

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25



(l.) *Moses on Mount Sinai*, Gérôme, Jean-Léon (1895-1900)



(r.) *Moses and the Ten Commandments*, James Tissot (1896-1902)

What words stand out to you in this reading from Sacred Scripture?

What questions come to mind?

Did you notice something you've never noticed before?

Prayer

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Brief Outline of Salvation History // History of Covenants

Creation of Adam and Eve // Fall of Adam and Eve

Flood and Noah's Ark // God promises to never destroy all of creation again. (Gn 9:1-17)

Call of Abram // God promises Abraham many descendants and land. (Gn 12-17)

Exodus of Israel out of Egypt // God promises that Israel will be His people, that He will lead them out of slavery, and that He will always bless them.

David // God promises to send a Savior as descendant of David

Covenant: A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being involving mutual commitments or guarantees. (*CCC Glossary*)

Israel's Exodus out of Egypt

Story of how God brings His people out of slavery...and how He invites them to a life of love and freedom.

Ten Commandments are announced by God from Mount Sinai.

The first word rumbles: *I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery (Exodus 20:2).*

Commandment: *A norm of moral and/or religious action; above all, the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses. Jesus summarized all the commandments in the twofold command of love of God and love of neighbor (CCC Glossary).*

Where are the Ten Commandments found in Scripture?

Why does God give us the Ten Commandments?

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The Greatest Commandment

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us to respect Divine Law:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place (Matthew 5:17-18).

What does it mean to fulfill the Law?

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments (Matthew 22:34-40)."

Ultimately, the Ten Commandments can be simplified and understood as instructions on how to:

love God and love neighbor.

If you love God and love neighbor, the Commandments become:

not what you **shall** do,
but what you **will** do.

The Ten Commandments are an invitation from God for us to join Him in **freedom, love, and humility:**

God's **love** for us and His **invitation for us to love** Him in return;

God's **invitation to us to live in freedom** and to turn away from slavery to sin;

And the **invitation for us to embrace humility**, which is a constant realization of our relationship to God.

Resources: Old & New Testament and *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2052-2557*

First Commandment: “I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.”

*The first commandment summons man to **believe** in God, to **hope** in him, and to **love** him above all else (CCC 2134).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:2-6; Deuteronomy 5:6-10.

Pursue: Faith, Hope, and Charity.

Avoid: disbelief, despair/presumption, ingratitude/indifference.

Second Commandment: “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.”

*The second commandment enjoins **respect for the Lord’s name**. The name of the Lord is holy (CCC 2161).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11.

Pursue: using the Lord’s name as a blessing (Sign of the Cross, etc.).

Avoid: blaspheming; false oaths; abusing God’s name.

Third Commandment: “Remember to keep holy the LORD’s Day.”

*The sabbath, which represented the completion of the first creation, has been replaced by **Sunday** which recalls the new creation inaugurated by the Resurrection of Christ (CCC 2190).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15.

Pursue: honoring God and respecting human dignity by resting on the Lord’s Day.

Avoid: placing work above God and human dignity.

Fourth Commandment: “Honor your father and your mother.”

*According to the fourth commandment, God has willed that, after him, we should honor our **parents** and those whom he has vested with **authority** for our good (CCC 2248).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16.

Pursue: gratitude for gift of life; responsibilities that come with authority.

Avoid: disrespecting God’s authority; abusing one’s authority.

Fifth Commandment: “You shall not kill.”

***Every human life**, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God (CCC 2319).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17.

Pursue: respect for human life, human dignity, and God’s creation.

Avoid: abusing human life, human dignity, and God’s creation.

Sixth Commandment: “You shall not commit adultery.”

*Christ is the model of **chastity**. Every baptized person is called to lead a chaste life, each according to his particular state of life (CCC 2394).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18.

Pursue: chastity according to one’s state in life.

Avoid: physical acts against dignity of human person and marriage.

Seventh Commandment: “You shall not steal.”

*The goods of creation are destined for the **entire human race**. The **right to private property** does not abolish the universal destination of goods (CCC 2452).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19.

Pursue: respect for private property/individuality; social justice.

Avoid: taking of another’s property; unequal distribution of goods.

Eighth Commandment: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

***Truth or truthfulness** is the virtue which consists in showing oneself true in deeds and truthful in words, and guarding against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy (CCC 2505).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20.

Pursue: honesty; respecting one another’s privacy, reputation, and good name.

Avoid: dishonesty; gossip; harming others’ dignity and reputation.

Ninth Commandment: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.”

***Purity of heart** will enable us to see God: it enables us even now to see things according to God (CCC 2531).*

Scripture: Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21.

Pursue: modesty and temperance of the flesh.

Avoid: lust; degrading and objectifying other people.

Tenth Commandment: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.”

***Detachment from riches** is necessary for entering the Kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are the poor in spirit (CCC 2556).”*

Scripture: Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21.

Pursue: detachment from material goods of this world: “Store up treasures in heaven.”

Avoid: greed; disordered desire for and attachment to material goods.