

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
008 - LESSON – Monday – August 18, 2025

PREPARING FOR THE GIFT

Exodus 19:9-25 (NKJV) “And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.” So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. (10) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. (11) And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. (12) You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, “Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. (13) Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.’ When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain.” (14) So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. (15) And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives.” (16) Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. (17) And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. (18) Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. (19) And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. (20) Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. (21) And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish. (22) Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them.” (23) But Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, ‘Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.’ ” (24) Then the LORD said to him, “Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them.” (25) So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.”

How did God prepare Israel to receive the Ten Commandments?

God gave specific instructions for what the Israelites were to do in preparation for the giving of the law at Sinai. Their external purity was to reflect their total dedication to God. They needed to be ready for the splendid manifestation of the Lord’s glory that was about to come.

God’s instructions were not only specific they were “**Thundered**” with importance.

1. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.
2. Set boundaries so the Israelites would not jeopardize their lives in the presence of God.
3. Do not touch the base of the mountain, it is holy.

The Message in preparation for receiving the Commandments is: God is the God of order:

The Decalogue (the Ten Commandments) is the heart of God's revelation and biblical ethics. It forms the substance and foundation of divine standards for all humanity; its principles are eternal and universal.

The Commandments were announced by God:

Exodus 19:19 (NKJV) "And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and **God answered him by voice.**"

Exodus 20:1 (NKJV) "And **God spoke all these words**, saying:"

Deuteronomy 5:4-5 (NKJV) "(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. He said:"

Deuteronomy 5:24 (NKJV) "And you said: "Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and **we have heard His voice** from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives."

The Commandments were written by God:

Exodus 24:12 (NKJV) "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and **the law and commandments which I have written**, that you may teach them."

Exodus 31:18 (NKJV) "And when He had made an **end of speaking** with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, **written with the finger of God.**"

God added nothing to the Ten Commandment:

Deuteronomy 5:22 (NKJV) "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me."

The Commandments of God are a special gift to humanity:

Exodus 32:19 (NKJV) "So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain."

Exodus 34:1 (NKJV) "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."

Deuteronomy 10:1-2 (NKJV) "(1) "At that time the LORD said to me, 'Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of

wood. (2) And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.’”

The Commandments of God are the “Testimony” -

Exodus 31:18 (NKJV) “And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses **two tablets of the Testimony**, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.”

The Commandments are the Words of His Covenant -

Exodus 34:28 (NKJV) “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.**”

The Commandments are written on Tablets of Stone -

Deuteronomy 9:9, 11, 15 (NKJV) “(9) When I went up into the mountain to receive the **tablets of stone**, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. (11) And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the **tablets of the covenant**. (15) “So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the **two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands.**”

There are two versions of the Decalogue with very slight differences; the first one is recorded in Exodus 20:1–17 and the second in Deuteronomy 21:3–21

The First was Written by God:

Exodus 31:18 (NKJV) “And when He had made an **end of speaking** with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, **written with the finger of God.**”

The Second was presented orally by Moses:

Deuteronomy 1:3 (NKJV) “Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that **Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them.**”

The Summary of the Commandments were reiterated by Paul:

Romans 13:8-10 (NKJV) “(8) Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. (9) For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (10) Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

How do you understand the idea of the Ten Commandments as an expression of God’s love? What does that mean? How is God’s love revealed in them?

The Commandments were not restricted to the Jews:

1 Corinthians 7:19 (NKJV) “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.”

Galatians 3:28 (NKJV) “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (KJV) “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: **for this is the whole duty of man.** (14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”