

Ten Commandments

“The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day”
Deuteronomy 5:3

God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mt. Sinai about 2500 years after Creation: Why did He give them? Why did He wait so long? Were people saved before this time? Are the commandments important today? Questions like these and others need answers from the Bible.

First, God gave the Ten Commandments to expose sin: they reflect the righteousness of God but were never intended as a means whereby we can earn God’s approval by fulfilling them, even partially. God clarified this distinction by reminding the Israelites that it was He who led them out of bondage and that it was He who was leading them now and into the future: no amount of work or virtue on their part would suffice. When God gave the Ten Commandments He said, *“if you could ever fulfill my demands (an impossibility) you would indeed be saved: “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: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation...”* (Exodus 19:5-6). Because the Ten Commandments came from God, and are now recorded in the Bible, the Israelites, as well as many people today, falsely believed that trying to follow the commandments in addition to listening to God’s Word, instead of solely relying on God’s leading, is exactly how they should journey through life: *“And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do”* (Exodus 19:8). Predictably, the Israelites promptly broke their self-righteous vow, while Moses was yet in the mountain, when they made an idol and worshipped it. The Ten Commandments did not help them avoid sin but served to point it out. Apostle Paul echoes this fact by saying, *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”* (Galatians 3:24); it’s not our moral guide.

Second, why did God wait so long to give the Ten Commandments? The simple answer is that God does everything in His time, not ours: *“It is good that a man*

should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD” (Lamentations 3:26).

Third, the Bible provides numerous examples of people being saved prior to the Ten Commandments. Adam and Eve afford the first example where God created them without sin and gave them one commandment to obey; eat of any tree in the Garden of Eden save one, and if they obeyed they would remain sinless. However, knowing that they would eat the forbidden fruit, thereby separating all of mankind from Him, God preordained that salvation would have to come through the sacrificial blood of His Son. Although Jesus did not arrive for another 4,000 years, animal blood was used to wash away sins until then—it was not the blood but it was faith in Jesus’ completed work on the cross that saved people in both the Old and New Testaments. After they sinned it was not Adam and Eve’s immediate desire to expose their nakedness but, rather, it was only because of God’s call that they willingly came out of hiding to confess their sin. Next, God openly acknowledged His forgiveness by sacrificing an animal (foretelling Jesus’ crucifixion) and by using its skin to cover their nakedness: *“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...”* (Isaiah 61:10).

Finally, the Ten Commandments are just as important today as they were back then. Despite the long delay in receiving the commandments, man has never been without a moral guide: *“I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them”* (Ezekiel 36:27)—this is what God reminded the Israelites of long ago and He still reminds us of today. It is God who leads us every step of the way. Thus, we walk by the spirit, not the written law: *“if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law”* (Galatians 5:18). The Apostle Paul sums it up in this manner: *“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners...”* (1 Timothy 1:8-9).

God’s Peace, Charles Korhonen

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Nov 1	Ken Storm	11am Holy Communion
Nov 8	Chad Kuivanen	11am
Nov 15	Ken Storm	11am
Nov 22	Nathan Ruonavaara	11am Potluck meal
Nov 29	Herb Jarvi	11am

Church Cleaning Schedule: Korhonens

**Church Schedule: Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10am**

Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm

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