

## INTRODUCTION

Before we can do well in a study of The Ten Commandments, we need a couple of questions answered:  
Do The Ten Commandments apply to us today? and, if so  
How do we know that The Ten Commandments apply to us today?

The Ten Commandments do apply to us today. The Ten Commandments are moral law, matters of essential right and wrong. They are universal and perpetual. They applied to ancient Israel, but they applied to people before that, also. They apply to us as Christians, but they apply to everyone else in the world, also. They will be God's laws for all mankind as long as this age endures, until the Lord Jesus comes back.

But how do we know that? How do we know that The Ten Commandments were not just for Israel or the Jews under the Old Covenant?

In the history of the giving of The Ten Commandments, we learn that God gave them in two special ways, which show us that The Ten Commandments are different from the laws that God gave through Moses. And the appearance of these commandments both before Moses and in the New Testament shows us that The Ten Commandments pertain to all people everywhere.

## TEXT

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

Deuteronomy 5:22 "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

## BODY

I. The Same Commandments Found In The Ten Commandments Have Been Right and Wrong for Everyone All Along

A. Hear this in what God said - Gen 4:1-11

1. Gen 4:4-5

- a) not all worship is acceptable to God
- b) the second commandment - Exodus 20:4-5a 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: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...

2. Gen 4:10-11

- a) killing is wrong, and is to be punished
- b) the sixth commandment - Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

3. Note that God is not talking to descendants of Abraham, or Israelites, or Jews; instead, these are matters of right and wrong for all mankind

B. Hear this in what Joseph said - Gen 39-40

1. Gen 39:7-9

- a) it is sin against God to lie with someone to whom you are not married
- b) the seventh commandment - Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

2. Gen 40:15a

- a) it is wrong to steal, especially to steal someone, as Joseph's brothers stole him
- b) the eighth commandment - Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

3. Gen 40:15b

- a) it is wrong to bear false witness against someone, as Potiphar's wife did to Joseph
- b) the ninth commandment - Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

- II. God Spoke The Ten Commandments Directly and Wrote The Ten Commandments In Stone
  - A. Just after this, God gave Israel many laws by telling them to Moses, and Moses telling them to the people
    - 1. many of those laws were mere ordinances;
      - a) they had not been laws before; they were new laws that came into effect when God told them to Moses for Israel
      - b) they would expire, and no longer be laws for Israel, when Christ came and died on the cross
    - 2. some of those ordinances were ceremonial laws, having to do with Israel's worship in the tabernacle or temple, or in their homes; they never applied outside of the nation of Israel, and do not apply to anyone today
    - 3. some of those ordinances were civil or judicial laws, for governing Israel as a political nation
  - B. But The Ten Commandments are not like those ceremonial and civil laws; they are moral laws, matters of right and wrong for everyone
  - C. This difference between The Ten Commandments as moral law, and the many ceremonial and civil ordinances, is shown in how God gave them:
    - 1. He spoke them directly to the people with His own voice - this shows the preeminence of this law over the rest of the law, as given through Moses
    - 2. He wrote them in stone with His own finger - this shows the permanence of this law, which is still in effect today, as distinct from the law written down by Moses, which would expire, and is no longer in effect today
- III. Our Lord's Apostles Preached the Same Comamndments to the Gentiles - Acts 17:29-31
  - A. Exodus 20:4-5a 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: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...
  - B. Note that the nature of The Ten Commandments as moral law means that they can be paraphrased and still be the same moral law
  - C. The preaching of The Ten Commandments to unbelievers is tied to the coming day of judgment
    - 1. you have broken God's commandments, for which He now commands all men everywhere to repent
    - 2. you must repent, because God has appointed a day for judging you
    - 3. God has shown what man will be the righteous judge, by raising Him from the dead
    - 4. therefore, if you will be saved from God's wrath on the day of judgment, you must seek salvation from that man who will be the judge, by repenting of your sins
    - 5. and indeed there is salvation in Jesus Christ, forgiveness of sins for all who repent, because He has died for sins, and has been buried, and has risen again, showing that He is the one in whom God both with judge all men and will justify those who are in Him

IV. Our Lord's Apostles Quoted The Same Commandments to Instruct the Congregation - Eph 6:1-3

- A. See in the application of the commandment made to children, how right and wrong for all of us in our various relationships can be derived from The Ten Commandments.
- B. The commandment's promises given in the context of Israel are made general to apply to anyone
  - 1. Deuteronomy 5:16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
  - 2. Ephesians 6:2-3 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

## CONCLUSION

The same commandments found in The Ten Commandments have been right and wrong for everyone all along

God spoke The Ten Commandments directly and wrote The Ten Commandments in stone

Our Lord's apostles preached the same commandments to the Gentiles

Our Lord's apostles quoted the same commandments to instruct the congregation

The Ten Commandments do apply to us today. The Ten Commandments are moral law, matters of essential right and wrong. They are universal and perpetual. They applied to ancient Israel, but they applied to people before that, also. They apply to us as Christians, but they apply to everyone else in the world, also. They will be God's laws for all mankind as long as this age endures, until the Lord Jesus comes back.

Dillon - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Isaiah 40:1-5

Roel - Scripture Reading - Psalm 119:25-32

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 727 "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" - Alex lead

Allison - Trinity 148 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" - Andrew lead

Allison - Trinity 174 "Praise the Saviour Now and Ever" - Jeff lead

Deuteronomy 5:22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

Calvin:

When Moses states that God “added no more,” he signifies that a perfect rule of life is contained in the ten commandments, and that, when their instruction is fully received, the whole body of wisdom is attained to, so that the people need seek to know no more

Poole:

This he did to show the preeminence of that law above the rest, and its everlasting obligation.

Gill:

and he wrote them two tables of stone...this is an emblem of the duration of the law

Barnes:

This unique and sublime phenomenon, followed up by the inscription of the Ten Words on the two tables by the finger of God, marks not only the holiness of God’s Law in general, but the special eminence and permanent obligation of the Ten Words themselves as compared with the rest of the Mosaic enactments.

Deuteronomy 9:10 And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

Deuteronomy 4:12-13 And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. 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.

Exodus 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.