

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments are a set of rules or laws, God gave to the people of Israel. The commandments exist in different versions. One version can be found in the Book of Exodus of the Bible. Another version can be found in the Book of Horeb. In the book of Exodus, the mountain is called Mount Sinai,

Of all the biblical text, the Ten Commandments alone are said to have been "written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18). The stone tablets were placed in the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:21, Deuteronomy 10:2,5).

The following is taken from Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Edited by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States with Additional Notes For Students, Teachers, and Pastors by Edward W. A. Koehler D. D. Concordia Teachers Collage, River Forest, Ill.

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY PRESS
Fort Wayne, Indiana

It is highly recommended that you obtain a copy of this publication from your local Christian book store to aid in home study for your Family



The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20: 1-17)

As the Head of the Family Should Teach Them in a Simple Way to His or Her Household

The First Commandment

*Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
What does this Mean? We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.*

The Second Commandment

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every truble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Yhou shalt sanctify the holy day.)

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment

Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not despise our parents and masters, nor provoke them to anger, but give them honor, serve and obey them, and hold them in love and esteem.

The Fifth Commandment

Thou shalt not kill.

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

The Sixth Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in ward and deed, and each love and honor his spouse.

The Seventh Commandment

Thou shalt not steel.

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money nor goods, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business.

The Eighth Commandment

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, nor defame our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

The Ninth Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, nor obtain it by a show of right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's

What does this Mean? We should fear and love God that we may not estrange, force, or entice away from our neighbor his wife, servants, or cattle, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

The close of the Ten Commandments

What does God say about these Commandments?

He says thus: I the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My Commandments.

What does this Mean?

God threatens to punish all that transgress these Commandments. Therefore we

should fear His wrath and not act contrary to them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all that keep these Commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in Him and willingly do according to His Commandments.