

Sabbath School Panel — Second Quarter 2026

Lesson 9 (Tuesday)

The Law

Opening Scene: The Ten Words

The story is familiar.

Israel stands gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai—at a safe distance. In **Exodus 20**, we are told that **God spoke all these words**. These commandments are not merely rules; Scripture calls them **the Ten Words**.

God's law begins not as legislation, but as **revelation**.

Semantic Satiation and Sacred Familiarity

We introduce the idea of **semantic satiation**—the experience where a word or phrase, repeated often enough, begins to lose its impact.

The danger with the Ten Commandments is not that we examine them too much—but that we examine them **too little**, assuming familiarity equals understanding.

Ironically, the more we slow down and truly look at the Ten Words, the **more meaning they reveal**.

God Speaks Loudly—and Softly

At Sinai, God reveals Himself through:

- thunder
- lightning
- fire

- earthquake

Yet in **1 Kings 19**, God speaks to Elijah in a **still, small voice**.

God is not limited to one mode of revelation.

God is as big as we need Him to be—and as gentle as we need Him to be.

Spoken and Written by God

In **Exodus 31** and again in **Exodus 34**, we are told something remarkable:

God **wrote** the Ten Words with His own finger.

Now the law exists in **two forms**:

- spoken by God
- written by God

This invites a deeper question.

What Else Did God Make With His Hands?

In **Genesis**, God also forms **humanity** with His hands—creating them in His **image** and **likeness**.

Human beings are reflections of their Creator.

So we ask:

If humanity reflects God's character, and the law is written by God's own finger—does the law also reflect who God is?

The Law Reveals Sin

1 John 3:4 defines sin as:

“the transgression of the law.”

This gives us clarity—not cruelty.

Romans 3:20 adds:

“by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

The law is therefore **diagnostic**, not **curative**.

It identifies the disease—but it does not provide the cure.

Why Diagnosis Matters

To understand the human condition, Scripture is unflinching.

- **Psalm 51:5** — *“Shapen in iniquity”*
- **Jeremiah 17:9** — the heart is deceitful

A fallen nature cannot heal itself.

The law reveals:

- what sin is
- why we need grace
- why salvation must come from outside ourselves

The cure requires:

- the blood of Christ
 - the work of the Holy Spirit
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The Law Also Reveals God

The law does not only show us who we are.

It also shows us **who God is**.

God Is Perfect

Scripture repeatedly affirms God’s perfection:

- **Psalm 18:30** — *“As for God, his way is perfect.”*
- **Deuteronomy 32:4** — *“His work is perfect.”*
- **2 Samuel 22:31** — *“The way of the LORD is perfect.”*

- **Matthew 5:48** — *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father... is perfect.”*
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The Law Is Perfect

Now notice the parallel:

- **Psalms 19:7** — *“The law of the LORD is perfect.”*

This connection is intentional.

If:

- God is perfect
- and God’s law is perfect

Then the law must be a **reflection of God’s character**.

A Shift in Perspective

This reframes the commandments entirely.

They are not arbitrary do’s and don’ts.

They are a **portrait of God’s moral character**—written in words instead of flesh.

Final Thought

When people struggle with the law, the issue is often not obedience—but **relationship**.

If the law reflects God’s character, then rejecting the law is ultimately a misunderstanding of God Himself.

To know God is to see the law differently.
And to see the law rightly is to see God more clearly.