

The Commandments Of Our Creator God

[Part 1]

Leviticus 26:3, 12 [King James] *“If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;” ... “And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.”*

A Covenant promise of our Creator God, as given to the newly freed from Egypt children of Israel.

Does this apply to Christians today?

Matthew 5:17-20 [NIV] *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks 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 practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

God’s moral laws were given to help people love their Creator God with all their hearts and minds and their fellow human beings. [**Matthew 22:36-40**]

In this series of articles I want to look at the ten guidelines for life that the Creator God gave to humanity through Moses.

The validity for today I leave for you to decide when you have meditated on all that is revealed in these articles.

Commandment One –

“I am the Lord...” in this statement we are confronted with basics about the One who is giving these commandments as our part of a Covenant He wants to make with us individually.

“Lord” is a translation of the Hebrew word “Yahweh” which means “I am” the self-existent One who is eternal. That is One who always was and always will be.

The Creator God is telling us that He is the ultimate reality.

God is a Being beyond which nothing greater can ever be conceived.

To accept this statement and live by it is to put our personal relationship with the Creator God on a right footing.

The power, perfection, glorious holiness and supreme wisdom of the Creator God is beyond human words to describe.

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

Joseph, the favourite son of Jacob [Israel, **Genesis 32:28**], was sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt because they envied him. [**Genesis 37:3-28**]

Joseph rose to a high position in Egypt by predicting a famine and helping the Egyptians prepare for it. [**Genesis 41:1-54**]

Eventually Joseph's family joined Joseph in Egypt from the land of Canaan which was suffering greatly under the famine. [**Genesis chapters 41-47**]

Within four generations Israel's family had grown into a large and powerful group. But since their origins were in Canaan, a new pharaoh in a type of "ethnic cleansing" increasingly mistreated the Israelites as slaves to control them and killed all new-born males to stem the population explosion. [**Exodus 1:8-22**]

By the time God revealed Himself to Moses [**Exodus 3:1-10**] the Israelites were greatly afflicted by the Egyptians.

This is when the Creator God revealed to Moses His name "I am." [**Exodus 3:13-14**]

God fulfilled His promise to free the Israelites from Egypt.

He is a God who has acted in history to bring people out of a completely hopeless situation of oppression and slavery and give them liberation and a new start.

The Creator God is still setting people free from slavery, but a different type of slavery, slavery to sin.

Egypt and the slavery of the Israelites was a type of slavery to sin.

Roman 6:15-22 [NIV] *"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey, whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life."*

God has done this for all humanity through the sacrifice and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.

The Creator God is a Being who goes out of Himself to love and care for others.

God does **not** need to do this.

God does **not** need us in order to be God, for we cannot contribute anything to Him.

God is completely able to be, to exist without reference to anything or anyone else. Yet He chooses to bring us into existence giving us life, not because He needs to but because He is love. [1 John 4:8, 16]

What drives us to in the end seek God?

Death. That hangs over every human being.

People may go to extraordinary lengths to put off death, but it cannot be avoided. Death faces us with the reality that we are not the centre of the world, for we will die and things will continue without us.

Death puts all things into perspective.

Isaiah 59:1-2 [NIV] *“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*

God did not separate Himself from us, but we through sin separated ourselves from Him.

1 John 3:4 [NIV] *“Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”*

Sin is breaking the law of God.

When there is a breakdown in communication between two parties, we need a mediator.

In this case, someone who can represent the Creator God and represent us.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 [NIV] *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men, the testimony given in its proper time.”*

Jesus Christ became the perfect Mediator because He was perfect God, the Word and the Son of God, but also the perfect man without any sin. [John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 4:15-16]

Jesus Christ’s death on the cross bridged the divide between humans and the Holy God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 [NIV] *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

Jesus Christ took on Himself all the sins of humanity so that we could be reconciled to God.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead authenticates the truth of this.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Jesus Christ offers the Holy Spirit to those who obey [Acts 5:23] so that we may develop the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit [Galatians 5:22-23] which are the characteristics of the Holy Creator God.

Only then can we be offered a place in the created family of God, that is the Kingdom of God, and eternal life. [Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23]

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

The Israelites had just come out of Egypt, a land of many different gods.

Because each Egyptian god represented a different aspect of life, it was common for an Egyptian to worship many gods so as to get the maximum number of blessings.

It was easy for those who had been influenced by this Egyptian culture to just add another god to their list.

This is why the Creator God was very specific, **no** place in your life for any other gods.

Luke 14:26-27 [NIV] *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”*

Jesus Christ commands the same, only one God, on all who would become His disciples.

What gods could we have before the Creator God?

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 [NIV] *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” ... “No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”*

Many people worship the gaining of wealth and all the physical possessions that it can bring.

These are gods that we may put before our Creator God.

Whatever occupies our time, outside earning money to feed, clothe and shelter ourselves and our family, will indicate what god we are putting before our Creator God.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 [NIV] *“See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”*

God places the same choice before us today.

The “land” that is being offered is the Kingdom of God, which Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were also promised and eternal life.

The Second Commandment stated –

“You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in the heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth, 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 fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love me and keep my commandments.”

Matthew 6:31-33 [NIV] *“So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

Letting God hold the central place in our lives will keep us from turning other things into gods, allowing them to ultimately control our thoughts and energies.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 [NIV] *“‘The time is coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. ‘This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the LORD. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the LORD. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’”*

This time has come, with the coming of Jesus Christ, bring the New Covenant that was ratified by His shed blood on the cross.

Every human being can make this Covenant with our Creator God by beginning to live our lives according to His commandments.