

The Ten Commandments Before Exodus 20

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our church service last Saturday, I gave a presentation titled “The 10 Commandments Before Exodus 20.” I want to share some of my comments in this article.

Three definitions of sin

Let me remind you about three definitions of sin.

- 1 John 3:4—Sin is the transgression of the law.
- James 4:17—Sin is based upon knowledge.
- Romans 14:23—Sin is based upon faith.

Law identifies sin

Notice some scriptures that explain that the law identifies sin.

- Romans 3:20—By the law is the knowledge of sin.
- Romans 4:15—Where there is no law, there is no transgression.
- Romans 5:13—Sin is not imputed when there is no law
- Romans 7:7—I would not have known sin, except through the law.
- Romans 7:8—Apart from the law, sin was dead.

Reference about Abraham

It is interesting to remember that Abraham was born hundreds of years before Moses received the law on Mount Sinai. Notice what the Lord said to Isaac.

Genesis 26:4-5—“And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

References to "sin" in Genesis

- Genesis 4:7—Cain violated the Sixth Commandment.
- Genesis 13:13 and Genesis 18:20-21—What was the sin of Sodom? In a physical sense (Jude 7), they violated the Seventh Commandment. In a spiritual sense (Ezekiel 16:49-50), they violated the First Commandment.
- Genesis 39:9—Potiphar's wife tempted Joseph to violate the Seventh Commandment.
- Genesis 42:22—Reuben reminded his brothers that he earlier had warned them not to sin against Joseph—their behavior toward Joseph was a variation of the Sixth Commandment, resulting in them violating the Ninth Commandment when they become false witnesses to their father (Genesis 37:31-32).
- Genesis 50:17—After their father Jacob died, the brothers asked Joseph to forgive their sin—a variation of the Sixth Commandment, resulting in them violating the Ninth Commandment when they became false witnesses to their father (Genesis 37:31-32).

All 10 broken before Exodus 20

- First Commandment—Genesis 35:1-4, Exodus 3:14 and Ezekiel 16:49-50.
- Second Commandment—Genesis 31:17, 34-35.
- Third Commandment—Exodus 3:15 and Job 1:5.
- Fourth Commandment—Genesis 2:1-3 and Exodus 16:23-28.
- Fifth Commandment—Genesis 9:21-25 and Genesis 28:6-7.
- Sixth Commandment—Genesis 4:6-8.
- Seventh Commandment—Genesis 39:7-9, Genesis 18:20-21 and Jude 7.
- Eighth Commandment—Genesis 30:33 and Genesis 44:9.
- Ninth Commandment—Genesis 37:31-32, Genesis 42:22 and Genesis 50:17.
- Tenth Commandment—Genesis 3:6.