

**ARE GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS OUT OF DATE?**

Two very intriguing texts of Scripture surfaced in our studies of the sanctuary and the judgment. One told us that the ten commandments were in the ark in the most holy place of Moses' tabernacle. (Hebrews 9:4), and were important on that annual day of judgment and atonement. The other tells us that we are all to be judged by the "law of liberty" (James 2:10-12). (Note also Psalm 119:44-47.)

What did James actually mean? Could we still be accountable to keep the ten commandments? Isn't such an idea Jewish, out of date, limited to Old Testament people? What about the ten commandments today? Aren't we free from them now? Didn't Christ do away with them when He died? Didn't He give a new commandment for New Testament Christians?

We need to study the Bible very carefully to see how it answers such questions. It is so important here to let the Bible speak.

1. We all know that God, on Mount Sinai, gave the ten commandments to Moses, written on stone by His own hand. Review Exodus 20:1-17.
2. Why did God give them to His people, and at that particular time in the mid-fifteenth century, BC? It is important here to note that they were given immediately following God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt, after 215 years of slavery under taskmasters, and after their relation to God had been eroded very severely under those conditions.

- (a) Deuteronomy 10:12,13 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Romans 5:20 \_\_\_\_\_

(Two points seem very clear: God wanted His people to clearly know and do His will, which meant that they must understand the awful nature of sin, and become free from it.)


3. A study from a good Bible concordance of words like "law," and "commandments," will lead us to the clear conclusion that God's ten commandment law was in effect from Moses' day to the time of Christ.
- (a) What was its function or purpose? Romans 3:20. \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Did the law save people from sin? Matthew 1:21. \_\_\_\_\_
4. There were about 2,500 years before Moses, back to the time of Adam. Did the commandments exist then? If so, in what form? Were people before the time of Moses required to keep the commandments?

- (a) What can you conclude from these three texts? Romans 5:14; 6:23; 1 John 3:4,12?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- (b) What about Genesis 26:4,5? \_\_\_\_\_

A careful study of this early period (Genesis 1-Exodus 19) records the same acts of "right" or "wrong" as does the period from Moses to Christ. Stealing was wrong, immorality was wrong. Honesty was right, avoiding idols was right. When Adam and Eve accepted the suggestions of the one who became the "god of this world," and rejected the God of heaven, they were wrong--dead wrong!

5. During the years that Jesus lived on earth, how did He relate to the ten commandments? What do these Scriptures teach us?
- (a) John 15:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) John 14:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Matthew 5:21-28 \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) What did Jesus mean in Matthew 5:17-19? \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) What is He teaching in Matthew 22:35-40 and John 13:34? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What about the ten commandments after Jesus returned to heaven? From this area come most of our original questions that we asked at the beginning of this study. Analyze these texts carefully.
- (a) Romans 7:7,12 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) 1 John 2:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Revelation 14:12 \_\_\_\_\_
7. We are able to make some very clear conclusions. And there is a basic question that is most important to think through, in light of the fact that the commandments are the same in all time. It is this: Exactly why did God give mankind, in all ages, a knowledge of these commandments?
- (a) They simply **reveal His character**, what He is: Psalm 119:137-144. \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) They reveal that **true love and happiness are always found in serving and obeying Him**: Psalm 40:8.
- (c) They **point us, as sinners, to Christ** who **saves from transgression**, and Who **enables obedience and righteousness**: Romans 1:16,17; Phillipians 4:13.
- (d) In sharing with us the law, **God shared with us what he was like**, so that, **by His grace and power, we could be like Him**: 1 John 3:2.

<p>4a. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>1. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>3b. _____</p> <p>5a. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>5b. _____</p> <p>5c. Focus: _____</p>
		
<p>4b. _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><u>Why given?</u></p> <p>2a. _____</p> <p>2b. _____</p> <p>3a. _____</p>	<p>6. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>