

2.12 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 19 & 20

Long ago, a man named Moses led God's people from the land of Egypt. These people, the Hebrew people, had been mistreated in Egypt and God had promised to lead them to another place to live. They called this new place "The Promised Land."

There were many problems along the way. The people began to complain and ask Moses many questions about how God would take care of them. Moses tried to answer as best he could. However, sometimes he got angry with them, but God was still always with them whether they were happy or not. God never failed them.

One day, God called Moses to come up to a mountain called Mount Sinai to meet Him. When Moses got there, God said He had some rules for the people. If they would listen and obey these rules God had for them, they would be very special. Out of all of the people on the earth, they would be God's chosen people. Moses went back and told the people. They all agreed. "Everything God tells us to do, we will do," they said.

The people had to clean their bodies and clean their clothes. Then, on the third day, the Lord would come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. They were told to wait for Moses as he approached God on the mountain. There were boundaries around the mountain so the people would not follow Moses. God was very holy. If anyone tried to go up the mountain besides Moses, they would die.

There was smoke on the mountain, so Moses would not see God's face. He would only hear Him.

God gave these 10 commandments, or rules, for the people:

- 1) God should be first in your life—there should be no other gods.
- 2) Do not have any carved or formed idols. Do not worship them or serve them.
- 3) Do not use God's name carelessly. His name is special. Only use it when you are talking about Him or praying to Him.
- 4) Remember to keep the seventh day of the week as a holy day. We should use it for rest and not for work.
- 5) Honor your parents: Listen to them and respect what they have to say.
- 6) Do not murder anyone.
- 7) Do not break your marriage promises.
- 8) Do not steal.
- 9) Do not lie about your neighbors.
- 10) Do not even want to take your neighbors' things.

God put these rules on tablets of stone and Moses took them back down the mountain to the people.

2.12 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS - TEACHER'S GUIDE

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) The people were on a journey. Moses was leading them to a new place to live. It was a long walk. Everyone had to keep together. Sometimes it was difficult. There were so many people. Sometimes they got angry. However, God understood and was always with them.
- 2) God wanted to speak to Moses on a mountain. He had things to say to the people. He wanted them to be His chosen people. They would be special people to God. They said they would do whatever He told them.
- 3) When Moses went to the mountain again, the people were warned not to follow him or try to look and see God. God was holy. If they tried these things, they would die.
- 4) God did not allow even Moses to see Him. He gave Moses 10 rules (called The Ten Commandments) to show the people how to live a Holy life.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why were the people leaving Egypt?
- 2) What was the name of the man leading them to the new land?
- 3) Where did Moses have to go for God to speak to him?
- 4) How many rules did God give Moses to share with the people?
- 5) What would God do if the people obeyed His words?

ANSWERS:

- 1) They were traveling to a new land that God had promised them.
- 2) The man's name was Moses.
- 3) Moses had to go up a mountain.
- 4) God gave Moses 10 rules called the 10 commandments.
- 5) God would make them His special people.