

## Old Testament Survey Lesson Seven

### Introduction

400 years of Israelite oppression /400 years of silence

***For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17 NKJV***

God's Provision of Food (Exodus 16)

God's Provision of Water (Exodus 17)

Jethro's Leadership Advice (Exodus 18)

- Moses' actions aren't good
- Will lead to burnout
- Utilize the gifts of the people

NOTE: Picture of the Body of Christ functioning effectively

Arrival at Sinai (Exodus 19)

- Did not depart from this location until...

***Now it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. 12 And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai on their journeys; then the cloud settled down in the Wilderness of Paran. Numbers 10:11-12 NKJV***

- Moses goes up and down the mountain

***And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel. Exodus 19:3 NKJV***

***So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him. Exodus 19:7 NKJV***

NOTE: Community is now prepared to receive the Law—the people are now devoted to God.

## I. Overview of the Decalogue

*“...The covenant about to be implemented would give Israel the opportunity to be God’s servant people, the channel by which he would communicate and transmit His redemptive program to the whole world (Dyer and Merrill 2001, 57-58)”*

### A. The Meaning of Decalogue

1. Greek translation—“10 words” “Deca=10 AND “logos”=words
2. Hebrew more commonly referred to as Ten Commandments

***So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the TEN COMMANDMENTS. Exodus 34:28 NKJV***

***So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the TEN COMMANDMENTS; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. Deuteronomy 4:13 NKJV***

***And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the TEN COMMANDMENTS, which the Lord had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the Lord gave them to me. Deuteronomy 10:4 NKJV***

3. First encounter in Exodus 20 list, but “ten” and “tablets” don’t appear until Exodus 34
4. Centerpiece of God’s covenant with Israel
5. Defines horizontal and vertical relationships

NOTE: How Israel was to live with and for God and with one another

6. The Decalogue even is located in legal and business practices

### B. Faith Traditions and the Decalogue

1. Jewish Order
  - a. Laws prohibiting worship of other gods and use of idols is seen as ONE
  - b. First Commandment: “I am the LORD your God.”
2. Protestants and Orthodox Order
  - a. Josephus’ order
  - b. Worship of other gods and idols are separate
  - c. Do not covet is viewed as one commandment

3. Lutheran—Roman Catholic Order
  - a. Augustine’s Order
  - b. Foreign Gods and images—one commandment
  - c. Don’t covet neighbor’s house and wife separate commandments

NOTE: All traditions still hold to a “Ten Commandments” approach

C. Biblical Context for the Decalogue

1. Exodus 20—At Mt. Sinai (Horeb=general location)
2. In the third month after leaving Egypt

***In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. Exodus 19:1 NKJV***

3. Precede larger body of legal and other material in Exodus 21-24 known as “Book of Covenant.”

***“Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them.” Exodus 21:1 NKJV***

4. Second appearance in Exodus 34

***And the Lord said to Moses, “Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. Exodus 34:1 NKJV***

- a. Following golden calf incident (Exodus 32)
  - b. Moses smashes tablets (Exodus 32:19)
  - c. New tablets prepared
5. Third appearance in Deuteronomy 5

***The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive. 4 The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. 5 I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. Deuteronomy 5:2-5 NKJV***

- a. Reminds new generation of covenantal identity
- b. Reminds new generation of covenantal responsibility
- c. Prepares generation to enter Canaan
- d. Rehearsing of Sinai experience

#### D. Decalogue as Covenant

“Berit”=covenant or promise

1. Royal Grant—bestow land/house (Davidic and Abrahamic covenant)
2. Suzerainty Covenant—Between supervisor and subordinate political power (Mosaic Covenant)
  - a. Preamble: “I am the Lord your God” (Exodus 20:10).
  - b. Historical Prologue: “Who rescued you from the land of Egypt” (Exodus 20:15).
  - c. Stipulations
  - d. Deposit it in sacred place

***You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. Exodus 25:21 NKJV***

***Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the Lord commanded me." Deuteronomy 10:5 NKJV***

- e. Public reading

***Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient." Exodus 24:7 NKJV***

***And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, 11 when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Deuteronomy 31:10-11 NKJV***

- f. Witnesses

***And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord!" 22 So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!" Joshua 24:21-22 NKJV***

- g. Blessings/Curses (Deuteronomy 28)

***And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words." Exodus 24:8 NKJV***

NOTE: Conditions of this covenant is Israel’s obedience

## E. Decalogue as Law

1. Casuistic Law (conditional “if-then”)
2. Apodictic Law (Absolute prohibitions)—“Thou shalt nots”—Mosaic Ten Commandments

## II. Content of the Decalogue

IMPORTANT: These were not commandments kept in order to be chosen of God, but instead these were stipulations to be kept in response to being chosen by God.

EXAMPLE: Because you ARE my people, here is how you ought to live, act, and behave.

### A. Decalogue’s Structure

1. Structure #1
  - a. Laws 1-4 (Humanity with God)—Vertical
  - b. Laws 5-10 (Humanity with one another)—Horizontal

***But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:34-40 NKJV***

NOTE: Love God and love others

2. Structure #2
  - a. Laws 1-5 (Contain divine name for Israel)
  - b. Laws 6-10 (No divine name, address moral issues, universal)

### B. Ten Commandments

1. Commandment #1: No Other gods

***"You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:3 NKJV***

- a. Absolute loyalty to Yahweh
- b. Loyalty critical as they enter polytheistic Canaan
- c. Monotheism set Israel apart from the world
- d. “Before me” or “in addition to me”

2. Commandment #2: Don't Make an Idol/Image

***"You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:4-6 NKJV***

- a. Lack of idol worship distinguishes Israel from other Ancient Near Eastern Cultures
- b. Idols are static, non-feeling, non-responsive, lifeless which contradicts the life-giving active character of Yahweh
- c. Idols can gain a place of devotion causing a failure to follow the first commandment
- d. Idols indicated god can be manipulated or controlled contrary to His transcendence and holiness

*"Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that is meant to be worshipped."—Augustine*

3. Commandment #3: Don't Misuse the Lord's Name

***"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." Exodus 20:7 NKJV***

- a. More than profanity or false swearing
- b. Hebrew root for "vain" is to "be empty"
- c. Using divine name for or in something that lacks vitality, substance, or reality
- d. A misrepresentation of God and His character

*"The worst blasphemy is not profanity, but lip-service."—Trueblood*

***"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Matthew 15:8 NKJV***

4. Commandment #4: Keep Sabbath Day Holy

***"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Exodus 20:8-11 NKJV***

- a. Rightfully follows and partially protects first two commandments—guards against idolizing word or agendas
- b. Gift from God—even slaves, strangers, and children
- c. “Sabbat”=rest
- d. Act of divine rest in creation is theological framework
- e. Allows special focus on God and His wonderful deeds—signs of covenant
- f. Positive command

5. Commandment #5: Honor Parents

***"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 NKJV"***

- a. “Honor” vs. “Obey”
- b. “Honor often used with God as its object

***Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the Lord says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. 1 Samuel 2:30 NKJV"***

***Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase. Proverbs 3:9 NKJV***

- c. Regard them as a person of worth or value—“kabod”=glory/weighty
- d. Significant in light of settling in Canaan

6. Commandment #6: Don’t Murder

***"You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13 NKJV"***

- a. Jesus’ reinterpretation in Matthew 5:21-26
- b. Highlights value of life and relationships

7. Commandment #7: “Don’t Commit Adultery

***"You shall not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14 NKJV"***

- a. Jesus reinterprets in Matthew 5:27-30
- b. Upholds sanctity of marriage

8. Commandment #8: Don’t Steal

***"You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15 NKJV"***

9. Commandment #9: Don't Lie

***"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Exodus 20:16 NKJV***

NOTE: Originally court context

10. Commandment #10: Don't Covet

***"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Exodus 20:17 NKJV***

- a. Deals with attitude
- b. Often leads to other actions (David)

NOTE: Originally the Decalogue was not intended for a universal population, but it was rooted in the covenant relationship between Israel and God

NOTE: 613 Commandments in all

### **III. Tabernacle**

#### A. Biblical context

1. Sixteen chapters
2. Divine instructions for construction (25-31)—(Instruction)
3. Delay because of apostasy (32-34)—(Interpretation)
4. Final execution (35-40)—(Implementation)
5. Build store cities for Pharaoh to a portable place of worship where God may dwell in their midst
6. Tabernacle, Tent of Meeting, Sanctuary

#### B. Tabernacle Structure

##### 1. Outer Court

- a. Gate—John 10:9=Jesus is gate
- b. Bronze Altar—Christ our substitute/sacrifice
- c. Bronze Laver—(Washbasin)—Christ our cleansing and regeneration

##### 2. The Holy Place

- a. Golden Lampstand—John 8:12—light of the world
- b. Table of Shewbread—John 6:35—Bread of Life
- c. Altar of Incense—Christ our intercessor and advocate, 1 John 2:1



### 3. Holy of Holies

- a. Veil
- b. Ark/Mercy Seat
- c. Christ our propitiation (Romans 3:24, 25)
  - Atonement slate=judgment proof
  - “caphar”=to cover/conceal from the Lord’s view
  - Hebrews 9:5

NOTE: God, Holy Spirit, empowers individuals with ability, talents, and resources to build

#### C. Purpose of Tabernacle

*“...Became the medium through which the Lord in His true presence traveled from the mountain of God (Sinai) to accompany and guide Israel from there to the Promised Land”—T. Desmond Alexander*

NOTE: Place for the Lord to dwell among the people

John 1:14—“dwelled” or “tabernacled” or “made His dwelling.”

**Conclusion:** Holy Spirit dwells inside believers