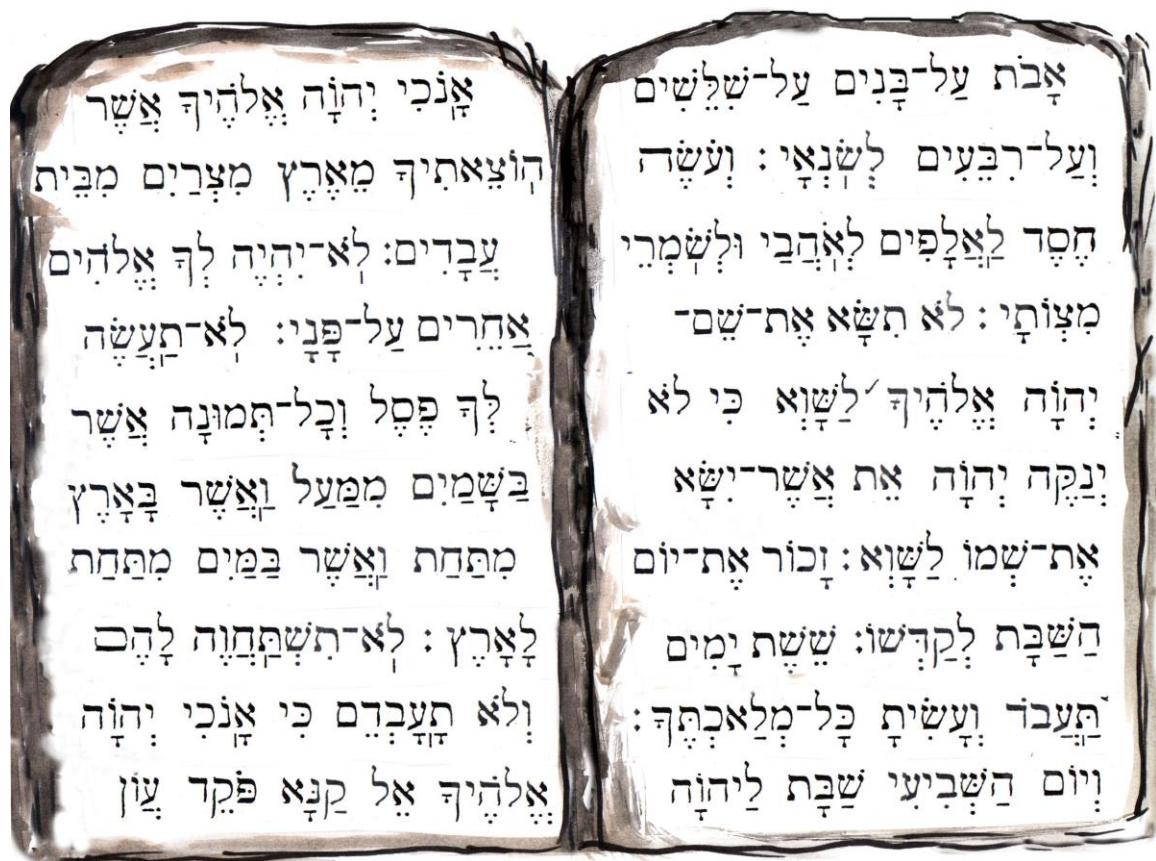


The Lord Gives the Ten Commandments

(portions of Exodus 19-20, 32-34)



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Illustrated by Marguerite Acton

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1. You shall have no other gods before Me.**
- 2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land that the Lord your God is giving you.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.**



The Lord tells us how to live a good life by following ten rules. They are called the Ten Commandments. He gave them to the Children of Israel to tell them how He wanted them to live. These rules are also for us to follow all of our lives.

Long ago, the Children of Israel went to Mount Sinai. Moses, their leader, brought them there to worship the Lord. Moses went up the mountain to listen to the Lord while the Children of Israel waited below.

The Lord came down onto the mountain in fire and thick smoke with loud thunder and lighting. The whole mountain shook. And the Children of Israel heard a very loud trumpet sound. When they were listening, the Lord said in a loud voice:

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:2-3).

This was the first and most important commandment. The Lord commanded the Children of Israel to worship only the Lord.





The people stood far off at the bottom of the mountain, but Moses came near to where the Lord was. The Lord said to him, "... I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written" (Exodus 24:12).

The Lord wrote the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone with His own finger and he gave Moses the tablets of stone to carry down to the Children of Israel.

When Moses came down from the mountain with the commandments, he saw that the Children of Israel had already forgotten the first rule the Lord gave them, “You shall have no other gods before Me!” The people had made a golden calf and they were worshipping it!



Moses was filled with anger and he threw the tablets to the ground. Now the stone tablets with the commandments were broken!

The Children of Israel had disobeyed the Lord so they were punished. When they were sorry the Lord forgave them, because He wanted them to do what He had commanded.

Moses went again to the top of Mount Sinai, and again, the Lord came down to speak to him. And on new tablets, the same words were written as before. This time when Moses came down from the mountain, no one was worshipping a golden image.



Moses' face shone with a kind of light when he held the ten commandments. This was because he was carrying the Lord's truths. The people knew that what he said must be from the Lord because his face looked bright when he spoke.

Can you imagine having something that the Lord Himself had written? These tablets of stone were the most precious things the Children of Israel had. On these tablets were the rules of life, given to them by the Lord. So they made a special wooden chest covered over with gold, called the Ark of the Covenant, for the two stone tablets.

We have these same words from the Lord in His Word. The Word is precious to us because in it the Lord has told us how to be good people. It is the Lord speaking to us, teaching us how to follow Him and how to find heaven.

