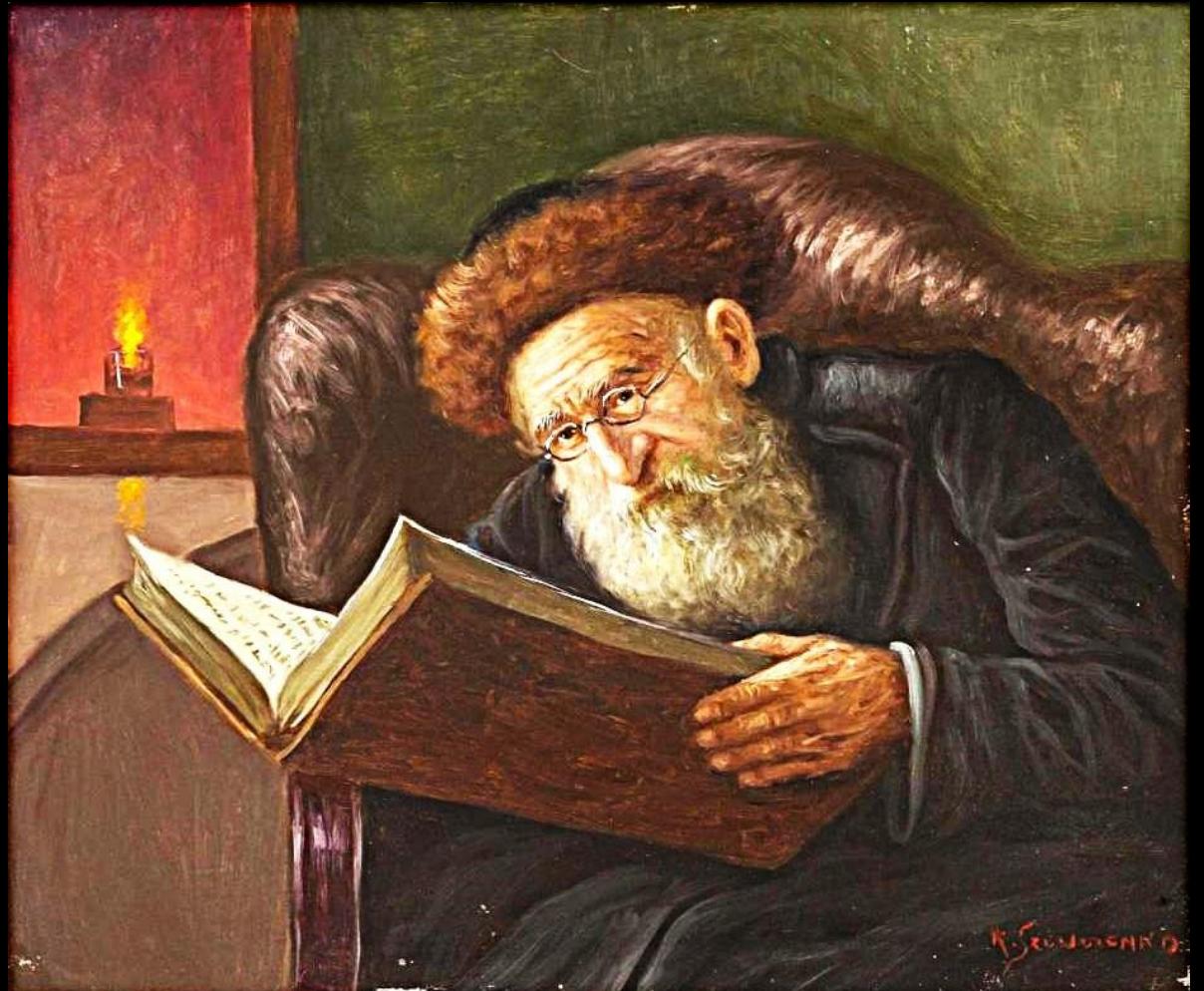


Torah Studies

The Ten
Commandments
Exodus 20

Exodus: *Shemot* or Names



Reading Rabbi – Konstanty Szewczenko

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

Introduction

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

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Introduction

Previously in Exodus:

- Israel arrived at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19.
- Here Moses first met God in the burning bush.
- Back again, God began to reveal Himself to the nation.
- He also began calling them into a covenant relationship with Moses as their mediator.

The Ten Commandments

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Introduction

Three High Points in Exodus:

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Introduction

Three High Points in Exodus:

1. The Exodus Event
2. The Ten Commandments
3. The Glory of The Lord Fills the Tabernacle

The Ten Commandments

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Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 20:

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Introduction

What to expect in Exodus 20:

- The giving of the Ten Commandments.
- A little bit about altars, but not much.
- The Ten Commandments make this one of the high points in Exodus and in all the Bible.

Torah Studies

Devotion to God's Word

- Psalm 119:133-136 (NKJV)

133 Direct my steps by Your word,
And let no iniquity have dominion over me.
134 Redeem me from the oppression of man,
That I may keep Your precepts.

- Psalm 119:133-136 (NKJV)

135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant,

And teach me Your statutes.

136 Rivers of water run down from my eyes,

Because men do not keep Your law.

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

Outline

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

Outline

- I. The Ten Commandments 20:1-17
- II. Israel's Fearful Awe 20:18-21
- III. Laws about Altars 20:22-26

I. The Ten Commandments

20:1-17

The First Commandment

20:1-3

The First Commandment

20:1-3

- **God's grace comes first:** God shows that His love precedes His law, inviting trust and devotion.
- **It's about heart allegiance:** We need to put God first in our lives, above wealth, power, or anything else.
- **God demands exclusive loyalty:** God calls Israel to worship only Him, rejecting all rival gods or priorities.

The Second Commandment

20:4-6

The Second Commandment

20:4-6

- **No making idols:** This command forbids crafting or worshiping images, limiting devotion to the unseen God.
- **Idolatry distorts worship:** It does so by shifting our focus from God to things we create or value more.
- **God's love endures:** God's jealousy protects His covenant, promising steadfast love to those who obey.

The Third Commandment

20:7

The Third Commandment

20:7

- **Honor God's name:** This command forbids misusing God's name in careless oaths, curses, or false worship.
- **Words reflect reverence:** Using God's name lightly or hypocritically – dishonors His holiness.
- **Live God's reputation:** Our speech and actions should reflect God's character, not tarnish His name.

The Fourth Commandment

20:8-11

The Fourth Commandment

20:8-11

- **Rest to honor God:** The Sabbath commands a day of rest and worship, set apart for the Lord.
- **Sabbath blesses all:** This rest extends to everyone – family, servants, even animals – showing God’s care.
- **Trust God’s provision:** Ceasing work reflects faith that God sustains us and imitates His rest after creation.

The Fifth Commandment

20:12

The Fifth Commandment

20:12

- **Respect parents:** When we honor parents through obedience and care, we reflect a God-given order.
- **Build family strength:** Honoring parents fosters stable families, foundational to a thriving community.
- **Promise of blessing:** God ties this command to a long life, showing honor aligns with His blessing.

The Sixth Commandment

20:13

The Sixth Commandment

20:13

- **Murder is forbidden:** Hebrew has at least six primary words (plus variations) that refer to killing.
- This command prohibits the unjust taking of human life – whether intentional or negligent.
- It reflects God's value for His image in each person.
- By banning murder, God calls us to protect and honor human life, promoting love even for our enemies.

The Seventh Commandment

20:14

The Seventh Commandment

20:14

- **Guard marital fidelity:** Sexual relations outside marriage are off limits.
- This protects the sacred bond of husband and wife.
- **Honor God's design:** God's plan for marriage is meant to reflect His faithful love for His people.

The Eighth Commandment

20:15

The Eighth Commandment

20:15

- **Respect others' property:** This forbids taking what belongs to another, honoring God's provision for all.
- **Build community trust:** By not stealing, we foster honesty in both business and personal relationships.
- **Integrity over greed:** Stealing reflects a heart of selfishness, while God calls us to trust His supply.

The Ninth Commandment

20:16

The Ninth Commandment

20:16

- **Speak truth, not lies:** This command forbids giving false testimony, especially in ways that harm others.
- **Protect our neighbor's reputation:** Lying can slander and damage a person's image in others' eyes.
- **Truth reflects God:** Honesty honors God's character and builds a just community.

The Tenth Commandment

20:17

The Tenth Commandment

20:17

- **Guard your heart:** This command forbids the desiring of what belongs to others – the root of sinful actions.
- **Contentment trusts God:** Coveting shows distrust in God's provision; contentment reflects faith in His care.
- **Love your neighbor:** By not envying others' blessings, we honor God's plans and foster peace in community.

II. Israel's Fearful Awe

20:18-21

II. Israel's Fearful Awe

20:18-21

- 20:18-19 The people's trembling at God's thunder shows awe and reminds us of the need for reverence.
- 20:20-21 Moses reassures the people, acting as a mediator, pointing to Jesus as our ultimate mediator.
- God speaks to “test” Israel, revealing the need to be attentive to who He is and what He says.

III. Laws about Altars

20:22-26

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20:22-26

- The Altar Laws Guide Pure Worship, Reinforcing the First Two Commandments.

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20:22-26

- The Altar Laws Guide Pure Worship, Reinforcing the First Two Commandments.
- The first commandment says, “No other gods,” and the second says, “No carved images.”
- The altar rules make sure Israel’s worship stays focused on the true God.
- There would be no distractions or human pride.

III. Laws about Altars

20:22-26

- The Altar Laws Guide Pure Worship, Reinforcing the First Two Commandments.
- The altar laws remind us to keep our worship simple and focused on God.
- In the same way, commandments call us to love Him first.

III. Laws about Altars

20:22-26

- John 4:23-24

23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (1st) Matthew 4:10

Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’”

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (2nd) Romans 1:22-25

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, ...

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (2nd) Romans 1:22-25

... to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (3rd) Matthew 5:33-37

33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, ...

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (3rd) Matthew 5:33-37

... for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (4th) Mark 2:27-28

27 And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (4th) Hebrews 4:9-10

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (5th) Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (6th) Matthew 5:21-22

21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (7th) 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 lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (8th) Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (9th) Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Ten Commandments in the New Testament
- (10th) Luke 12:15

And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

The Ten Commandments

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Conclusions

- The Purpose of the Law

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

Conclusions

- **The Purpose of the Law**
- The law was never meant to perfect us; it was only meant to teach us.
- Perhaps the main thing that we learn is that we cannot perfectly keep the law.

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20

Conclusions



The law of God is like a mirror. Now the purpose of a mirror is to reveal to you that your face is dirty, but the purpose of a mirror is not to wash your face. When you look in a mirror and find that your face is dirty ...

*– Donald Gray Barnhouse
(1895 – 1960), Presbyterian Pastor*

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Conclusions

... you do not then reach to take the mirror off the wall and attempt to rub it on your face as a cleansing agent. The purpose of the mirror is to drive you to the water.

*– Donald Gray Barnhouse
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Conclusions

- The Purpose of the Law
- Galatians 3:23-24

23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.