

Exodus 20

Chapter 20 of 40 · 26 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Ten Commandments

- ¹ And God spake all these words, saying,
- ² I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- ³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
- ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- ⁶ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- ⁷ Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- ⁹ Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- ¹⁰ But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

13 Thou shalt not kill.

14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

15 Thou shalt not steal.

16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

The People's Fear

18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Laws About Altars

22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel, Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

23 Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.

24 An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee.

25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it.

26 Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Altar — מִזְבֵּחַ (Mizbeach)

Altar, place of sacrifice

The Hebrew **mizbeach** (מִזְבֵּחַ) means altar—from the root 'to slaughter.' Altars were places where sacrifices were offered to God, pointing forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Iniquity — אָוֶן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (אָוֶן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Mercy — רַחֲמִים (Rachamim)

Compassion, mercy

The Hebrew **rachamim** (רַחֲמִים) derives from 'womb' (rechem), suggesting tender, maternal compassion. God's mercies are 'new every morning' (Lamentations 3:23), showing His compassionate nature.

Sanctify — קָדַשׁ (Qadash)

To set apart, make holy

The Hebrew **qadash** (קָדַשׁ) means to set apart or consecrate—separating something for God's sacred purposes. God sanctified the seventh day (Genesis 2:3) and calls His people to 'be holy; for I am holy' (Leviticus 11:44).

Sacrifice — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Exodus 20:1 **Word:** Deuteronomy 4:36; 5:22. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 5:4

Exodus 20:2 **References God:** Leviticus 19:36; 23:43; 26:13; Deuteronomy 5:6; 5:15; 13:10; Psalms 81:10; Hosea 13:4. **References Lord:** Exodus 13:3; Deuteronomy 7:8

Exodus 20:3

References God: Deuteronomy 5:7; 6:5; 6:14; Psalms 81:9; Isaiah 46:9; Jeremiah 25:6; 35:15; Matthew 4:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 19:10

Exodus 20:4 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 19:4; 26:1; Deuteronomy 5:8; 27:15; Psalms 97:7; Isaiah 42:8; 45:16; Acts 17:29; Romans 1:23; Revelation 16:2

Exodus 20:5 **Sin:** Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9; Joshua 24:19; Psalms 109:14; Jeremiah 32:18. **References God:** Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24; 6:15; Joshua 23:7; Nahum 1:2

Exodus 20:6 **Grace:** Deuteronomy 7:9. **Parallel theme:** Acts 2:39. **Love:** Deuteronomy 4:37; John 14:15; 14:21; 1 John 4:19; 5:3; 2 John 1:6. **Word:** Deuteronomy 5:29

Exodus 20:7 **References God:** Leviticus 19:12; Deuteronomy 5:11; 10:20; Proverbs 30:9; 2 Corinthians 1:23. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 2:17; 9:20; James 5:12. **References Lord:** Joshua 2:12; Jeremiah 4:2

Exodus 20:8 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 23:12; Leviticus 19:3; 19:30; 26:2. **Holy:** Genesis 2:3; Leviticus 23:3

Exodus 20:9 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 23:12; 34:21; 35:2; Leviticus 23:3; Luke 13:14

Exodus 20:10 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 34:21; Nehemiah 10:31; Luke 23:56. **References Lord:** Exodus 31:13

Exodus 20:11 **Creation:** Exodus 31:17

Exodus 20:12 **References Lord:** Colossians 3:20. **References God:** Leviticus 19:3; Deuteronomy 5:16. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 21:15; 21:17; Proverbs 20:20; 30:17; Matthew 19:19; Mark 7:10; Luke 18:20

Exodus 20:13 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 21:14; 21:20; Leviticus 24:21; Deuteronomy 5:17; Isaiah 26:21; Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9; 1 Timothy 1:9; James 2:11; 2:13

Exodus 20:14 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 18:20; 20:10; Deuteronomy 5:18; 2 Samuel 11:27; Romans 13:9; Hebrews 13:4; James 4:4; Revelation 21:8

Exodus 20:15 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 19:11; 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:7; Proverbs 11:1; Matthew 19:18; 21:13; John 12:6; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 4:28

Exodus 20:16 **Witness:** Exodus 23:1; Proverbs 19:5; Matthew 19:18; Acts 6:13. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 15:3; Proverbs 10:18; 11:13; Ephesians 4:31; 1 Timothy 1:10; James 4:11

Exodus 20:17 **Parallel theme:** Job 31:9; Jeremiah 5:8; Matthew 5:28; Luke 12:15; Romans 7:7; 13:9; Ephesians 5:3; 5:5; Colossians 3:5; Hebrews 13:5

Exodus 20:18 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 23:23

Exodus 20:19 **References God:** Deuteronomy 18:16. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 33:20; Acts 7:38; Galatians 3:19

Exodus 20:20

References God: Genesis 22:1; Deuteronomy 8:2; 13:3; Isaiah 41:10. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 12:20; Job 28:28; Proverbs 1:7; 3:7; Isaiah 8:13. **Sin:** Proverbs 16:6

Exodus 20:21

Darkness: 1 Kings 8:12; 2 Chronicles 6:1; Psalms 18:9; 97:2. **Parallel theme:** 1 Timothy 6:16

Exodus 20:22 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 4:36; Nehemiah 9:13

Exodus 20:23

References God: Exodus 32:31; 2 Kings 17:33; Ezekiel 20:39. **Parallel theme:** Zephaniah 1:5; Revelation 22:15

Exodus 20:24

Parallel theme: Deuteronomy 12:5; 16:11; 26:2; 1 Kings 8:29; 9:3; 2 Chronicles 6:6; 7:16; 12:13; Ezra 6:12. **Sacrifice:** Deuteronomy 12:11

Exodus 20:25 **Sacrifice:** Joshua 8:31

Exodus 20:26 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 89:7; 1 Peter 1:16. **Sacrifice:** Ecclesiastes 5:1

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