

# Exodus 24:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.

## Analysis

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**And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.**

God summons Moses higher and longer—'be there' (וְהִיֵּה־שָׁם, veheyeh-sham) suggests extended stay. God will give stone tablets (לְוחֹת הָאָבוֹן, luchot ha'even)—permanent, imperishable record. 'Law and commandments which I have written' (הַתּוֹרָה וְהַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר כְּתַבְתִּי, hatorah vehammitzvah asher katavti)—God Himself writes, not Moses. The ten words are literally inscribed by God's finger (31:18, Deuteronomy 9:10). Purpose: 'that thou mayest teach them'—Moses receives revelation to transmit. The stone tablets endure (until Moses breaks them, 32:19); the written word outlasts oral tradition.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern law codes were often inscribed on stone (like Hammurabi's stele). God's stone tablets signified permanence and divine origin. Moses' extended time on the mountain (40 days, v. 18) creates crisis below (golden calf, ch. 32).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. Why does God write the law on stone rather than leaving oral tradition—what does written revelation accomplish?
2. How does God writing with His own finger emphasize the law's divine origin?

## Interlinear Text

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אָלֵי עַל הַבָּהּ בְּאַל מֵשֶׁה יְהִי הָאָמֵר  
to me into the mount come up Moses unto unto the LORD said

H2022 H5927 H413 H4872 H3068 said And the LORD H559

לְבָנָה בְּאַת לְבָנָה תְּבָנֵה שְׁמָה יְהִי  
of stone tables thee and be there and I will give and a law and commandments

H68 H3871 H853 H0 H5414 H8033 H1961

כְּתַבְתִּי רְאֵשׁ הַמְּמִצֵּה הַבְּנִי  
which I have written and commandments and a law

H3789 H834 H4687 H8451

לְהַזְרֵם:  
that thou mayest teach

H3384

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 5:22** (Word): These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

**Exodus 31:18** (References Moses): And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

**Hebrews 9:4** (Parallel theme): Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

**Jeremiah 31:33** (Word): But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**2 Corinthians 3:3** (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

**Exodus 24:18** (References Moses): And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

**Exodus 24:15** (References Moses): And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount.

**Exodus 24:2** (References Lord): And Moses alone shall come near the LORD: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.

**2 Corinthians 3:7** (References Moses): But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

**Deuteronomy 4:14** (References Lord): And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.