

The Ten Commandments (TEXT: Exodus 20: 1-14)

I. Structure and Context

II. I and Thou

And God spoke all these words [*kol-hadvariym ha'eleh*], saying [*le'mor*]:

"I [the] Lord am thy god, who brought thee out of the Land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

III. Man Seeking God: Three Common Errors

"Thou shalt not have other gods before Me (*lo'-yihyeh lekha 'elohim 'aheriyim 'al-panay*; literally: "there-shall-not-be to you other [or "strange"; 'aheriyim] gods upon my face [or "in my presence"]).

"Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven- [or "sculpted-"] image, nor any likeness of any thing that is in the heavens above or that is in the earth below, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous god, remembering [or "visiting"; *pakad*] the iniquity (*'avon*) of the fathers upon the children unto the third or fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing grace (*chesed*) unto the thousandth generation of them that love Me and keep My commandments (*leshomrey mitsvothai*).

"Thou shalt not take up (*nasa'*) the name of the Lord your God in vain (*shav'*), for the Lord will not hold guiltless the one who takes up His name in vain.

IV. The Sabbath Day

"Remember the Sabbath day (*zakhor 'eth-yom hashabath*), to-keep-it-holy ("to-hallow-it"; *leqadshu*). Six days shalt thou labor (*'avad*) and do all thy work (*melakhtekha*). But the seventh day [is a] Sabbath to the Lord thy God. Thou shalt do no manner of work (*melakha*), thou, thy son and thy daughter, thy servant and thy maidservant, thy cattle and thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days made the Lord the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them; but He rested on the seventh day; and therefore the Lord blessed (*berakh*) the seventh day and He hallowed it (*yeqadshehu*).

V. Honoring Father and Mother

"Honor (*kabed*) thy father and thy mother, so that thy days may be long upon the land ("earth"; *ha'adamah*) which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. The "Second Table": Moral Principles for Neighbors

"Thou shalt not murder (*lo' tirtsacha*).

Thou shalt not commit adultery (*lo' tina'f*).

Thou shalt not steal (*lo' tignor*).

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor (*lo'-tha'aneh vere'akha*).

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house (*lo' thachmod beyth re'ekha*);

thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his [man-]servant nor his maid-servant, nor his ox nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's (*lo' thachmod 'esheth re'ekha ve'avdo va'amatho veshoro vahamoro vekhol 'asher lere'ekha*)."

ADDITIONAL BIBLICAL TEXTS MENTIONED

IV. The Sabbath Day

And the heaven and the earth were finished and all their host. And God finished on the seventh day His work (*mela'khto*) which He had made and he desisted (*yishboth*) on the seventh day from all His work (*mela'khto*) which He had made. And God blessed (*yevarekh*) the seventh day and He hallowed it (*yeqadesh*), because on it He desisted from all His work which God created (*bara'*) to make. (Genesis 2:1-3)

And thou shalt remember that thou wast a slave (*'eved*) in the land of Egypt, and the Lord thy God brought thee out thence with a mighty hand and a outstretched arm; *therefore*, the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep (*la'asoth*) the Sabbath day. (Deuteronomy 5:15; emphasis added)

V. Honoring Father and Mother

Ye shall be holy (*qedoshiym*); for I the Lord your God am holy (*qadosh*).
Ye shall fear-revere ("stand-in-awe-of") (*tiyra'u*) each man his mother and his father,
and ye shall keep ("observe," "guard"; *tishmoru*) my Sabbaths.
I [am] the Lord your God (*'ani YHWH 'elohekhem*). (Leviticus 19:2-3)

"*This one* at last is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called Woman (*'ishah*) because from Man (*'ish*) she was taken."
Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves (*davaq*) unto his woman, that *they* may become as one flesh. (Gen. 2:23-24; emphasis added).