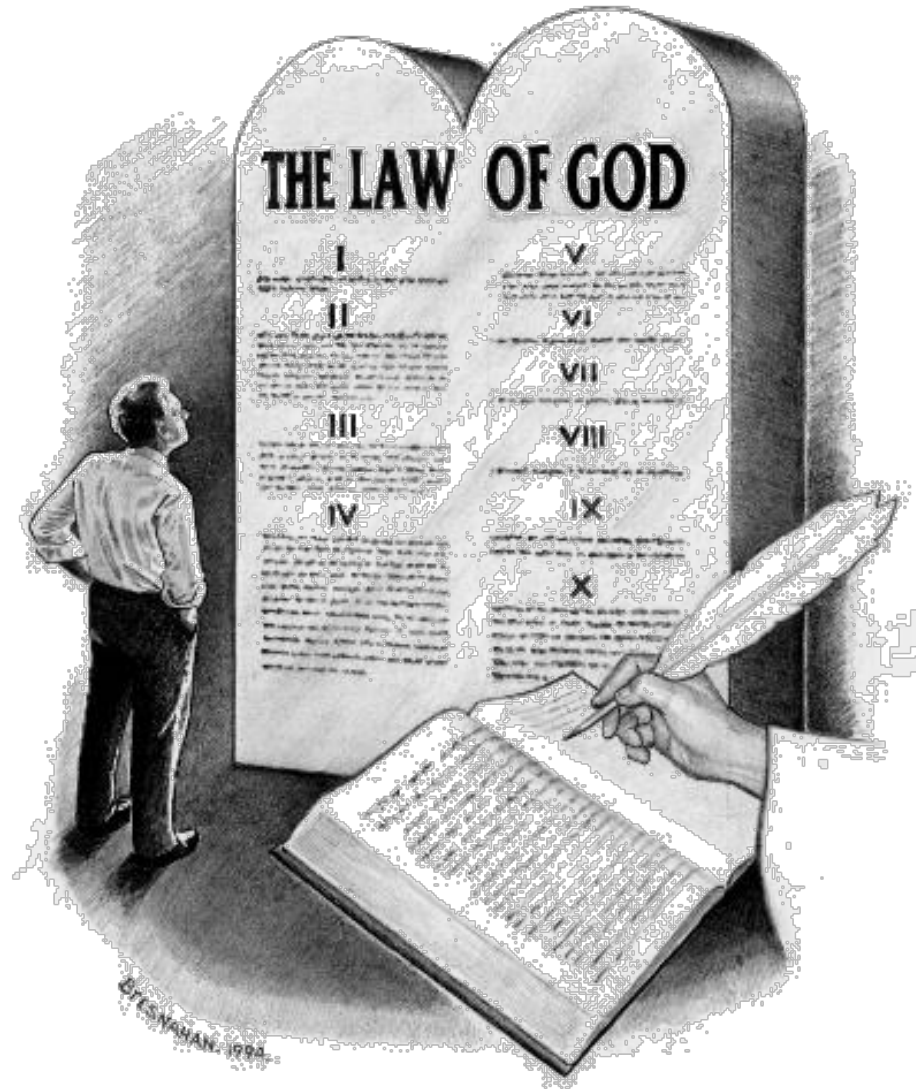


# My Bible School

## Lesson # 11

### *The Eternal Law of God*



**“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” John 14:15.**

## **1: DOES GOD HAVE A GOVERNMENT?**

**“The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all.” Psalm 103:19.**

Our heavenly Father is the king and ruler of the universe.

The Father shares the rulership of the whole creation with Christ, His Son. Christ, the Word, is called **“King of kings and Lord of lords.” Revelation 19:11-16.**

Jesus is the active agent in all divine human relations.

## **2: CAN THERE BE ANY GOVERNMENT WITHOUT LAW?**

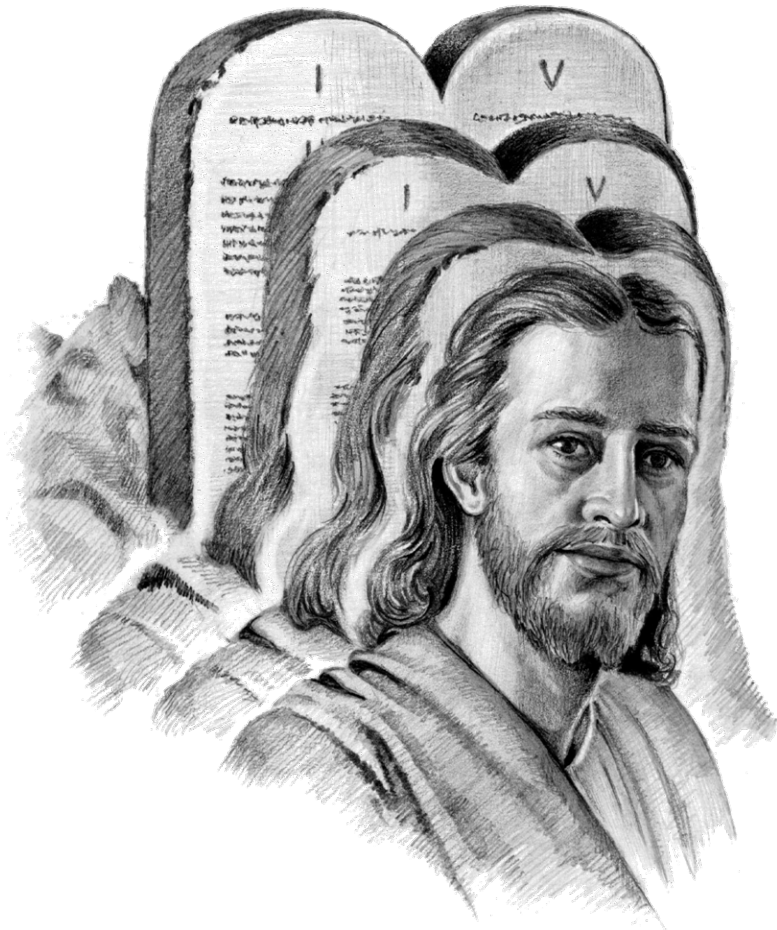
Intelligent human beings cannot live together in peace without mutually accepted law. Belief in, and united, practice of good laws are the foundation of human society, the warp and woof of a happy and orderly society. If every man did as he pleased without respect to law, what would happen to peace, to morality, to public safety and decency?

### 3: UPON WHAT PRINCIPLE ARE THE LAWS OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT BASED?



**“Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before Thy face.” Psalm 89:14.**

**Since the law is an expression of God's loving character, we would expect the Bible to describe the law in similar language. Here is Paul's New Testament appraisal of the Ten Commandments:**



**“The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.” Romans 7:12.**

**“For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Romans 7:14.**

The book of Revelation gives us a picture of the redeemed saints praising God. Here are their words: **“Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.” Revelation 15:3.** Those who understand the character of God can testify that He is just and true in all His ways.

Since God is still "the governor among the nations" as well as of the unfallen universe, His laws are still binding upon all rational creatures. He it is who issues these laws (*Isaiah 33:22*).

These laws are laws of love. And they are just. The law of God is for the happiness and well being of His creatures. Those who really love God, desire to keep His laws. (*1 John 5:3*).

## **4: WHAT CONSTITUTES THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT?**

**1. The law of Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17) is the unchanging, eternal, and moral law of God.**

“Now men may cavil as much as they like about other parts of the Bible, but I have never met an honest man that found fault with the Ten Commandments. Infidels may mock the Lawgiver and reject Him who has delivered us from the curse of the law, but they can't help admitting that the commandments are right. . The people must be made to understand that the Ten Commandments are still binding, and that there is a penalty attached to their violation.” Dwight L. Moody, *Weighed and Wanting*, pp. 11, 16:

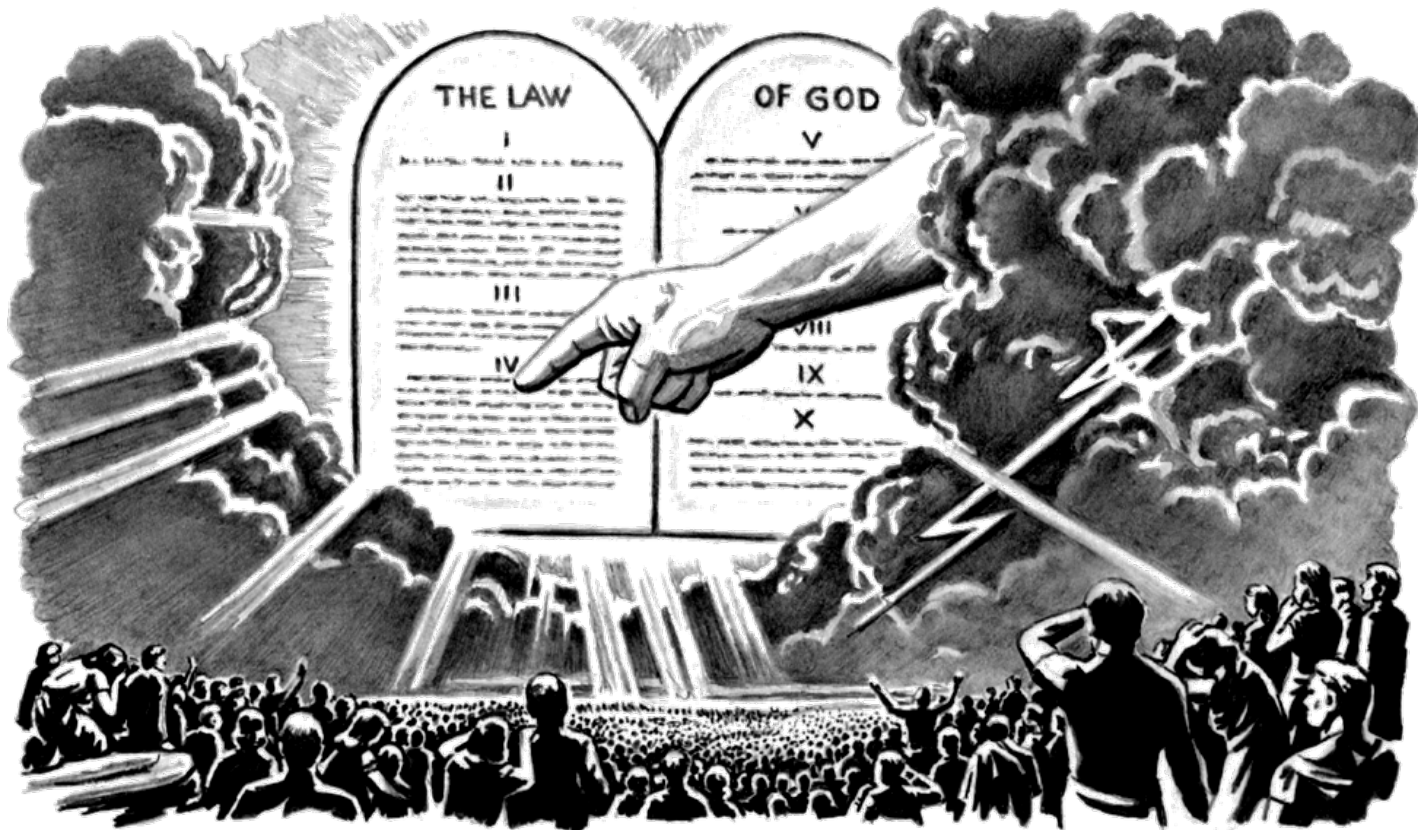
## 2. God's law is eternal in its nature.

**“The works of His hands are verity and judgment; all His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” Psalm 111:7-8.**

Concerning the fundamental law of the Ten Commandments, church leaders have said: “The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.” (*Presbyterian Confession of Faith, "Shorter Catechism," question 41*).

“The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof.” (*In the Westminster Confession, chapter 19, article 5*).

“We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government.” (*Baptist Manual, article 12*).



### **3. The moral law was written on two tables of stone.**

On the first were the first four commandments, showing our duty to God. On the second were the last six commandments, showing our duty to our fellowman. Spurgeon said: “If you love God with all your heart, you must keep the first table; and if you love your neighbor as yourself, you must keep the second table.” *The Perpetuity of the Law*, p.5.

## **5: ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR ALL MEN IN ALL AGES?**

### **1. The law was for man, from Adam to Moses.**

The Ten Commandments were in force from Adam's time down through the millenniums of time. This can be proved by the New Testament. Sin existed from the time of the fall of man, and sin is described by John as “the transgression of the law.”

**“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4.**

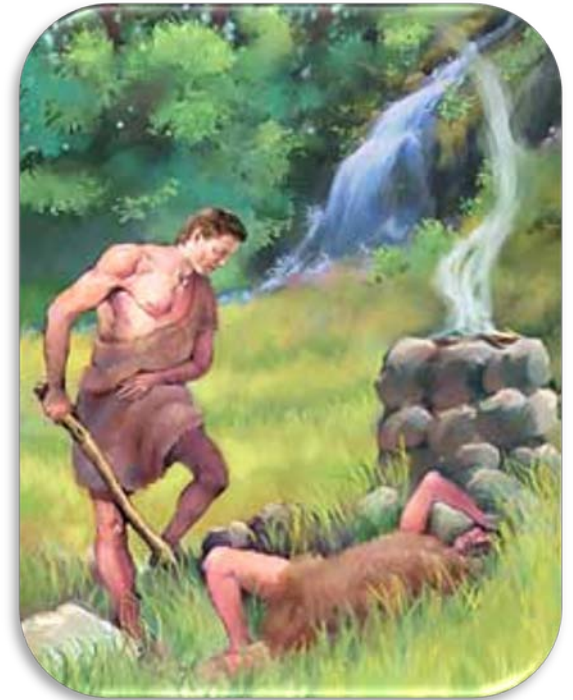
**There must have been law at the time of the Fall, because there was sin at the Fall.**

**“Where no law is, there is no transgression.” Romans 4:15.**

Adam could not have sinned if he had no knowledge of the moral law. Yet Adam did sin; for, as Paul said: **“By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** Romans 5:12.

Not only did Adam sin by breaking the law, but Cain, his son, sinned too.

**“And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”** Genesis 4:6-7.



**Abraham, long before Moses, knew God's law.**  
**“Because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”**  
**Genesis 26:5.**



**However, it is true that the law of God did not exist in written form until Moses' time. Indeed, the written law was not necessary before Moses. Never forget that the race of people who lived immediately before and after the Flood were long-lived people. Adam lived 930 years. Methuselah lived 969 years and died just before the Flood. Noah could learn from Methuselah all that Adam had told him because Methuselah was more than 200 years old when Adam died. There was no need for written laws then.**

**God does not hold men accountable for sin when there is no law.  
“Sin is not imputed when there is no law.” Romans 5:13.**

**It is not charged to man. But sin was charged to man from Adam to Moses even though there was no written law.**

**“Death reigned from Adam to Moses.” Romans 5:14.**

**So they knew of the law. The expression in Romans 5:13, “Until the law, sin was in the world,” means until the written law.**

**2. It was for men, from Moses to Christ.**

**In Moses' time, the law of God was written by the Lord Himself upon two tables of stone and delivered to Moses, who gave them to Israel.**



**“These words the Lord spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and He added no more. And He wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.”**

**Deuteronomy 5:22.**

**The written law was then placed by Moses in the Holy Ark, which was housed in the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary.**

**“He wrote on the tables,  
according to the first writing, the  
Ten Commandments, which the  
Lord spake unto you in the  
mount out of the midst of the fire  
in the day of the assembly: and  
the Lord gave them unto me.  
And I turned myself and came  
down from the mount and put  
the tables in the ark which I had  
made.” Deuteronomy 10:4-5.**

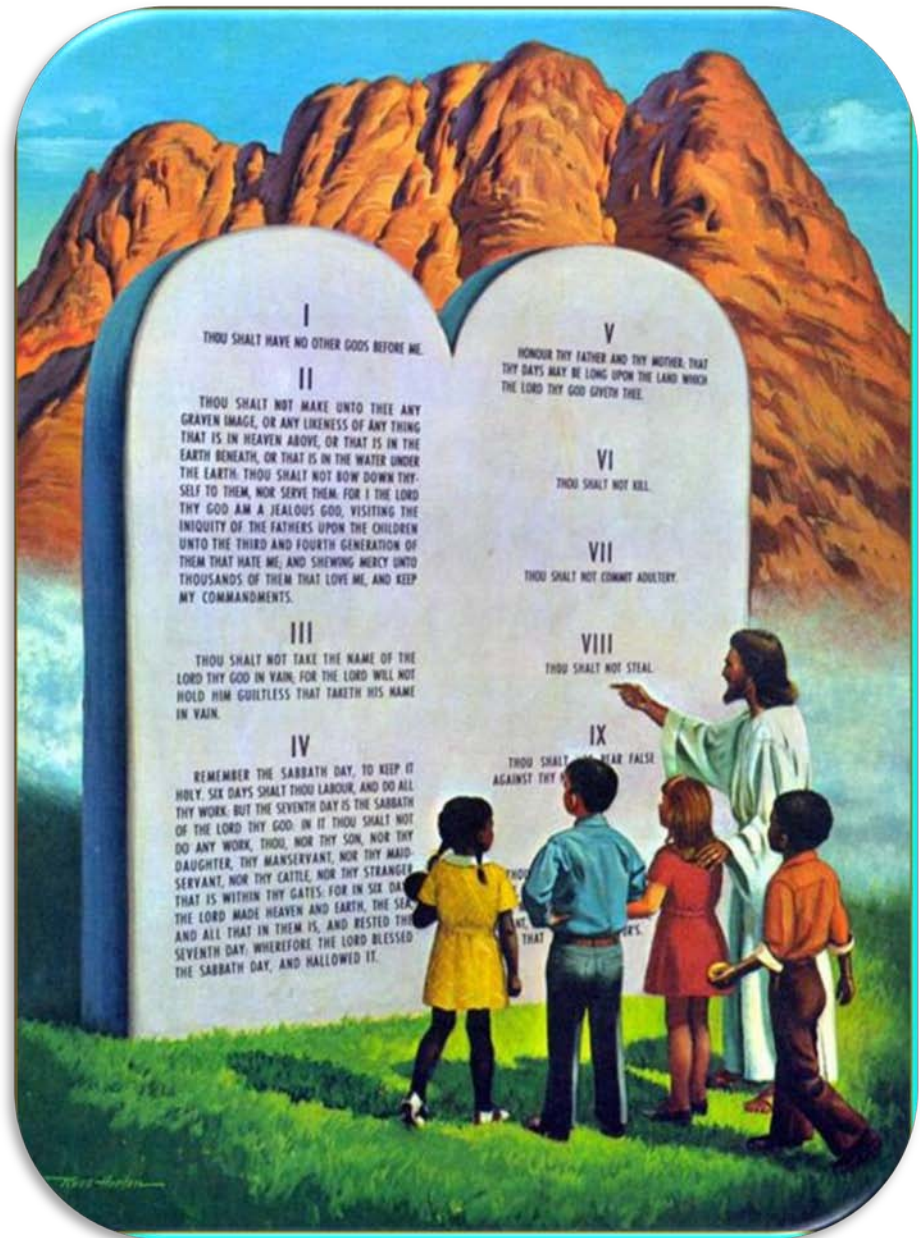


**To this day, the Ten Commandment law is held in sacred regard  
by Jews and Christians alike. The 119th psalm is a great song of  
praise to God for the law of love. “O how love I Thy law! It is my  
meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97.**

The law is basic in testing all religious teaching. **“To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them.”** Isaiah 8:20.

Solomon knew that it was not possible to please God while despising the law:

**“He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”** Proverbs 28:9.



**3. It was for Jesus, as the Son of man, and for men of His generation.**

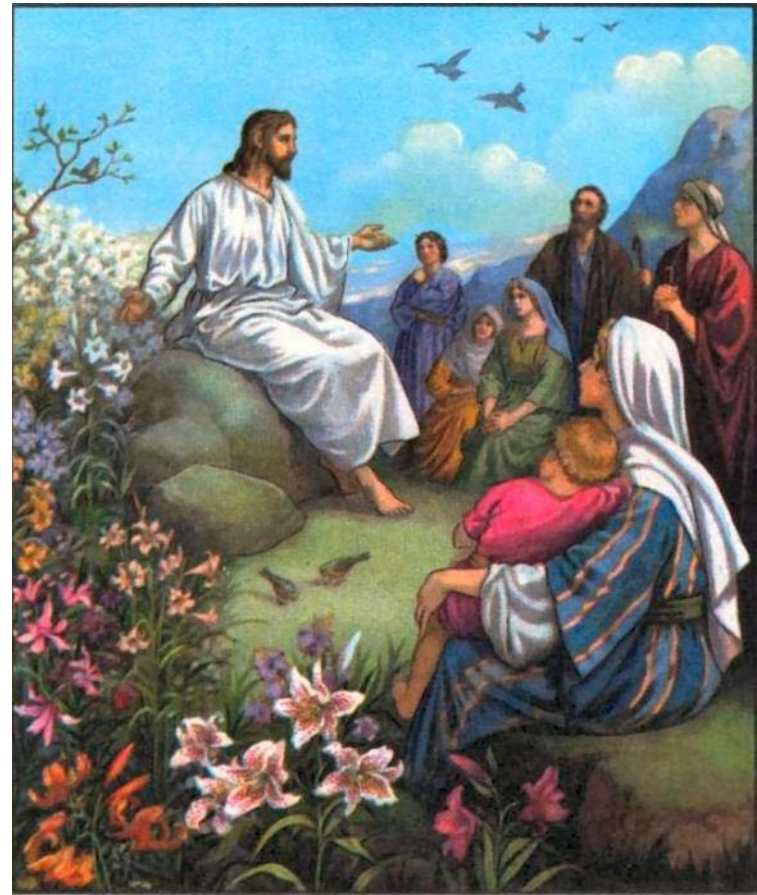


Isaiah, the gospel prophet, declared that when Christ came into the world, He would honor the law of God. **“He will magnify the law, and make it honourable.” Isaiah 42:21.**

The psalmist had predicted that Christ's attitude toward the law would be one of honor, love, and respect. **“Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me, I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:7-8.**

Openly Christ declared to the people, **“I have kept My Father's commandments.”**  
**John 15: 10.**

And He said, **“If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.”** John 15: 10.



Knowing that He was under suspicion as a teacher of new doctrines, Christ declared in His Sermon on the Mount: **“Think not that I am come to destroy the law.”** Matthew 5:17-19.

Christ made it plain that He did not come to abolish the Ten Commandments, but to teach men how to keep them.

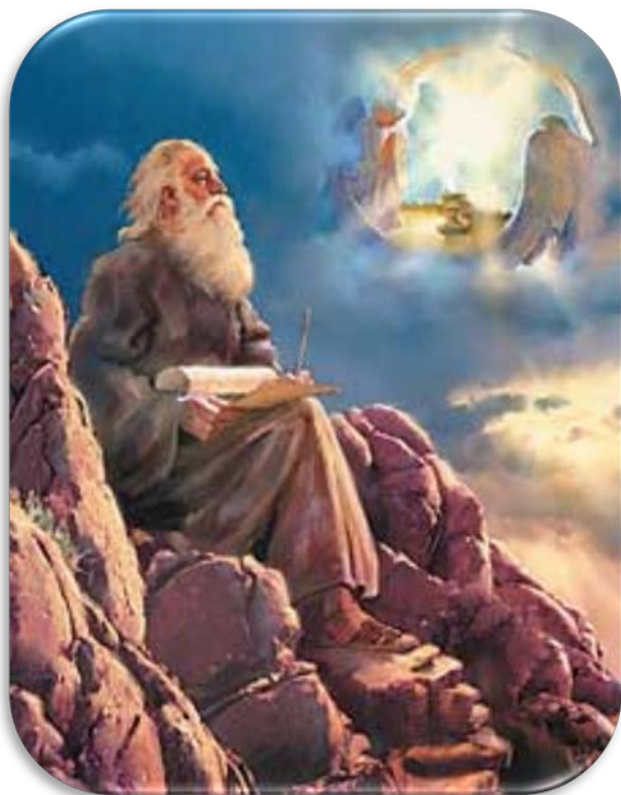
#### **4. It was for men in the time of the apostles.**

The following text deals a deathblow to the doctrine that no moral law is necessary. It also shows that faith establishes the law.

**“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea, we establish the law.” Romans 3:31.**

The New Testament writers understood that the law was to be the standard in the judgment.

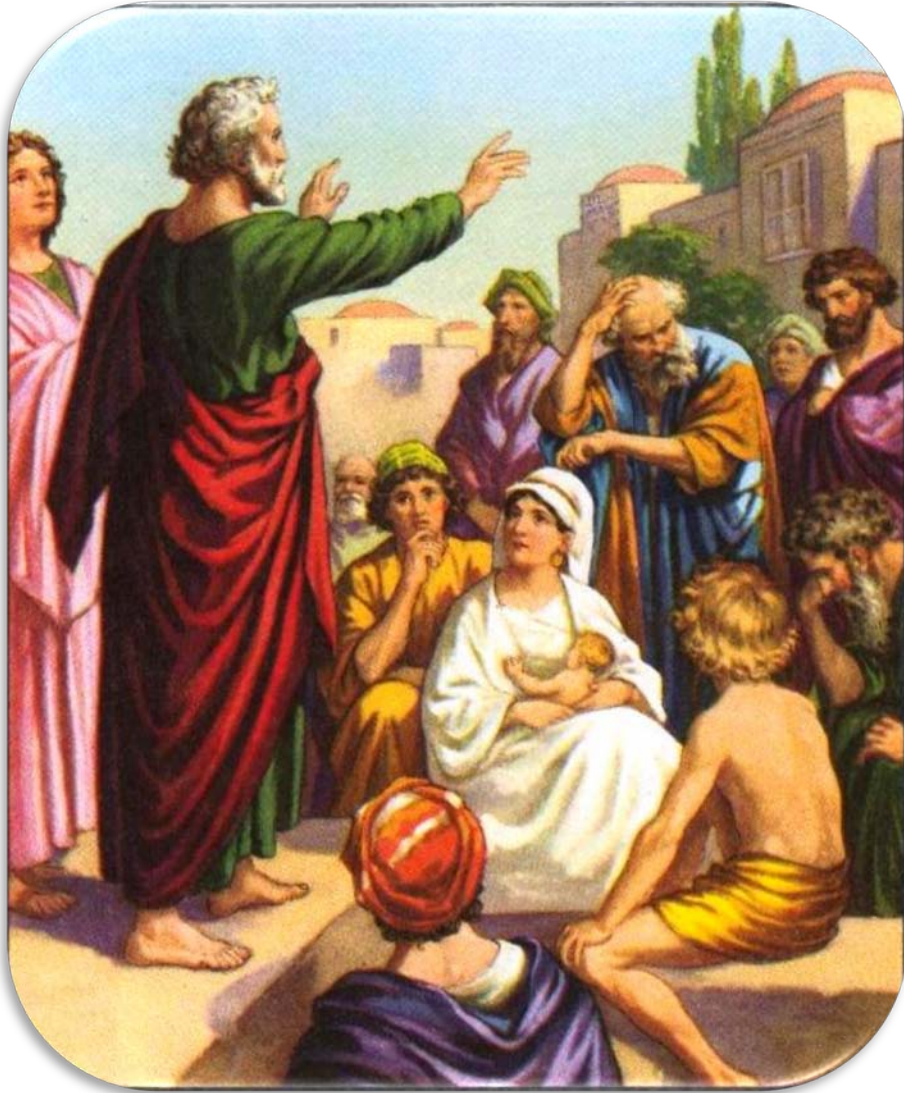
**“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” James 2:10-12.**



**John was even more emphatic than James. He said:**

**"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:4.**

**Many sincere Christians are opposed to the law because they say that it frustrates the grace of God. They refer to Paul in order to support their views. But Peter said that Paul wrote **"some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction."** 2 Peter 3:16.**



Paul had no more right than any other human being to change or abolish the law of the living God. He testified publicly, in court, that he believed **“all things which are written in the law.”** (*Acts* 24:14). **“We establish the law,”** said the apostle (*Romans* 3:31). That doesn't sound like destroying the law, does it? Paul was a great theologian. Only those who misunderstand him misrepresent and misinterpret his words.

**5. It is for God's remnant people of the last days.**

**“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17.**

**These people not only believe in the practice of the law of love, which is the law of Ten Commandments, but they also believe the gospel and have the faith of Jesus.**

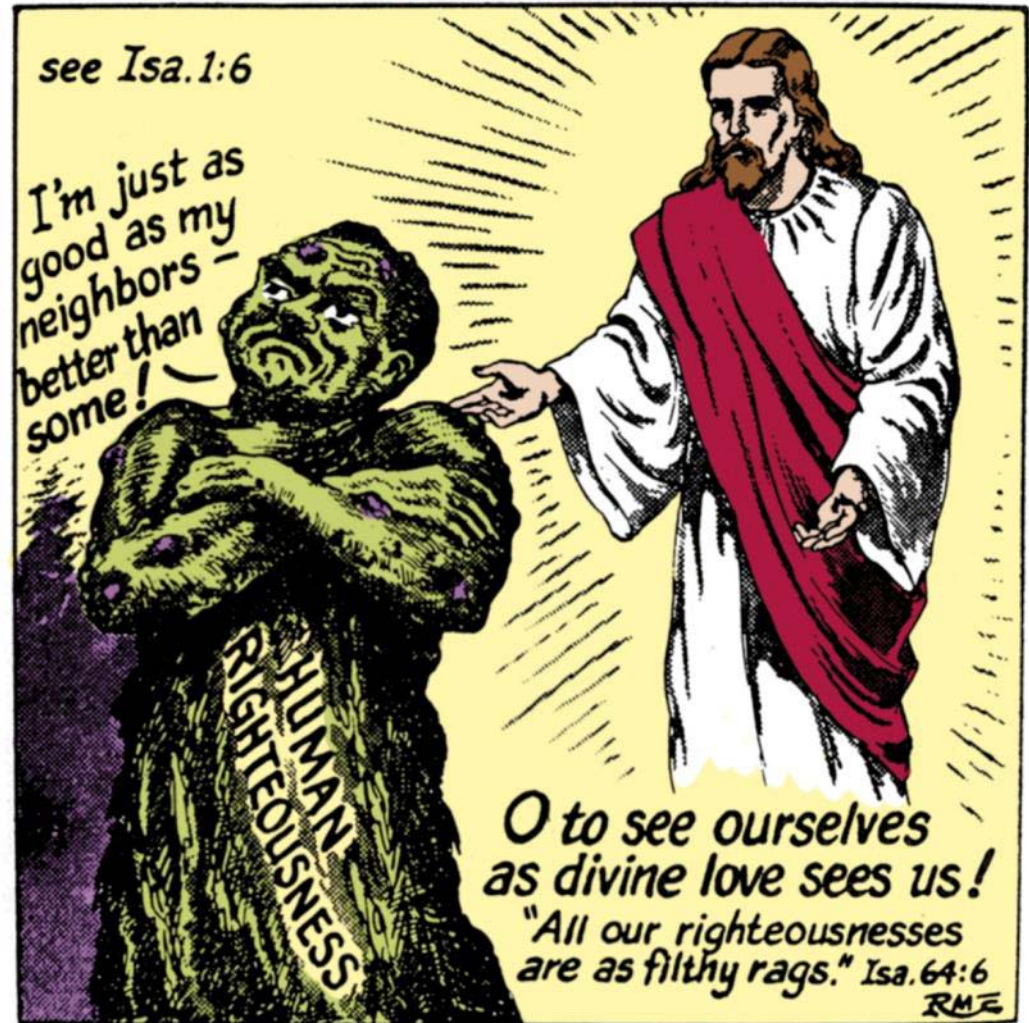
**“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” Revelation 14:12.**

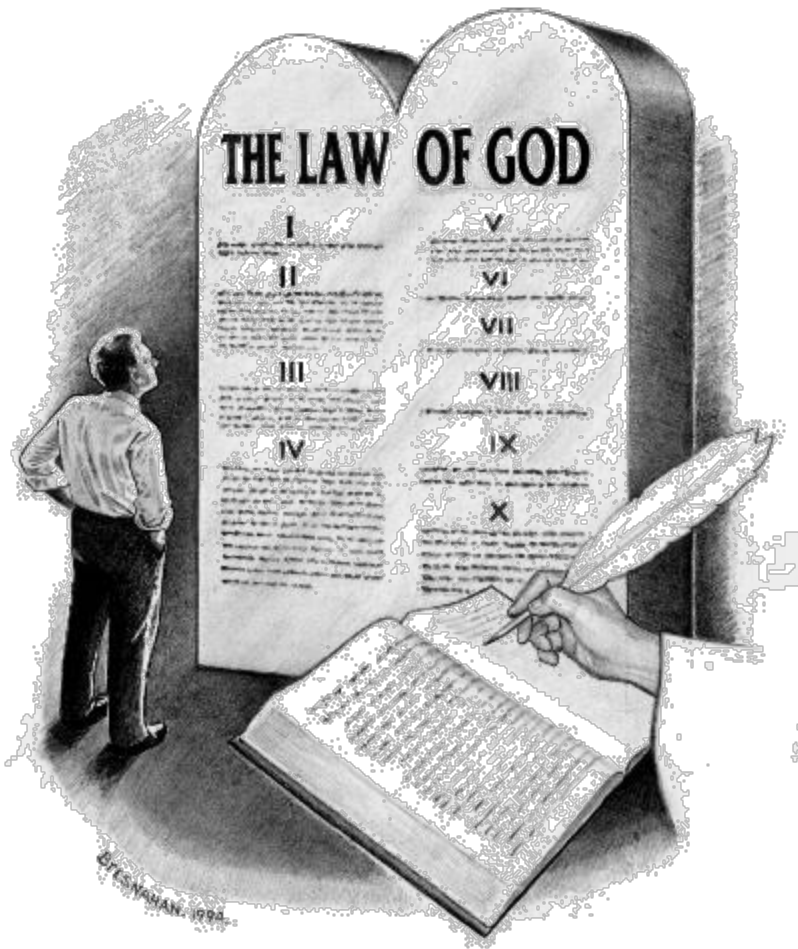
**The question for each of us to ask is, Am I one of God's remnant people? If not, why not?**

## 6: WHY IS THERE GENERAL REBELLION AGAINST GOD'S HOLY LAW?

**“The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”  
Romans 8:7.**

Only by the new birth can the carnal mind and heart of man be changed. According to the new covenant promise, (*Ezekiel 36:26-27*) God will write His law in our hearts. (*Hebrews 8:10*). But we must be willing. Are we?





Society today lives in rebellion against God's law. Everyone acknowledges that it is a good law, but few people want to obey it. In America, thousands of homes break up every year in the divorce courts. Crime costs billions of dollars annually. Hundreds of murders take place every month. And many of these dastardly crimes are committed by youth. According to a committee of prominent jurists and statesmen, crime will carry the nation on to anarchy unless it is checked soon.

Some ministers and professed Christians oppose the law of God. If *they* fight the Ten Commandments, what can we expect of the people? Jesus said that if a man broke one of God's commandments and then taught others to do the same, he would be called least in the kingdom (*Matthew 5:19*). It is serious enough to disobey God, but nothing is more displeasing to the Lawgiver than leading others into rebellion. The false doctrine that men are not obligated to obey the Ten Commandments has weakened the forces of morality in the world and opened the floodgates of vice and crime. When rebellion reaches its limit, God will intervene.



**“It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law:” Psalm 119:126**

**Those who have despised God's law have miscalculated His character. They will discover, in the final day of judgment, that He is a God of justice as well as mercy. Here are the words that He speaks to the despisers of His kingdom and His law:**

**“Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the Will of My Father which is in heaven. Many Will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:21-23.**

SOME ARE IN TOUCH WITH JESUS -  
OTHERS **THINK** THEY ARE.

"AS HE WENT  
THE PEOPLE THROGGED  
HIM" LUKE 8:42

FAITH AND HUMILITY  
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE  
SEE LUKE 8:44



RME

## **7: WHAT PROMISE IS HELD OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT?**

**“Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” Psalm 119:165.**

**The Christian who has a correct knowledge of God will love Him and His law. He will find peace in loving obedience. Isaiah declares that this peace and righteousness that all obedient followers of Jehovah enjoy is like "the waves of the sea."**

**“O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.” Isaiah 48:18.**

"THINKING GOD'S THOUGHTS AFTER HIM"  
MAKES ALL THE  
DIFFERENCE

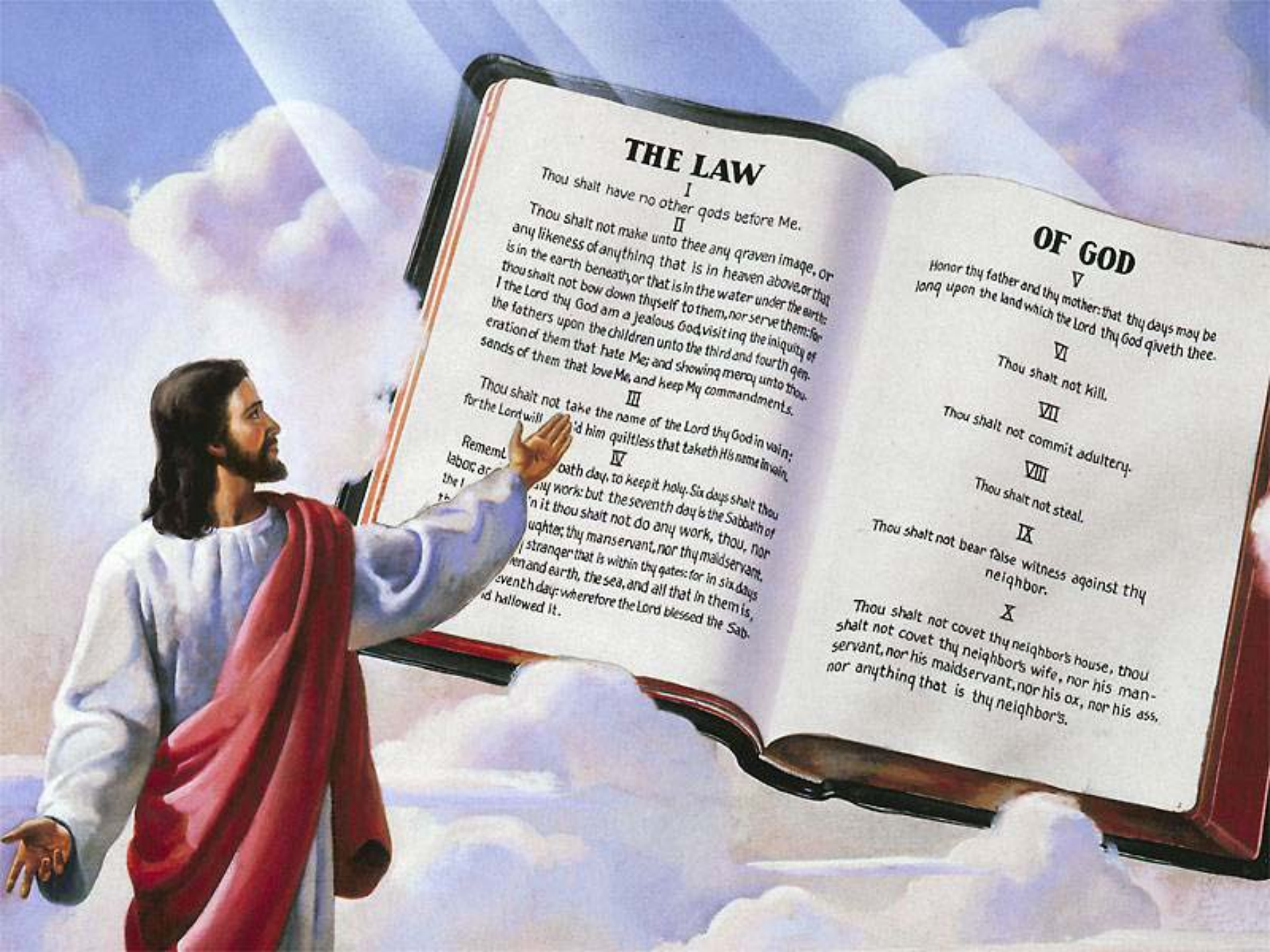
**"PEACE"**  
LIKE A RIVER

ISA. 66:12



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**The test of discipleship is in obedience. The greatest honor and tribute we can pay to Christ is to willingly consent to the writing of His law of love upon the fleshly tablets of our hearts. Will you consent to this work of grace? Remember, Christ saves us from sin, and “sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3:4. Salvation then means deliverance from lawbreaking and the restoration of the human heart to the moral likeness of God. Jesus will do this for you if you consent. Will you not say with Christ, “I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8?**



## THE LAW

I

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

II

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven 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: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for 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.

III

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

IV

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy ox, nor thy ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and hallowed it.

## OF GOD

V

Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI

Thou shalt not kill.

VII

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII

Thou shalt not steal.

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.