

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

EXODUS 20:1-17



LESSON: GOD'S GIVES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS — October 11, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

Exodus 19:23-25 Moses tells the LORD that the people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for they were warned to set boundaries around the mountain (19:12-13), and to declare it sacred. So, the Lord told Moses to hasten down and bring his brother Aaron up with him, but, don't let the priests and the people intrude or press through the bounds to climb up to the Lord, lest He break forth upon them destroying them. So, Moses went down to the people and told them all of what the Lord commanded.

¹THE REASONS WHY GOD GAVE ISRAEL THE LAW ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. To reveal His glory and Holiness – Deut. 5:22-28
2. To reveal man's sinfulness – Rom. 7:7, 13; 1 Tim. 1:9; James 1:22-25.
3. To mark Israel as His chosen and to separate them from the heathen – Psa. 147:19-20; Eph. 2:11-17; Acts 15.
4. To give Israel a standard for godly living – Deut. 4:1ff; 5:29.
5. To prepare Israel for the coming of Christ – Gal. 5:24.
6. To illustrate in type and ceremony the Person and ministry of Christ – Heb. 10:1.

THE LAW IS:

1. A Mirror – James 1:22-25 – It reveals man's sins.
2. A Yoke – It brings bondage since the flesh finds it impossible to keep – Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:1; Rom. 8:3.
3. A Schoolmaster – Points men to Jesus – Gal. 3:23-4:7.
4. A Shadow – Contrasted with the reality and fulfillment found in Jesus – Heb. 10:1; Col. 2:14-17.

THE LAW WAS UNABLE TO ACCOMPLISH CERTAIN THINGS:

1. Make anyone perfect – Heb. 7:11-19; 10:1-2.
2. Justify from sin – Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 3:20-28.
3. Give righteousness – Gal. 2:21.
4. Give peace – Heb. 9:9.
5. Give life – Gal. 3:21.

The Law was merely a guideline for living that possessed no saving power. And many in our day desire the bondage of the Law over the freedom found in Jesus.

LESSON: I. FIRST TABLE OF THE LAW EXODUS 20:1-11

20:1 And God spake all these words, saying,— The people couldn't come up to God, but God wants us to know, that these words came directly from Him. And God began to speak the following words.

20:2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

This verse shows us that God simply informs us who God is in His complete uniqueness. "**I am the LORD thy God.**" "**LORD**" meaning "Jehovah" (Self-Existing One). "**GOD**" meaning "**Elohim**" (Supreme One). This is a preface to the Ten Commandments. ²This distinguishes the God of the Israelites from all of the gods they worshiped in Egypt. God's actions in history on Israel's behalf are the basis for all that He is about to command. He wants to let Israel know that He brought them out of the land of Egypt; out of the house of slavery! He is their God!

- God is first. I am the Lord... No other gods were in control of history.
- God made Israel His own people— I AM...thy God.
- God delivered Israel. He is the God who has acted in history, altering the course of world history in order to fulfill His promise to Abraham and the patriarchs. God delivered Israel from her bondage in Egypt.

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¹ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_1-17.htm

² <http://bible.org/seriespage/israel's-worship-exodus-201-7>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS:

20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. This begins God's commands and the first four commandments stress man's duty and reverence to the One true God. This is God's Law to man.

1. **Thou shalt have no other gods – (1st Commandment).** *Honor God by Making Him First.* There is no other God to worship; no false gods or images to take His place in our lives. This is WHO we are to worship. He is the SUBJECT of our worship. No other has the power to save. Talking to other gods would greatly offend the One true God!

³WHO'S FIRST?

We need to know who is in first place in our lives, just as verse 2 says *"I am the Lord thy God!"* This issue must be settled! If anyone, or anything, occupies first place in our lives ahead of God, then our lives are out of control and out of balance. This is the gist of the 1st Commandment. God wants to tell us who must be first if our lives are to be everything they can be for His glory.

GOD'S REQUIREMENT

- God's requirement is very simple and that is, for God to be first place in every area of our lives.

Man, by nature, is a religious creature. He will find someone, or something, to give his worship to. Often, things and people occupy first place in our lives. Notice some things we elevate to the status of god and it will top first in our lives. We call them false gods! Some don't see anything wrong with that, but *there is only One true God!*

The point is:

- a. When you have other gods is forsaking the One True God.
- b. When you have other gods is evidence of one's lack of faith in the One True God.

He knows that all men will at some point try to make something else god, but He demands that He be the One true God. (**Note:** *Ex. 34:14 – God is a Jealous God – God alone is worthy of our love and devotion. He will allow no interference.*)

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. The first and second commandments are similar in that both deal with the matter of Israel's worship. They are distinct in that the first commandment has restrictions pertaining to the object of worship (God alone), while the second has restrictions regarding the means of worship. The second commandment prohibits worship by means of "visual aids," more commonly known as idols. The idols were carried by men, no idol carried a man.

2. **Do not make any graven images or likenesses. (2nd Commandment).** *Honor God by Lifting God Above all Else.* ⁴People made carvings, statues, pictures, etc. to help them visualize who or what they were worshipping. It's sad that even today, a huge section of the church who claim to worship the true and living God, bow down to statues of Jesus, and His mother Mary.

- Producing an image intended to receive worship is forbidden of in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth!

(**Note:** *When a person needs some image or representation of God to assist in worship, it is a sure indicator of a lack in the spiritual life of that individual.*)

(**Note:** *Idolaters genuinely believe that their idols are truly god. This is proven by their bowing to it, praying to it, sacrificing to it, giving to it, etc.*)

- an idol is demeaning to God (Ps.115:5-8).
- an idol is contrary to the nature of faith (Jer.10:1-5).
- an idol is contrary to God's goal for worship (Jh.16:13).

⁵THE REASON FOR THE COMMAND

- As hard as man might try, he can never properly depict God (with *graven images and likenesses*).
- God doesn't want us giving our devotion to a false god (that's *crafty and devious*).
- God would tolerate no interference in His relationship with His people. God is a jealous God.

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³ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/ex20_1-3.htm

⁴ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/ex20_4-6.htm

⁵ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_1-17.htm

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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THE RESULTS OF DISOBEDIENCE:

- When we elevate any thing or anyone to the place of God, we will find out too late that neither it, or they, will be able to protect us from the great wrath of God.
- Sin leaves its mark on our children! Children tend to resemble the environment they are exposed to. Often, it takes generations to break the cycle established by the parent.

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;—

- Consequences will be severe for violating the second commandment: There is no bowing down nor serving these graven images because God is a jealous God. This causes *"...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me."*
 - Isaac fell into the sin of his father Abraham.
 - King Ahaziah sinned in the way of his father King Ahab.
 - King Abijam sinned in the way of his father King Rehoboam.

Study after study shows that people are susceptible to fall into sinful addictions and behaviors that their parents committed. The son sins in the same manner as his father. Why is that? These *"sins of the father"* might be transferred in a spiritual way, as Adam's sinfulness was passed to all mankind. They might be also transferred in a biological way, through genetic tendencies. Or they're just transferred by example of the father's ways - the children simply watch and imitate). Therefore, God visits iniquity upon people that reject and hate God. The *"negatives"* is that He won't let the guilty go unpunished. God is a God-of-love, but He is also a God-of-justice. The reference to *"3rd and 4th generation"* does not mean God punishes children for the sins of their parents. (See Ezekiel 18:20). The reference is that sins of the fathers have effects upon the next generations.

20:6 AND shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. There is a difference between verse 5 and 6. In verse 5 don't be in the group that hate God. Be in the group of verse 6, that love and keep God's commandments! God is the One who *"...shews mercy unto thousands of them that love (Him)..."* That's the key! God's mercy is priceless!

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. We have to be careful how we use God's name; how you address His name; how you apply His name, and how you speak on behalf of His name!

3. **Do not take the LORD's name in vain. (3rd Commandment).** *Honor God with Your Lips.* The word *"vain"* is the Hebrew word *"shav."* It has a variety of translations including emptiness, vanity, falsehood, nothingness, emptiness of speech, lying, and worthlessness. We can say that this deals with God's reputation and respect and honor of the LORD's name. And to use it disrespectfully is saying God is empty and worthless.

⁶Sadly, too many seem to use God's name as no more than a curse word; a by-word they can throw around at will. It deals with something far more serious than just a filthy mouth. This Commandment discusses the misuse, or profane use of God's Holy Name. God's Name is a Holy Name! It isn't to be used unless it is used in connection with His praise or His proclamation. ⁷The **warnings** in the Scriptures concerning oaths and swearing have to do with attaching God's holy name to false statements.

- People say, *"I swear to God this is the truth..." "As God is my witness..." "...So help me God..."* It wasn't swearing by God's name that was the problem...it was swearing falsely. We desecrate His name through profanity, through dishonesty, etc, and through insincerity.
- People *"say"* prayers instead of *"praying"* prayers. We desecrate His name when we sing *"O how I love Jesus"*, but we really don't; *"I surrender all"*, but we really won't.

God commands us not to use His name in vain. To misuse God's name means literally, "to lift it up to or attach it to emptiness." (*ill. They might say, "Oh G-d!" Or "J-sus!" or "J-sus Chri-st!" "GD-it." No one is to use the Lord's name in this manner).*



⁶ http://www.sermonnotebook.org/old%20testament/exodus_20_7.htm

⁷ <http://www.brandonweb.com/sermons/sermonpages/exodus11.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

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THEREFORE, COME WITH ADORATION OF GOD'S NAME:

⁸God is the one who inhabits eternity. He is the eternal being. His name is the transcendent, the eternal, the continuously present, and the holy pronouncement of "I AM." The name of God is Holy because it is self given. He disclosed His own name, and His own name comes from His own mouth. Therefore, His name is holy.

The **warnings** have gone out and forth to the people about God's Name, so "the Lord will not hold him *guiltless*"(innocent), meaning they will be guilty and responsible for taking His name in vain.

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

4. **Keep the Sabbath holy. (4th Commandment).** *Honor God with Your Time.* Israel was to "Remember" the Sabbath by keeping it holy. The term "Sabbath" is derived from "to rest or cease from work." Keeping the Sabbath involves much more than abstinence from labor. It requires the acknowledgment of the sacredness; the sanctity of this day because of God's deeds and declaration. They were challenged to "bring to mind" the pattern God Himself set forth. ⁹To set aside one day of the week for rest and worship is not just convenient, good for you, and expedient. It is God's Will and His commandment. Our reflection would be on who God is, what He's done, how He's done it so unconditionally, and even His promise to still be with us. It is rest for our minds and bodies.

20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:— This commandment was for them to work for six days, and finish. This is exactly what God did when He created the world and all in it. God finished His great work — Creation in six days. All that needed to be done. He labored, and then He rested on the seventh day.

1. **MAN'S LABOR IS CRUCIAL** – Contrary to popular belief, work is not a part of the curse! Before man sinned, he was given work to do (Gen. 2:15). Work and the ability to work is a privilege and is a blessing from the hand of the Heavenly Father!

20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:—The Sabbath was a day of rest and no work was to be done.

2. **MAN'S LULL IS COMMANDED** –Just as man is expected to work; man is also expected to rest! Our bodies were never designed to work constantly, but we were made to have a season of rest. ¹⁰The purpose in God's command is to allow man time to refresh his body for the six days of work that are ahead. God didn't give this Commandment to interfere with our pleasure, but to insure our health!

20:11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. God created all in six days.

| THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION | |
|---|--|
| Days of Forming (Habitats) | Days of Filling (Inhabitants) |
| Day 1 The Earth in the Deep Light & Darkness Day & Night | Day 4 The Lights of Heaven: Sun, Moon, Stars |
| Day 2 The Expanse of Heaven: Sky, Air | Day 5 Fish Birds |
| Day 3 Dry Land Seas Vegetation | Day 6 Insects Land Animals Man |

Day 1: The heavens, the earth, light and darkness (Gen.1:1-5).
 Day 2: Heaven (Gen.1:6-8).
 Day 3: Dry land, the seas, and vegetation (Gen.1:9-13).
 Day 4: The sun, the moon and the stars (Gen.1:14-19).
 Day 5: Living creatures in the water, birds in the air (Gen.1:20-23).
 Day 6: Land animals and people (Gen.1:24-31).
 Day 7: God "rested." God then paused to rest and reflect upon all that He had done, Gen. 2:2.

We know He didn't need the rest, yet He knows we do! Therefore, He Himself set the pattern that we are to follow. He blessed all He had done which meant He was pleased. In Genesis 1:31 "And God saw every thing that



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he had made, and "behold it was very good..." Genesis 2:3 "And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it." His blessing is on all He had done!

II. SECOND TABLE OF THE LAW EXODUS 20:12-17

20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The next six commandments stress man's relationship and duties toward others (fellowman).

5. **Honour thy father and thy mother. (5th Commandment).** *Honor Our Parents.* "**Honor**" means to give high respect; high regard to their position; their role that God used them to bring you into the world. They were the vehicle He used to give life to you, whether they were good or bad parents and whether you knew them or not. This is God's command, and honor is how we (children) are to regard the position held by the father and mother. To succeed in society, obedience will play a big part, but it will first start in our obedience to parents by first being obedient to the command of God. When saying bad things about either mom or dad, you're not honoring them; you're not looking at them as God sees them. Disobeying them, you're not honoring them or seeing them in the position of authority God has placed them in. What does that mean?

There is a promise and a consequence attached to this verse. The consequence concerns the number of days you live upon this earth. We want our days to be long upon the earth and not shortened. And the promise is that you may live a long time in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Repent and listen, obey and do, that the days upon this earth would be long. Honor is a command and when you go against God whom you serve, it places you in jeopardy of long life. Honoring father and mother is honoring God. There is always a choice, but it will eventually lead to the Father who teaches us that in serving Him, we will make this command a priority to receive the promise. This verse is even carried over to the New Testament in Ephesians 6:1-3 "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*" God's command is clear—honor them!

20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

6. **Do not kill. (6th Commandment).** *Honor Our Fellowman.* For these last six verses, God uses one familiar word, and that is the word "**not**." Don't take a life of another unlawfully including your own life. Some scripture versions use the word "*murder*." ¹¹"**Murder**" is a killing of a human being that is planned and intentional. "**Killing**" indicates loss of life, whether it is an accident or a natural disaster, loss of lives is referred to as killing of people. Loss of lives because of natural disaster and epidemic is also killing. Soldiers kill, they do not murder in war. Murder is more serious than killing in the eyes of the law and, therefore, carries a harsher sentence. in court. Human life is precious. We are not to willfully break or go against God's Word.

20:14 Do not commit adultery.

7. **Do not commit adultery. (7th Commandment).** *Honor Our Spouse.* The marriage is a blessing between husband and wife. It is not sex before marriage (fornication) neither outside of marriage (adultery). Keep the marriage relation sacred and free from infidelity. We have to remember that temptations will come, however, this is another choice we have to make, and will have to choose. Just because they flirt, doesn't mean we have to. God blesses the marriage bed. Hebrew 13:4 says, "*Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled (pure): but whoremongers (sexually immoral) and adulterers, God will judge.*" They were serious and were not playing in the Old Testament. Leviticus 20:10 says "*And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*" Adultery affects another generation without you knowing it, for it is (not was); it is a sin.



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20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

8. **Thou shalt not steal. (8th Commandment).** *Honor our Society.* "**Stealing**" is taking something unlawfully that is not ours. And we see so much of it today. To stay within the confines of this scripture, just remember, don't take what does not rightfully belong to you. Stealing is a criminal offense and commandment of God. People usually work for what they need or it's given as a blessing or, it's inherited. Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you? I pray that you asked for forgiveness and had a change of heart. God is our resource! And since He is our resource of getting a job or receiving a blessing or getting an inheritance, we should never steal from God, that is as the Word of God says, *"In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings"* Mal.3:8c.

20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

9. **Do not lie. (9th Commandment).** *Honor Our Neighbor.* To "bear false witness" means to testify falsely—to shorten that, it means don't lie! — ¹²lie about or misrepresent the truth about some event, person, or thing. In the Bible, from which the scripture is taken: *"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor,"* lying is the key word, but God is showing that it's not to be against our neighbor.

Deuteronomy 19:16-21 (CEV).

16 If you accuse someone of a crime, but seem to be lying, **17-18** then both you and the accused must be taken to the court at the place where the Lord is worshiped. There the priests and judges will find out if you are lying or telling the truth. If you are lying and the accused is innocent, **19-21** then you will be punished without mercy. You will receive the same punishment the accused would have received if found guilty, whether it means losing an eye, a tooth, a hand, a foot, or even your life. Israel, the crime of telling lies in court must be punished. And when people hear what happens to witnesses that lie, everyone else who testifies in court will tell the truth.

¹³The penalty for being a "false witness" was for you to take the punishment of what you accused the other person of doing. If you accused them of something worthy of a death sentence, then you would be put to death. Jesus is all about truth, as we should be also. Jesus' disciples said *"how can we know the way"* and He says *"He's the Way, the Truth, and the Life"* (Jh.14:6). Lying is not our commanded option, truth is!

20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

10. **Do not covet. (10th Commandment).** *Honor What Others Have.* "**Covet**" means to greedily want what belongs to someone else. A person can covet things, money, people, or relationships. Don't allow your heart to long for or crave for what others have. Coveting is like a bad ache; a power that keeps pulling at you. Envy comes when you resent the fact that others have what you don't. Resentment and envy go hand-in-hand.

SUMMARY:

¹⁴The Israelites left Egypt and on the third month they came to the wilderness of Mt. Sinai. There they set up their tents and made camp facing Mt Sinai. Before the Lord gave them His commandments, they had to consecrate themselves unto Him. They had to be prepared for what He was about to give them, for on the third day the Lord God would appear to them upon the mountain of the Lord. He would give through Moses His commandments, which



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the people were to honor, obey, and keep. These commandments are known as "The Ten Commandments." The people couldn't come up to God, but God wants us to know that these words came directly from Him. And God began to speak the following words **verse one**, the preface to the Ten Commandments. ¹⁵This distinguishes the God of the Israelites from all of the gods they worshiped in Egypt. "I [Am] The Lord Your God the God who led you from the land of Egypt, the house of slaves" (**verse two**).

Now comes the **First Commandment: (verse three)**. *"There shall not be to you any other gods beside me."* God is not half-hearted about His relationship with His people, [but] says "I am your God." And He takes the ones to whom He speaks that message to as totally His own. He is not willing to hand them over to the power of any other person [or thing].

The Second Commandment: (verse four), the Lord said, "You shall not make (fashion) any graven (carved or sculpture) image or likeness (picture from wood or stone)..." This becomes an object of worship, *"they were not to bow down nor serve for He is a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Him"* (**verse five**). When humans bow down before an image of a god as expressed according to human fancy, they are no longer in God's presence. They are bowing down to a godless thing. The Lord says not to build them or construct them. It is equivalent to an act that puts God under human ideals or puts God under human ownership and power. However, there is a reversal, for, *"God shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments"* (**verse six**).

In the **Third Commandment: (verse seven)**, the Lord says, *"Never use the name of the Lord your God carelessly,"* meaning *"to recite recklessly, without authority, arbitrarily, indiscriminately, in vain"* in a perverse way meaning with careless consideration and without honor of the name of the Lord. To put it another way, God's name is holy and do not need empty or vain attachments added to it. Those that are careless in that capacity will be guilty and responsible for taking His name in vain.

The **Fourth Commandment: (verse eight)**. *"Remember the Sabbath and make it holy,"* What the Bible calls the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week. It is a set day. So, this command has to do with "time." In having to do with time which means that it directly concerns our specific every day lives. The three commandments that we've already looked at state that in worshipping God properly, we are to turn ourselves over into the hands of God and only into His hands and none other. The Lord said, *"Make this holy"* means make it God's; one day out of seven, for God alone. We are God's people. If we don't make one day of seven for God, then in using all the time of those seven days based on our own fleshly will and convenience, or in living our lives racking up such [selfish] hours like that can we really claim that *"I love God. I am His?"* I don't think we can. This matter of loving God and living a life of worshipping Him is quite specific, dealing with the very hours of time in which we live. The word "Sabbath" is derived from the word "stop." This is not a command to "move", but to "stop." It is not a command to "work", but to "rest." The reason we can stop is because God is working ahead of us. If we can rest, it is because God is already at work for us. The purpose of the law was to demonstrate God's complete holiness; and man's total inability to measure up, thus pointing to man's need for a Savior.

This commandment was for them to labor (work) for six days, that is, do all your regular tasks (**verse nine**). *"But the seventh day is a day of rest in honor of the Lord your God."* So, on that day no one should work—not you, your sons and daughters, or your men and women slaves. Even the animals and the foreigners living in the cities must not work!" (**verse ten**). The Lord God made the sky and the earth and the sea in 6 days. He made everything



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in them, but rested on the 7th day, and He blessed the Sabbath and made it holy because it belonged to Him (verse eleven).

The **Fifth Commandment: (verse twelve)** deals with honoring father and thy mother. This is God's command, and honor is how the children are to regard the position held by the father and mother. Why? - It comes with a promise—That we may live for a long time in the land the Lord God is giving you.

The **Sixth Commandment: (verse thirteen)** tells us not to kill; that is, we are not to take a life of another unlawfully including our own life. The **Seventh Commandment: (verse fourteen)** deals with adultery. Keep the marriage relation sacred and free from infidelity by not committing adultery.

The **Eighth Commandment: (verse fifteen)** deals with stealing. Taking something unlawfully that is not ours is not the blessing God want to give, so, don't steal. The **Ninth Commandment: (verse sixteen)** deals with lying: don't lie. Don't testify falsely about one's neighbor.

The **Tenth Commandment: (verse seventeen)** tells us not to covet. Don't be greedy in wanting what belongs to someone else—the neighbor's house, neighbor's wife, his manservant, his maidservant, his ox, his ass, nor any thing that is the neighbor's.

