

# “First Commandment—Part 1”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a new series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled “First Commandment—Part 1.” (The plan is to have most of the Commandments have their own individual Bible study, but I wanted to pay extra attention to the First Commandment.)

## **Foundational scripture**

■ Exodus 20:2—“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

## **God’s creation**

■ Genesis 1:1—In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

■ Genesis 1:3-5—During the first day, God created light and darkness (“Day” and “Night”).

■ Genesis 1:6-8—During the second day, God created a firmament in the midst of the water, calling the firmament “Heaven.”

■ Genesis 1:9-13—During the third day, God created dry land among the water, calling the land and water “Earth” and “Seas” —then creating the earth to produce grass, seed and fruit.

■ Genesis 1:14-19—During the fourth day, God created two great lights in the firmament (the sun and moon), and He also made the stars.

■ Genesis 1:20-23—During the fifth day, God created living creatures (birds and sea creatures).

■ Genesis 1:24-31—During the sixth day, God created more living creatures—highlighting people, whom He gave dominion over the other aspects of His creation.

- Genesis 2:1-3—During the seventh day, God rested and blessed the seventh day.
- Genesis 2:18-25—In these verses, God gave more details about the creation of the woman from the man's rib.

### Two references about altars

- Genesis 8:20—This is the first reference about an "altar"—describing where Noah built an altar to the Lord.
- Genesis 35:1-2—Later, we read how God instructed Jacob to build an altar to God and how Jacob instructed His household: "Put away the foreign gods that are among you."

### Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Let's notice verses in the Old Testament about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- Genesis 12:1-3—God made a promise to Abram.
- Genesis 17:1-14—God changed Abram's name to Abraham and made a covenant with him.
- Genesis 22:15-18—God repeated His promise to Abraham.
- Genesis 26:2-5—God repeated His promise to Isaac.
- Genesis 28:10-15—God repeated His promise to Jacob.
- Exodus 3:6—The Lord said: "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."
- Exodus 3:14—God said to Moses: "I AM WHO I AM."
- Exodus 3:15—God told to Moses to tell the children of Israel: "The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations."
- Exodus 3:16—God told Moses to gather the elders of Israel and to tell them: "The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob appeared to me."

### Exodus 3:6 in John 8

- John 8:53—The Jews asked the Son of God: "Are you greater than our father Abraham?"
- John 8:56—The Son of God responded: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."
- John 8:57—The Jews responded: "You are not even 50 years old, and you claim you have seen Abraham?"

- John 8:58—He said: “Before Abraham was, I AM.”
- John 8:59—When they took stones to throw at Him, He hid Himself.

### **Exodus 3:6 and the Sadducees**

In the Gospel accounts, we read about the time when the religious leaders (including Pharisees and Sadducees) sought to entangle the Son of God (the events noted in Matthew 22; Mark 12 and Luke 20).

When He answered the Sadducees (in Matthew 22:32; Mark 12:26 and Luke 20:37), He said: “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

### **Next time**

In the presentation titled “First Commandment—Part 2,” we will continue with more scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments.