

## The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty to God (Part 2):

### Commandment One Concerns God's Being—Never Believe in False Gods, Exodus 20:3

Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before Me.

This is the first of the Ten Commandments: *Commandment One Concerns God's Being—Never Believe in False Gods, Exodus 20:3.*

1. Who is to obey the commandment (v.3)?
2. How long was the commandment to be in force (v.3)?
3. What is forbidden by the commandment (v.3)?
4. What is the decision required by this commandment (v.3)?

#### 1. (Exodus 20:3) Obedience— Commandments, The Ten: Who is to obey this commandment?

“You” Note the word “you.” The first commandment is personal. The commandment is addressed to each person, each individual. Keep in mind that God is the **Sovereign LORD** and **Majesty** of the universe, the only living and true God. His commandments are, therefore, bound to be addressed to every person throughout the universe. No person—believer or unbeliever—would ever be exempt from the commandments given by the **Sovereign Lord and God** of the universe. **Every person is required to obey God's commandments.**

*You yourself* are personally responsible; *you yourself* are held accountable to obey this commandment.

Open your bibles to Exodus 19:5-6 (NASB).

Exodus 19:5-6 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> Now then, **if you will indeed obey** My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

<sup>6</sup> and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.

Deuteronomy 26:16 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup> This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.

Joshua 1:8 (NASB)

<sup>8</sup> This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.

Matthew 7:21 (NASB)

<sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter.*

## 2. (Exodus 20:3) Obedience— Commandments, The Ten: How long was this commandment to be in force?

Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> **You shall have no other gods before Me.**

We have a **question** that needs to be answered under this point. **Was it given by God to Israel alone, or was it given through Israel to the whole world?** I have three very specific points to make under this question. At least three facts show us that this commandment is to be obeyed by all people of all generations, to be obeyed as long as the universe stands.

**First**, God is the **LORD (Jehovah, Yahweh)**, the **Sovereign Majesty** of the universe, the only living and true God (cp. Exodus 20:2). There is no other God, not a living God, not a true God. You can search throughout the whole world—travel throughout the entire universe—and you will never find another true and living God. There is only one **Creator** and **Sustainer** of the universe: the **LORD God Himself** (cp. Exodus 20:1-2).

He is; He exists. **The LORD God** always has existed, is now existing, and always will exist. Therefore, as long as God exists and as long as the universe stands—as long as there are generations of people—God will command and demand: "**You shall have no other gods before me**" (Exodus 20:3).

**Second**, Jesus Christ Himself told us that the Ten Commandments are meant for all generations of people.

Matthew 5:17 (NASB)

<sup>17</sup> **Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.**

Jesus Christ declared that He *fulfilled* the law: He completed and perfected the law. He never failed to keep the law, not even in one minute point. Therefore, He fulfilled the demands of the law perfectly.

**The point is this:** by fulfilling the law, Jesus Christ embraces the law. He embodies, encompasses, integrates, and contains the law within His very being. The law of God is part of the very being of Jesus Christ, of God Himself.

**Third**, when a person looks at Jesus Christ, he sees the law of God in all its perfection. True, he sees more, much more. The person sees within Jesus Christ the very **embodiment** and **perfection** of **love, mercy, compassion, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, control, power, and justice**. The person sees all that God Himself is.

But in addition to all this, when the person sees Jesus Christ, he sees the law of God embodied within the very being of Jesus Christ. Therefore, when a person gives his life to follow Jesus Christ, that person follows the law of God and all else that Christ is.

Now, how long was this commandment to be in force? How many generations are to obey this commandment? As long as God loves the world and as long as Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, people are to obey this commandment.