

TUESDAY

The Gift of the Decalogue

MY RETITLE: GOD SPEAKS THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR HIS GOVERNMENT OF LOVE

- Decalogue—Ten Words/Promises—English: Ten Commandments
 - Moral code of love = **Charter of Rights** = /God's govt of love
 - Reflection of His loving nature / righteous character
 - Heart of both = Old / New Covenant = existed from beginning
- Mentioned last wk = **Lesson 7 = study of Genesis** proves Patriarchs walked in covenant relationship w/God = obeying His Law of Love = well before / Jewish nation existed
- Created us/free will = In fairness to humanity = holy God had to immediately define boundaries /as expectations of acceptable love
- God renewed everlasting covenant of RBF w/Isaac = saying...
Genesis 26:5 because Abraham obeyed My voice / kept My charge, My commandments / My statutes / and My laws."
- Book of Genesis = clearly records Patriarchs knew 9 of 10
- **Exodus 16:4** 3rd of 4 encampments on way to Mount Sinai
God sent manna= instructed to gather twice as much on Friday / to rest on Sabbath = "that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not."
 - Indicates Sabbath commandment in place B/4 Mount Sinai
- This test + Gen record = demonstrates Ten Commandments
 - were in place from Creation = as God's moral code of love
- Covenant obligations of love for God / fellow human beings
 - were NOT new to God's people
- At Mount Sinai = Lord first verbally reminds His people of His will
- Later writes His Ten Commandments on tablets of stone
- Directing Moses to place them inside = ark of covenant
 - His throne in tabernacle= **Deut. 10:5 under /** mercy seat

- Placement indicated two things: 1) His Ten Commandments are foundation of His government' 2) His redeeming mercy always supersedes His righteous judgment to destroy sin
- Centuries of slavery / Egypt's pagan influence = shrouded Hebrews' appreciation of = Lord's holiness/requirements of righteousness
- Reaching Mount Sinai = God required 2-day strict preparation before He spoke to all
- Morning of 3rd day = Lord came down = His majestic glory
- Thick cloud of smoke covered /mountain = accompanied by powerful fireworks display of thunder / lightning
- Ram's horn blasted loud/long = earth quaked/people trembled
- **Exodus 20** = God speaks His 10-commandment Law of Love
 - **Remind ppl = His expectation of reciprocal love to Him, as Sovereign Creator = morality/love toward humanity**

Exodus 20:1–2 begins "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage"

- I.E. I redeemed you by grace = giving freedom/salvation
- Now listen to Me
- God's words found in **Exodus 20:3–17**—10-Commandments
 - Don't apply an "if . . . then" construction
 - where an offense is followed by penalty
 - Merely His expressed boundaries = unite Love /duty/ morality
 - First 4 = interprets / what it means / to love God
 - Following 6 = interpret / what it means / to love your neighbor
 - **Romans 13:10 = Love is /fulfillment of the law**
- God's instructions can be interpreted = promises
- **Exodus 20:3–17** Living in covenant relationship w/ Me
- 1) you will never have another God above me = Honor/revere Him by giving Him first/highest place in your life
- 2) You won't bow down to carved images = not replace Him w/any physical/symbolic/spiritual idol = give Him alone purest affections

- 3) You won't take My name in vain= revere His reputation/character
- 4) You will remember/honor/celebrate Sabbath
 - enjoying / extending its blessings to others
- 5) You will respectfully honor your parents
- 6) You won't murder = but respect life
- 7) You won't commit adultery = respect marriage
- 8) You won't steal = respect people's property
- 9) You won't lie/bear false testimony = respect others reputation
- 10) Won't covet = respect self /that no selfish desires mar character

WHY = That is what living in an everlasting covenant relationship w/ Him is all about.

- And that is what He will work = in human heart = by His Spirit
Zechariah 4:6 = Philippians 2:13
- Now = God's **Charter of Rights**—His Ten-Commandment Law of Love
 - also = heart of **New Covenant**—

Hebrews 8:10 This is = covenant that I will make w/ house of Israel after those days, says /LORD: I will put My laws in their mind = write them on their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be My people

John 14:15 (AMP) If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

- Obedience / NOT legalism = obedience / LOVE
- Love/gratitude toward Lord = love expressed in treatment of others

God's majestic display/ Mount Sinai = made people tremble

- **Exodus 20:20** = Do not fear / God has come to test you / that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin
- Lord desired to impress awe/respect for Him upon their hearts to deter them from transgressing His divine moral code of love
- Remind them of His covenant expectations of reciprocal love to Him, and morality / love toward humanity