

#8 – Long Gone or Rock Solid? - Law of God

Introduction/Purpose: Let us examine the Ten Commandments. Are they still in force?

1. **Exodus 24:9-10, 12** What is God standing on?, **Ezekiel 1:26** What is God's throne made out of? (What color?)
2. **Numbers 15:27-41** What was used to remind the Israelites to keep the Ten Commandments of God? What commandment is boldly broken by presumption? (v.30, 32) What led to wearing blue as a symbol of obedience to God's commandments? What were they to do when they saw the blue in the tassels? (remember) Sapphire; blue is symbolic of God's Ten Commandment law; specifically the fourth.
3. **Exodus 39:1-2, 8, 22, 24** What color was the high priests robe? What colors were the pomegranates? (v.24), **27:16, 26:36, 31, 33** What colors were each of the three doors leading to the most Holy place?
- Purple represents authority, or royalty. (Joh 19:2-3, Son 7:5) Scarlet represents blood or sins. (Isa 1:18) Blue represents God's throne, government, and law; God's commandments. Blue was worn by worshipers remembering the fourth commandment; the original context was presumptuous sabbath-breaking.
4. **John 10:7-9** What relationship does Jesus have to these doors/colors?
5. **Mark 15:37-38** What did the door represent?, **Hebrews 10:19-20**
6. **Hebrews 7:22-8:2** Who did the high priest represent?
7. **1Corinthians 10:4** (see also Mat 21:42-44) Who and where is the Rock; this Stone? The Rock has what special characteristic? (God; a Spirit Joh 4:24)
8. **Exodus 17:6, Numbers 20:11** What comes out of the Rock? What action caused this?
9. **John 19:34** What came out of Jesus, the water of life, besides blood? (water) What action caused this? Jesus is the Rock; the Stone. (Dan 2:34-35, 44-45)
- 1st Adam alone/deep sleep/rib = Eve (bride) 2nd Adam (Jesus) alone/deep sleep/side/rib blood + water = bride
10. **Joshua 6:8** Exactly where were the stones/rocks; the Ten Commandments?
11. **Exodus 25:10-22** (*testimony*= Ten Commandments; 1Ki 8:9) What is between the cherubim? What is the cover on the Ark of the Covenant called? Where does God promise to meet Moses and the children of Israel? What is the nature of the things which God said as He positioned Himself on the mercy seat between the two cherubim? What is the foundation; the heart of this symbolic seat; representing the throne of God?
- God's mercy is above His law. Mercy covers and conceals law. God's laws are covenant promises of Character. God is perfect Love and has called us into fellowship with Him.
12. **Hebrews 4:16** The mercy seat represents the throne of God in heaven.
13. **Revelation 11:19** Where is the literal/heavenly ark of the covenant located?
14. **Hebrews 8:5, 9:23-24** What does the earthly sanctuary represent? The presence of the Lord in the earthly sanctuary abode above the mercy seat, between the two gold cherubim. Therefore, what does the mercy seat represent? (throne of God in heaven)
15. **Revelation 22:1, 3:21** Where did the water come from? Whose throne is this?
- Blue in the Israelites' tassels and in the priests' robe reminded them of the Ten Commandments. Jesus is the door, and Jesus is the Rock.
- Ten Commandments = Stone/Rock = Door = Jesus = High Priest
- Through a life and sacrifice exemplifying impeccable faithfulness, Jesus proved that God's essential character, described by His law, is other-centered love. Co-operating with God, Jesus demonstrated that obedience in every particular is more than possible. It is man's ideal, and man's delight.
16. **John 15:10** Did Jesus break, or keep the Ten Commandments?
- The Ten Commandments are life and liberty. Jesus lived the Moral Decalogue in the flesh, from the heart; in Spirit; in truth - to the full. His life and character were sealed in obedience to all ten of God's Precepts. *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 1Pet 2:21*
17. **John 14:15** (This is exactly what most people don't want to do.) When love makes no demands beyond a smile or wave, then it is welcome. But if the lifestyle must be disturbed, the majority reject it. Most people today are not looking to live for Truth. They are looking for a smooth, easy, comfortable religion which will allow them to live the way they please, yet still feel assured of salvation. The more we truly love God, the more we trust Him. The more we trust Him the more habitual ought to be our delight to do everything He asks, particularly in keeping every one of His Commandments. *My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Isa 55:8-9, Jer 29:11*
18. **Deuteronomy 5:1-33, 4:13, Exodus 24:1-8** (A covenant is a two-way promise.) What was the 'Old Covenant' made between the Hebrews and God? What was God's response? (v.28-29) Did God know that they would fail to honor their covenant?
- The object lesson was appropriate; one that would demonstrate the impossibility of fleshly means to demonstrate God's Spirit.
19. **Jeremiah 31:31-33, Hebrews 8:1-13, 2Corinthians 3:3** What is the new covenant? In the New Testament, where will God write His law?
- The Ark of the Covenant contained the Ten Commandments, and the Ten Commandments were written on the heart of the Rock. Through the cross of Christ, God's law is permanently emblazoned on the fleshly tables of the human race's heart. The Ten Commandments were the essence of the Old Covenant between God and His people. The new covenant involves the exact same foundation laws. There is no indication that the foundation laws that God wanted to write on our hearts would change. One with the Father; Jesus represented God. One with humanity, Jesus son of David; son of man represented the human race. He fulfilled the moral Matrimonial covenant on behalf of both parties involved in the covenant: God and man. Jesus was faithful to man as our God; pioneering salvation and sanctification for all men through His unblemished sacrifice to our Father. Jesus was also faithful to God as a man; ceaselessly delighting in God's will. He is our 'Father'; Creator God; representing the Father to us. He is our elder Brother representing us to the Father, and interceding for us to the Father.
20. **Psalms 40:8** In the Old Testament and covenant, where was God's law to be written?
- Works of delight in obedience to God's laws of Love are the real proof and fruit of love. They are necessary in the experience; the character building of every disciple of Jesus. *I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments. Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law. Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights. Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments. Psalm 119:131, 136, 143, 151, 172, 176*
- The Ten Commandments never have saved anyone, and never will. God's Character; Spirit is Living; God saves us. Our High Priest intercedes for us. The Commandments enable diagnosis of steps taken astray from God. God is a spirit. (Joh 4:24) Let us not strive to render merely physical that which is fundamentally Spiritual. God values our worship. Let us not offer to Him a formal religion of external adornment, but rather worship Him in Spirit and in truth. He leads us into all truth. Let us behold Him in wonder and adoration; as children at His feet. *I, if I be lifted up...* We become like the one we worship and adore.
21. **Matthew 7:21-23** What measurable evidence will Jesus use to determine whether or not we truly know Him?
22. **James 2:8-12** What law is James quoting from directly; perfectly? How many of the Ten Commandments will cost our soul if we presumptuously transgress?, **13-20** What 2 things does James call the Ten Commandments? (royal law of liberty; v.8,12) What are we judged by?
23. **Commandments: G1785** ἐντολή entolē en-tol-ay'; injunction, authoritative prescription: commandment, precept.
- Mat 19:16-19 (v.17: ...keep the commandments, ^{G1785}) What commandments? (Exo 20)
- Mat 5:17-19, 21, 27 (v.19: ... of these least commandments, ^{G1785}) What commandments?
- Mat 22:36-40 (v.38, 40; both - G1785)
- Joh 15:10 (both G1785) Did Jesus keep the Ten Commandments?
- Joh 14:14-16, 12:49-50 (all G1785) What is the Comforter's prerequisite? (v.15-16) Whose commandments?
- Rev 12:17, 14:12 (both G1785) Will the Ten Commandments be kept by the faithful in end times?
24. **1John 2:3-6, 5:2-3** (all G1785) The commandments are "not grievous" (for our good). (Obedience is not to be grievous, burdensome, but delight; joy.) To know Christ is to love Him, and to love Him is to love to obey Him. To worship God with legalistic drudgery does not please Him; He calls us to rest in His work. What wheels rotate first on a car, front or back? As mercy covers; embraces law at its heart, so faith and works also move together, with faith in the front.
25. **1John 3:8** According to this text, when did the devil start sinning?, **4** What is sin?
- God's Ten Commandments existed before the creation of the earth. The devil sinned (Eze 28:16) and broke God's law in heaven. He coveted God's authority and thought to exalt himself higher than the Highest. He lied to the angels and concealed his motive of anarchy. Lucifer, a formerly perfect angel, was cast out of heaven for breaking God's laws of love. Thus we can be sure that we will not be entering heaven breaking God's laws of love. Who encourages us to break God's laws?
26. **Genesis 2:16-17** Did God give a law outside of human devising? Did God intend the law to be followed due to Adam's perfect intellect, or due to His authority as Lawgiver? Did Adam and Eve sin? What was the result? (broken law = sin sin = death) *...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Rom 5:12*
27. **Genesis 3:4-5, 17-24** Where came the idea come from - that we have immortality? Where do we get the idea that we are our own source of truth and law, or that we can choose our own tree, or day? Who told the truth? Who lied? Besides death, what other consequences did Adam and Eve receive as a result of their sin?
28. **Genesis 26:5** Did Abraham keep God's Commandments? Abraham was not a Jew. There was sin before Mt. Sinai. (Gen 18:20, 39:7-9, 1Joh 3:12) 1Joh 3:4 sin=law

29. 1Timothy 6:15-16 Who alone has immortality? (sin results in death; Jam 1:15) no sin = no death (immortality)
If sin did not exist today, then we would be immortal. If man were immortal, then man would be God. As a result of sin, the earth was cursed and Adam and Eve were banned from the garden of Eden. The source of their life which they required to live forever; the tree of life, was outside of themselves. After their sin, the tree was out of their reach.

30. Revelation 22:14, 21:4 Will the source of life always be outside of us? Who will have the right to the tree of life?
Although the source of life will always be outside of us, mankind will soon again have free access to the tree of life. The curse on the earth and Adam's inability to access the source of life were the result of breaking God's law. The reversal of how Adam and Eve brought about these consequences must take place. Adam was transformed from law breaking into law keeping. He will never sin again, and will be raised from the dead. The earth will be made new; Eden shall be restored. Adam will be restored to the garden of Eden and the tree of life. The curse on the earth will be lifted.

31. Matthew 22:40 *"On these two commandments **'hang'** all the law and the prophets."* When one object hangs from another object, are the two objects touching? Are they connected, or separated? Jesus quoted from Scripture: *"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."* Deu 6:5 and *"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* Lev 19:18 Did Jesus change anything? On the contrary, Jesus reaffirmed that the Commandments are summed up by one word: Love. Love for God; the first four of the ten, and love for our fellow man; the last six.

32. Romans 3:31, 7:7 What law is directly quoted from; word for word? (Ten Commandments Exo 20:3-17)
The Ten Commandment moral law of God describes His character. God doesn't steal, covet, lie, or exist among other Gods. God wants to spend time with us during the 7th day each week. The 7th day Sabbath is not a 'shadow of things to come'. It is a reminder of the first literal 7-day week when God created this world. (Exo 20:8,11) By emphatically stating "God forbid!", Paul expresses his strong desire that no one should interpret his expression "not under the law" to mean free to ignore or break God's laws. If a doctor diagnoses a broken arm, is he offering help, or should we do away with his tongue? As Paul is so strongly emphasizing, the moral law, like a doctor, is for our benefit. They may tell us the truth about our health. As continual blood sacrifices in the old covenant reminded God's people of their absolute dependence upon Him, the cross is to be our continual reminder of Divine love; so great that Jesus died. Would He have us continue to break the Ten Commandments, the transgression of which nailed Him to the cross? God forbid!

33. Romans 6:1-23 What state are we in when we are 'free' from the yoke of obedience to God's law? (v.16-17, 20)
The state of not being "under the law" (v.1, 15, 3:31) does not do away with the law. "under the law" means measured by the law, or basing your salvation on measuring yourself against the law. Not "under the law" is the state of trusting in God; the state of not being measured by the law. Will one perfectly obey someone they perfectly trust? Therefore, even when we are not "under the law", God's laws, particularly the Ten Commandments, are still fully in place. God compares our relationship with Him to marriage: If we are 'under grace' and following the 'love' laws of our spouse, will we break our marriage vows in any one particular? Are we 'free' to dishonor our spouse; murder our spouse; commit adultery against our spouse; steal from our spouse; lie to our spouse; or lust after someone else? If we are to avoid death as the wages of sin for transgressing God's law, then we must keep God's Ten Commandments of love and liberty, through faith, even though we are not "under the law".

34. Romans 2:29, 7:6, 2Corinthians 3:6 'letter of the law': begrudging obedience; adorning the outward life to appear beautiful and holy. Paul contrasts legalistic works of the law with heart-worship inspired by God's Spirit. The 'Spirit of the law' is the Spirit of Jesus, who delights to do God's will.

35. Romans 13:8-10 What law is being referred to - what Commandments are being quoted from? What is love?

36. 1Corinthians 15:56 Does sin have any strength without the law? (1Joh 3:4 sin is the transgression of the law)
Rom 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. For sin to be measurable, there must be a law. Where there is no law, there is no way to identify sin. Where there is no stop sign, there is no ticket for not stopping. If the Ten Commandments were done away with, then there would be no justice for transgression. If justice for transgressing the Ten Commandments could be bypassed for us, why was it not bypassed for Jesus? If Jesus' death did away with the Ten Commandments, then every person who has lived from the crucifixion until now must be going to heaven, no matter if they accept Jesus or not; no matter how much they cheat, lie, steal, kill, rape, pillage, etc.. Since death still exists today, does sin still exist today? Sin and death still exist today because the world is full of sinners. If sin does not exist today, what is stopping God from being with us right now? What law is being broken (transgressed) by sin today? (1Joh 3:4 ...sin is the transgression of the law; the Ten Commandments) Jam 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Rom 3:23, 6:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...the wages of sin is death. Rom 5:12 ...sin entered...the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for...all have sinned...

37. Galatians 2:17-19 'through the law' = Decalogue obedience 'under the law' = measured by the Decalogue What if there were no laws in our country at all? Would we be out from 'under' a legalistic yoke of bondage, into 'the land of the free'? On the contrary, the freedoms governments uphold must be upheld by laws and officers.

GOD	LAW
God is Spiritual - (John 4:24)	Law is Spiritual - (Romans 7:14)
God is Love - (1John 4:8)	Law is Love - (Matthew 22:37-40)
God is Truth - (John 14:6)	Law is Truth - (Psalm 119:42)
God is Righteous - (1Corinthians 1:30)	Law is Righteous - (Psalm 119:172)
God is Holy - (Isaiah 6:3)	Law is Holy - (Romans 7:12)
God is Perfect - (Matthew 5:48)	Law is Perfect - (Psalm 19:7)
God is Freedom - (Joshua 24:15)	Law is Freedom - (James 2:12)
God is Good - (Luke 18:19)	Law is Good - (Romans 7:12)
God is Eternal - (James 1:17)	Law is Eternal - (Psalm 111:7-8)
God is Pure - (1John 3:3)	Law is Pure - (Psalm 19:8)
God is Just - (Deuteronomy 32:4)	Law is Just - (Romans 7:12)
God is Unchangeable - (James 1:17)	Law is Unchangeable - (Matthew 5:18)

Conclusion/ APPEAL: A father leaves his son and home behind for quite some time, and he leaves his son in charge. Before he leaves, he leaves these final words with his son. "Son, I'm leaving you in charge of our house and crops. I want you to listen very carefully to what I'm about to tell you. In each one of our ten fields, please plant the exact types of seeds that I tell you." So the father leaves very specific instructions with his son about exactly what types of seeds to plant in exactly which fields. In the first field, potatoes were to be planted. In the second field, zucchini was to be planted. The list went on. Finally, in the last field, watermelons were to be planted. The son promises that he will do as his father has asked. The father leaves, and is gone for the entire growing season. When the father returned, the son said "I planted everything you asked me to, but when I examined the soil for the watermelon, it is not the kind that watermelon like, so I planted garlic." To the son's surprise, the Father was very disappointed. He said "Son, you planted everything exactly as I had asked in every other field, but you ignored my instructions about this field and did it your way according to your reasoning. You only planted what I asked in the other fields because you agreed. But when you disagreed; when you didn't think my commands were good and wise, you planted what you wanted. This proves that in every single field, you actually planted everything according to your own reasoning. You would not even plant what I requested contrary to your reasoning in even one field."

"Another compact—called in Scripture the "old" covenant—was formed between God and Israel at Sinai, and was then ratified by the blood of a sacrifice. The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, and it is called the "second," or "new," covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant. **That the new covenant was valid in the days of Abraham is evident** from the fact that it was then confirmed both by the promise and by the oath of God—the "two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie." Hebrews 6:18. But if the Abrahamic covenant contained the promise of redemption, why was another covenant formed at Sinai? In their bondage the people had to a great extent lost the knowledge of God and of the principles of the Abrahamic covenant. In delivering them from Egypt, God sought to reveal to them His power and His mercy, that they might be led to love and trust Him. He brought them down to the Red Sea—where, pursued by the Egyptians, escape seemed impossible—that they might realize their utter helplessness, their need of divine aid; and then He wrought deliverance for them. Thus they were filled with love and gratitude to God and with confidence in His power to help them. He had bound them to Himself as their deliverer from temporal bondage. But there was a still greater truth to be impressed upon their minds. Living in the midst of idolatry and corruption, they had no true conception of the holiness of God, of the exceeding sinfulness of their own hearts, their utter inability, in themselves, to render obedience to God's law, and their need of a Saviour. All this they must be taught. God brought them to Sinai; He manifested His glory; He gave them His law, with the promise of great blessings on condition of obedience; "If ye will obey My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ... ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." Exodus 19:5, 6. The people did not realize the sinfulness of their own hearts, and that without Christ it was impossible for them to keep God's law; and they readily entered into covenant with God. Feeling that they were able to establish their own righteousness, they declared, "All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient." Exodus 24:7. They had witnessed the proclamation of the law in awful majesty, and had trembled with terror before the mount; and yet only a few weeks passed before they broke their covenant with God, and bowed down to worship a graven image. They could not hope for the favor of God through a covenant which they had broken; and now, seeing their sinfulness and their need of pardon, they were brought to feel their need of the Saviour revealed in the Abrahamic covenant and shadowed forth in the sacrificial offerings. Now by faith and love they were bound to God as their deliverer from the bondage of sin. Now they were prepared to appreciate the blessings of the new covenant. The terms of the "old covenant" were, Obey and live: "If a man do, he shall even live in them" (Ezekiel 20:11; Leviticus 18:5); but "cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them." Deuteronomy 27:26. The "new covenant" was established upon "better promises"—the promise of forgiveness of sins and of the grace of God to renew the heart and bring it into harmony with the principles of God's law. "This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.... I will forgive their iniquity, and will remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31:33, 34. The same law that was engraved upon the tables of stone is written by the Holy Spirit upon the tables of the heart. Instead of going about to establish our own righteousness we accept the righteousness of Christ. His blood atones for our sins. His obedience is accepted for us. Then the heart renewed by the Holy Spirit will bring forth "the fruits of the Spirit." Through the grace of Christ we shall live in obedience to the law of God written upon our hearts. Having the Spirit of Christ, we shall walk even as He walked. Through the prophet He declared of Himself, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8. And when among men He said, "The Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him." John 8:29. The apostle Paul clearly presents the relation between faith and the law under the new covenant. He says: "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ—"Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh"—it could not justify man, because in his sinful nature he could not keep the law—"God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 5:1; 3:31; 8:3, 4. God's work is the same in all time, although there are different degrees of development and different manifestations of His power, to meet the wants of men in the different ages. Beginning with the first gospel promise, and coming down through the patriarchal and Jewish ages, and even to the present time, there has been a gradual unfolding of the purposes of God in the plan of redemption. The Saviour typified in the rites and ceremonies of the Jewish law is the very same that is revealed in the gospel. The clouds that enveloped His divine form have rolled back; the mists and shades have disappeared; and Jesus, the world's Redeemer, stands revealed. He who proclaimed the law from Sinai, and delivered to Moses the precepts of the ritual law, is the same that spoke the Sermon on the Mount. The great principles of love to God, which He set forth as the foundation of the law and the prophets, are only a reiteration of what He had spoken through Moses to the Hebrew people: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deuteronomy 6:4, 5. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as

thyself.” Leviticus 19:18. The teacher is the same in both dispensations. God’s claims are the same. The principles of His government are the same. For all proceed from Him “with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17.” {EGW; Patriarchs and Prophets p. 372}