

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
The Old Testament Today
Banska Bystrica, 26th June 2022

Exodus 20:1-19 And God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." ¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
בְּכָל־לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ
וּבְכָל־מְאֹדְךָ

Dt 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

וְאַהֲבַתְּ לְרֵעֶךָ כְּמוֹךָ

Lev 19:18 ...you shall love your neighbor as yourself

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0. INTRODUCTION

- We are **not interested** in law until accused and have to defend ourselves...?

Jonathan Edwards (1703-58) observed, "There is perhaps no part of divinity attended with so much intricacy, and wherein orthodox divines do so much differ as stating the precise agreement and difference between the two dispensations of Moses and Christ (*Five Views on Law and Gospel*)

- **Rom 7:12** So **the law is holy**, and **the commandment is holy and righteous and good**.
- **Rom 3:31** Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, → **we uphold the law**.

0.1. WHY LAW?

- → salvation? happiness? self-perfection?

[RAZ *The Authority of Law*] There is little surprise that the **notion of authority** is one of the most controversial concepts found in the armoury of legal and political philosophy.

- obedience (WATSON): Obedience without knowledge is blind, and knowledge without obedience is lame.
 - **1Tim 1:8-11** Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but **for the lawless and disobedient**, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.
 - **Gal 3:19** Why then the law? It was **added because of transgressions**, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made
 - **Gal 3:24** So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith

[SPURGEON *The Mediator—The Interpreter*] Not with sweet sound of harps, nor with the songs of angels was the Law given, but with an awful voice from amid a terrible burning. Not in itself is the Law condemnatory. For if there could have been life by any Law, it would have been by this Law—but by reason of man's sinfulness, the Law works wrath. And to indicate this, it was made public with accompaniments of fear and death—the battalions of Omnipotence marshaled upon the scene. The dread artillery of God, with awful salvos, adding emphasis to every syllable. (Zákon nebol daný sladkým zvukom hárf, ani spevom anjelov, ale hrozným hlasom uprostred strašného ohňa. Zákon sám o sebe nie je odsudzujúci. Lebo ak by mohol existovať život podľa akéhokoľvek zákona, bol by to bol podľa tohto Zákona – ale kvôli hriechnosti človeka Zákon pôsobí hnev. A aby to bolo ukázané, bolo to zverejnené so sprievodom strachu a smrti – prápory Všemohúcnosti nastúpili na scénu. Hrôzostrašné Božie delostrelectvo s hroznými salvami, ktoré dávajú prízvuk na každú slabiku.)

- → self-denial (MORELAND)

0.2. WHAT IS LAW?

- NATURAL LAW

[*Oxford Dictionary*] III.17. a In the sciences of observation, a theoretical principle deduced from particular facts, applicable to a defined group or class of phenomena, and expressible by the statement that a particular phenomenon always occurs if certain conditions be present. In the physical sciences, and occasionally in others, called more explicitly law of nature or natural law. (The 'laws of nature', by those who first used the term in this sense, were viewed as commands imposed by the Deity upon matter, and even writers who do not

accept this view often speak of them as ‘obeyed’ by the phenomena, or as agents by which the phenomena are produced.)

- **Lk 16:17** But it is **easier** for heaven and earth to pass away than for **one dot of the Law** to become **void**

- MORAL LAW

[*Oxford Dictionary*] I.1.a The body of rules, whether proceeding from formal enactment or from custom, which a particular state or community recognizes as binding on its members or subjects. (In this sense usually the law.) †Also, in early use, a code or system of rules of this kind.

- **Ecc 8:11** Because the sentence against an evil deed is **not executed speedily**, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil (מַעֲשֵׂה הַרְעָה מִהֲרָה עַל-פֶּן מִלֹּא לֵב בְּנֵי-הָאָדָם בָּהֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת רָע (אֲשֶׁר אֵין-נִעְשָׂה כִּתְנָם))
- **Rom 2:4-5** Or do you presume on the riches of his **kindness and forbearance and patience**, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are **storing up wrath for yourself** (θησαυρίζεις σεαυτῷ ὀργήν ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὀργῆς) on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
- [PAWSON *Unlocking the Bible*] → (1) respect, (2) responsibility, (3) retribution

0.3. IS DECALOGUE THE NATURAL LAW?

- **Rom 3:29** Or is God the **God of Jews** only? Is he not the **God of Gentiles** also? Yes, of Gentiles also.
- → the covenant with Israel only...

0.4. TORAH & NOMOS

- **Psalm 19:7-8** The law of the LORD (תּוֹרַת יְהוָה) is **perfect, reviving the soul**; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- **Heb 7:18-19** On the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (**for the law [ὁ νόμος] made nothing perfect**); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God

0.5. THE FORM

- negative commandments ⇒ question “What should we then *DO*?”
- The First commandment → **obedience** ↔ the Tenth commandment → **essence** of sin
- two positive commandments: Sabbath; Parents

0.6. SUMMARIES

- Decalogue not repeated in the prophets...
- **Micah 6:7-8** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and **what does the LORD require** of you but to do (1) justice, and to love (2) kindness, and to walk humbly with your (3) God?
- **Mt 7:12** "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, **do** also to them, for **this is the Law and the Prophets** → POSITIVE focus

1. LAW CHANGED

1.1. THE COVENANTS

- Exodus 20:23–23:33 ‘Book of the Covenant’
- **Heb 7:12** For when there is a **change in the priesthood**, there is necessarily a **change in the law as well**.

- **Ex 34:28** 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**.
- **Jer 31:31-33** → **Heb 8** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1.2. LAW CHANGED → FULFILLED

- **Mt 5:17-19** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- **Rom 10:4** For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes

2. DECALOGUE IN NT

2.1. FIRST COMMANDMENT

- → **Mk 12:29-31** Jesus answered, "The most important is, **Hear, O Israel**: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

2.2. SECOND COMMANDMENT

- → **Acts 17:29** Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like **gold** or **silver** or **stone**, an **image** formed by the art and imagination of man.
- → **Rom 1:23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.
- → **Col 3:5** covetousness, which is idolatry.

2.3. THIRD COMMANDMENT

- → **Mt 5:33** "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not **swear falsely**, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' ³⁴ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil
- **Mt 12:36-37** I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷ for by **your words you will be justified**, and by your words you will be condemned."
- **Col 4:6** Let your **speech always be gracious**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person

2.4. FOURTH COMMANDMENT

- → **Rom 14:5-6** One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he

gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.

- → **Col 2:16** Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath

2.5. FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- **Eph 6:1-2** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),
- **Romans 13:7** Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

2.6. SIXTH COMMANDMENT

- **Mt 5:21-22** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is **angry** with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

2.7. SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

- → **Mt 5:27-28** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

2.8. EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

- → **Eph 4:28** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need
- → **2 Thes 3:10** If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat

2.9. NINTH COMMANDMENT

- → **1Tim 1:10** the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, **liars**, **perjurers**, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.
- → **Eph 4:15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

2.10. TENTH COMMANDMENT

- → **Col 3:5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, **evil desire**, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry (Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακὴν, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν, ἥτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρεία)

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

3.1. SETTING FREE TO BE NORMAL

- **Gal 5:22** But the **fruit of the Spirit** is (1) love, (2) joy, (3) peace, (4) patience, (5) kindness, (6) goodness, (7) faithfulness, ²³ (8) gentleness, (9) self-control; against such things there is no law (Ὁ δὲ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματός ἐστιν ἀγάπη, χαρὰ, εἰρήνη, μακροθυμία, χρηστότης, ἀγαθωσύνη, πίστις, ²³ πραότης, ἐγκράτεια· κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος).

3.2. REPRESENTING JESUS

- **John 14:16-18** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come** to you.

3.3. THE DESIRES OF THE SPIRIT

- → life-long program → “saved to serve” (Lev 19:18 & Dt 6:5)
- **Rom 12:11** Do not be slothful in zeal, be **fervent** in spirit, **serve** the Lord (τῇ σπουδῇ μὴ ὀκνηροί· τῷ πνεύματι ζέοντες· τῷ κυρίῳ δουλεύοντες)
- **Gal 5:17-18** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- **John 16:13-14** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ **He will glorify me**, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
- **Eph 2:19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

4. TO REMEMBER

- We are created by God and our normal existence is only in the relationship he envisaged.
- Law does not save us, on the contrary – but if we love God for Jesus and salvation, we have to love his will.
- New Testament obedience to law is positive – loving God and neighbor in the power of the Holy Spirit.