

## Exodus 20

Verses 1- 3

**Then God spoke all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before Me.**

Before we cover the 10 commandments let's look at some background issues concerning them

Were these commandments new? Some were and some were not.

The following commandments were not new:

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment, the prohibition against idols, was known to Jacob who commanded his family to get rid of them

See Genesis 35:2-4

This took place almost 300 years before the 10 commandments were given

2. The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment, You shalt not kill, had been around since the time of Noah

See Genesis 9:6

This took place about 1650 years before the 10 commandments were given

3. The 7<sup>th</sup> commandment, not committing adultery was known and accepted as law as early as Judah's order for Tamar to be burnt

See Genesis 38:24

This took place almost 300 years before the 10 commandments were given

However, the commandment to keep the Sabbath was new

The first mention of the Sabbath is in Exodus 16:23

There are two divisions of the Decalogue

1. Commandments 1-4 concern loving God
2. Commandments 5-10 about loving man

### 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

**You shall have no other gods before me**

Why is this first commandment so important?

1. If there is more than one God, we cannot love God with all of our heart

See Matthew 22:37-38

2. If there is more than one God, there is no real authority for the commandments

Verses 4-6

**“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love me and keep my commandments.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment

**You shall not make for yourself an idol (graven image)**

**You shall not worship them or serve them**

The use of sacred images degrades mankind

See Romans 1:22-23

The early church (100 to 400 AD) rejected the use of images in the church

However, the Catholic Church introduced images into the Church during the Middle Ages (500 to 1500 AD)

See Pic 2015



Making graven images of various saints and Mary is the sin of idolatry

Showing veneration and praying to anyone other than the God of heaven is wrong

If anyone thinks this is not a problem then they should ask themselves why the Catholic Church has removed the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment from the 10 commandments

See Video 2010    The Catholic 10 commandments

<http://www.levickfamily.com/9.3.html>

One funny note concerning idols

On a visit to Japan's Diabutsu (Giant Buddha) there was a great wooden temple surrounded by many niches housing various idols.

On that day, there were large signs in black and red letters in two languages that said,

**"Sorry, these gods are out for repair!"**

See Pic 2025 below



Sorry that the signs are not visible in this picture but we all get the irony.

Verse 7

**“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment**

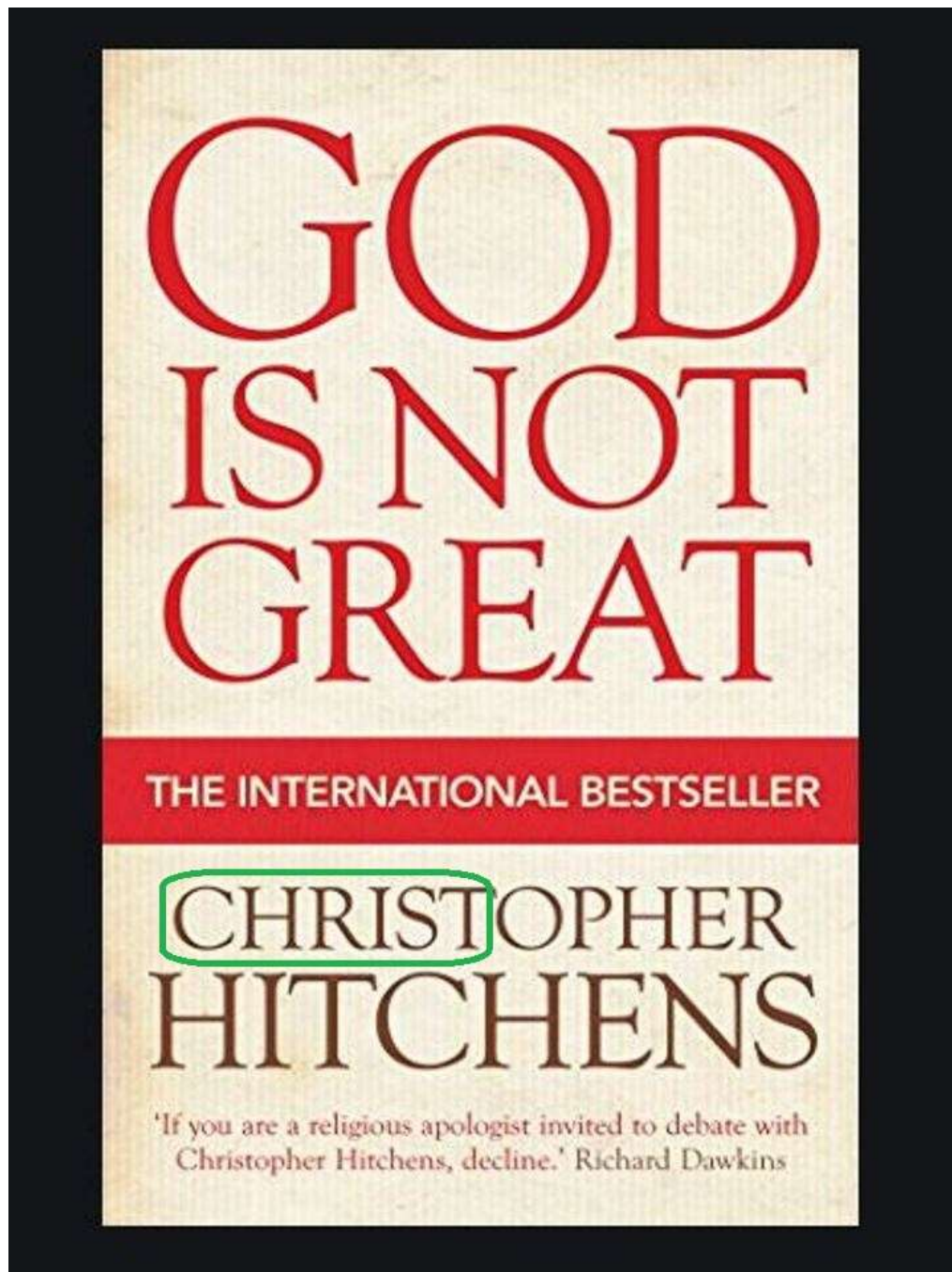
**You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain**

1. Using God’s name to swear or curse
2. To call on God’s name, but not in truth or righteousness

See Isaiah 48:1

3. Saying or writing things that are meant to diminish God

See pic 2020



The fact that his first name contains the title/name of Christ seems somewhat ironic considering his book.

He obviously had a problem with religion and spoke with fervor about it, but many of the things he said about false religions were right on the mark.

He will be missed and one can only hope he had a last hour conversion.

Verses 8-11

**“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy**

In it you shall not do any work

This was meant to be a blessing not a legal requirement

**For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them**

This was 6, 24 hour days, not millions of years

Verse 12

**“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

**Honor your father and your mother**

The honoring of father and mother comes from God

See Ephesians 6:1-3

Some Hebrews avoided giving care and support to their parents

This was called Corban

See Matthew 15:3-6

Verse 13

**You shall not murder**

**6<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

This is not a prohibition against serving in the military

Killing in war was not viewed as murder

Jesus never suggested that soldiers give up their service in the Roman army

However, war is not a license to engage in torcher, sex crimes, or stealing

This is not a prohibition against keeping the peace

State and local governments have the responsibility to protect the public from mobsters, criminals, and mentally deranged people

See Romans 13:1-7

This is not a prohibition against capital punishment.

It is the law of God that murderers shall be put to death by society

See Genesis 9:6

This is not a prohibition against self-defense

See Luke 22:36

It is a command that no one should deliberately kill another person.

To do so is to put yourself in the place of God

God has given us a judicial system run by the government so vigilante justice does not turn into anarchy.

It may not always be fair, but it's the best system we know of to keep the peace

Verse 14

**You shall not commit adultery**

**7<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

**You shall not commit adultery**

Did God forget to give the exceptions to this rule?

No He didn't, there are none!

Some people may think, hope, and wish that there were some exceptions, but breaking this commandment is like breaking the law of gravity.

If you jump off a tall building, you don't break the law of gravity, you confirm it

Verse 15

**You shall not steal**

**8<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

This commandment recognizes and safeguards the right of property.

People have the right own property and their property is protected under the law

Christians are commanded to work so they can help others

See Ephesians 4:28

Verse 16

**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor**

**9<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

Perjury, making false statements under oath, is a crime

Slander, telling a falsehood that damages the reputation of another, is a crime

Gossip may not be a crime but it can definitely hurt your neighbor



Verse 17

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor**

### 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

**You shall not covet**

Covet = to crave for something that belongs to another person

**Your neighbor's house**

**Your neighbor's wife**

**His male servant**

**His female servant or**

**His ox**

**His donkey**

**Anything that belongs to your neighbor**

This is the most comprehensive commandment because it can involve any aspect of life

See Romans 7:8

Covetousness is a deadly sin.

See Ephesians 5:5

David broke this commandment when he took the wife of Uriah

He also broke the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment when he slept with Bathsheba

He also broke the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment when he had Uriah killed

The only person to break more commandments at one time was Moses

He broke all 10 commandments at one time. 😊 😊

Verses 18-21

**All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood at a distance. <sup>19</sup> Then they said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die.” <sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.” <sup>21</sup> So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.**

**Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die**

Having experienced (seeing and hearing) the physical signs that took place the people had a healthy fear (respect) for God.

They preferred that Moses would act as an intermediary between them and God

**Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin**

It was good for the people to fear God but they came to the wrong conclusion about their fear of God

It made them back away from God rather than letting the fear of God keep them from sinning

Verses 22-26

**Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven. <sup>23</sup> You shall not make *other gods* besides me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves. <sup>24</sup> You shall make an altar of earth for me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause my name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you. <sup>25</sup> If you make an altar of stone for me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. <sup>26</sup> And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, so that your nakedness will not be exposed on it.’**

**You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven**

Since God is in heaven, men should not make idols that cannot speak to them from heaven or earth

**In every place where I cause my name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you**

During the wanderings, the tabernacle would be moved from place to place

After they conquered the Promised Land, it stayed in Shiloh for more than 300 years.

See chart 2025

**Location of the Tabernacle while Israel was in the wilderness**

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Num. 33	42 locations	1445	1406	39

**Location of the Tabernacle after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?**

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Joshua 5:10	Gilgal	1406	1396	10
Joshua 18:1	Shiloh	1396	1070	326
Jeremiah 7:14	Shiloh destroyed	1070		
	Not sure	1070	1020	50
I Sam 21	Nob	1020	1000	20
I Chron. 16:39-40	Gibeon	1000	959	40
I Kings 8:3-4	Temple	959		

**Ark separated from the Tabernacle for 110 years**

**If you make an altar of stone for me, you shall not build it of cut stones**

God was saying.....Keep it simple

Compare the tabernacle that God wanted to the temple that man (David) wanted

See pics 2030 and 2035

