

The Ten Commandments



The Ten Commandments

What are the Ten Commandments?

Why are the Ten Commandments important?

Where can I find the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments, also known as the Ten Sayings:

1. I am the Lord thy God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
2. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make a graven image, nor any type of likeness, you shall not bow down to them, nor serve them, for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath for the Lord thy God, on it you shall do no work.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet anyone else's house, nor anything that belongs to other people.



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After escaping from Egypt, the Jewish people spent forty years in the wilderness. Moses spoke to God in the wilderness when the people were short of food and water and God always provided for them.

When they reached Mount Sinai, God asked Moses to go to the top of the mountain. When he got there, God gave him the Ten Commandments and all the laws by which the Jewish people still live today. The Ten Commandments appear in the Jewish scriptures and in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible. They are important to both Jews and Christians.

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The Ten Commandments contained some of the most advanced ideas of the time about how people should live. They may have been the first set of written laws that said there is only one true God. Many Jewish people believe the Commandments were the actual word of God, given to Moses directly. Other Jewish scholars think that, while Moses certainly wrote down the Ten Commandments, similar ideas or laws were probably already being developed in the Middle East.



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The Ten Commandments appear twice in the Torah in what are called the Five Books of Moses; in the Book of Shemot (Exodus), Chapter 20, Verses 1–14. They are also in the Book of Devarim (Deuteronomy), Chapter 5, Verses 6–18. The Ten Commandments also appear in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible which also contains the Five Books of Moses.