

Deuteronomy 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And 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.

Analysis

And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments. God personally inscribes the law with His own hand, emphasizing divine origin and absolute authority. This is not human wisdom but heaven's revelation.

The phrase according to the first writing stresses exact replication - not one jot or tittle differs from the original. God's moral law is unchanging and unchangeable, reflecting His eternal, immutable character. What He declared holy at Sinai remains holy throughout all generations.

The ten commandments (literally 'ten words' in Hebrew) summarize the entire moral law governing relationship with God and neighbor. These fundamental principles undergird all specific case laws and applications. Reformed theology affirms the perpetual validity of the Decalogue as expression of God's moral character.

That God writes these commands demonstrates they come with His full authority - they are not suggestions but sovereign decrees from the Creator to His creatures.

Historical Context

The Ten Commandments were originally spoken audibly by God from Mount Sinai (Exodus 20) then written by His finger on stone tablets. Their rewriting after the golden calf incident demonstrated God's commitment to covenant relationship despite human failure.

These commandments became the constitutional core of Israel's theocratic government and remain foundational moral teaching for believers.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God wrote the law with His own hand rather than dictating it?
2. How does the exact replication of the original writing demonstrate God's unchanging standards?
3. Why are the Ten Commandments called the summary of God's moral law?
4. In what sense do Christians remain obligated to the moral law expressed in the Decalogue?
5. How does the permanence of God's written law reflect His immutable character?

Interlinear Text

א ת פָּרָאשׁ וְ בְּלֹחַ תְּכַל וַיְכַת בְּלֹחַ תְּכַל
And he wrote H5921 on the tables H3871 writing H4385 according to the first H853
H3789 H3871 H4385 H7223 H853

אֱלֹיכֶם יְהִי הָדָבָר אֲשֶׁר פָּדַבְּרָתָם שָׁבֵת רְתָת
the ten commandments H834 spake H1696 and the LORD H413
H6235 H1697 H3068 H413

בְּקָרְבָּן וְמִתְּהִלָּה וְמִתְּהִלָּה וְמִתְּהִלָּה
unto you in the mount H2022 out of the midst H8432 of the fire H784 in the day H3117 of the assembly H6951
H3068 H413 H784 H3117 H6951

אָלֵינוּ יְהִי הָדָבָר וְיִתְּהַלֵּל
gave H5414 and the LORD H413
H3068 H413

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:10 (Word): And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

Exodus 34:28 (Word): And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Deuteronomy 18:16 (References Lord): According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.