of: "the Ten Words".

They are generally divided into the first and second tables. The first table contains the first, second, third and fourth commandments. The first table shows the respect and worship which is due to the Lord our God our duty to God.

The second table contains the last six commandments which are ethics and moral duties which man owes to his fellow man - our duty to our neighbor. Jesus Himself divided the Law into two tables of commandments when He said cf:

Matthew 22:36-40 Master, which [is] the great commandment in the law? 37 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. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,

The First Commandment

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.

YHWH (Yahweh) *Elo-hey'-cha* The Lord thy God, each individual person is addressed here, and not the people collectively. By delivering them from the house of bondage, God has proved Himself to be superior to

all the worlds so called gods, and unlimited in power, and most gracious in mercy and loving kindness.

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

***Elhoim acherim* means “no strange gods” none that has not given you such proof of his power and Godhead by delivering you from the Egyptians, dividing the Red Sea, providing water out of the rock, and manna from Heaven. This commandment prohibits all mental idolatry.**

The Second Commandment

Against Making or Worshipping Images

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:

Note the words "unto thee," indicating that it is religious images which are forbidden, objects of human adoration and worship.

The Hebrew word *pas-al* signifies to hew, carve, grave, etc. It means any kind of image, of wood, stone, metal or molten casted metal on which the axe, chisel or graving tool has been used upon. This prohibits all the idolatry which they saw and was practiced in Egypt during their captivity.

40 years later when they were about to enter the land Moses said speaking of when God gave the 10 commandments Himself cf:

Deuteronomy 4:15 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day *that* the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:

The Roman Catholic Church in order to continue their image worship has left the whole of this second commandment out of the Decalogue. Thus they have lost one whole commandment. But they make up for it by dividing the tenth commandment into two. This second commandment is found in every ancient manuscript (MSS) and translation. It is in Hebrew, Samaritan, Chaldea, Syriac, LXX, Septuagint, Vulgate, Coptic, Arabic, and the Persian. Many copies of

the books of Exodus and Deuteronomy were found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. There is not one word of this 2nd commandment missing from any of the ancient versions.

This commandment prohibits all external idolatry as the first commandment prohibits all internal idolatry.

Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;

Note: Exodus 20:4-5 also that the prohibition is multiple: (1) religious images must not be made; (2) men must not bow down to them; (3) men must not serve them. By its very nature any religious image is false, being a lying presentation of what is allegedly represented. How can that which is material represent anything spiritual? How can that which is helpless represent eternal omnipotence? How can that which decays represent life eternal? How can that which is not intelligent represent omniscience? How can that which is dumb, unfeeling, blind, and dead represent any of the vital realities of God and holy religion?

This shows that God felt for them as the most affectionate husband could feel for his spouse, and was jealous for their loyalty because He willed their happiness.

Visiting the iniquity of the fathers implies if the children walk in the steps of their fathers cf:

Ezekiel 18:2 What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

"This false proverb, untrue on the face of it, was singularly inapplicable by Israel in their situation, because they were by no means innocent of wrong doing, being, in fact, actually worse than their fathers."

In response to Israel's use of this evil proverb, God swore with a mighty oath, that he would stop their use of it at once, because it reflected against the justice of God Himself.

Ezekiel 18:19-20 Yet say ye, Why? doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, *and* hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. 20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

Here it is stated both positively and negatively that God's government and God's justice are eternally equitable and fair.

Idolatry in particular is intended in visiting the sins. There will be both individual and national judgments. By withdrawing Divine protection, the idolatrous Israelis were delivered into the hands of their enemies. This God did to the third and fourth generation as may be seen in every part of Jewish history. Finally, the Babylonian captivity cured the Israelis completely from idolatry, so that they never again disgraced themselves by it.

Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

What a disproportion between works of justice and mercy. Justice works to the third and fourth generation, but mercy works to thousands of generations.

That “love me and keep My commandments”, is a clause that Christ used to state the fulfillment of the whole law.

The Third Commandment

Against False Swearing Blasphemy & Irreverent Use God's Name

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.

This not only includes all false oaths but all common swearing, where the name of God is used or where He is appealed to, as a witness of the truth. This forbids all light and irreverent mention of God. The original Hebrew word *lash-shav*, includes any prayer not accompanied with deep reverence and a spirit of genuine repentance. All who do such, God will account him as guilty & punish him for it.

The Fourth Commandment

Against Breaking Sabbath & Idleness on Other Days of the Week

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

The word Sabbath signifies rest or cessation from labor, and it has something representative in it and so it typifies the rest in glory which remains for the people of God cf:

Hebrews 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

Exodus 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

This was a way of pointing out that six days of full employment would enable man to do all the work that was necessary. Note that it is in connection with "Six days shalt thou labor" that this reference occurs. The lazy one who idles away time on the six days of labor, is as guilty before God as he who works on the Sabbath. Works of absolute necessity and mercy alone are accepted. The Lord's Day should be devoted to the rest of the body, the improvement of the mind, and the fellowship with God, our families and brethren.

"Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work ..." If the "rest" part of this is binding, so is the "work" part.

A common fallacy about "labor" is that it is only something that men in overalls do. Look at murals all over the world. It is the man with the wrench, or the oil can, invariably clad in overalls who is represented as "the worker." This is a false view. The "worker" is also the thinker, the writer, the preacher, the capitalist, the salesman, the artist, and a host of others. Paul wrote, "I labor," but he was not talking about making tents, but about preaching the gospel.

Some of the violators of this commandment are: the idler, the neglecter of public worship, the playboy, the spendthrift, the gambler, the chiseler, the loafer, the disdainer of honest work, the irreligious, and the man who lives by the sweat of other men's faces.

Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, Burton Coffman, BW Johnson, Adam Clark, FF Bruce, McKnight and JW McGarvey, George Faulstich Commentaries, Archaeology & the Old Testament by Alfred Hoerth, On the Reliability of the O.T. K.A. Kitchen, Google Images, Halley's Handbook, Wikipedia.