



# TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

# Overview

□ **“Ten Words”**: דברים (Hb.)/Decalogue (Gk.)

□ **COVENANT Context**

19:4-6

Revelation of the Covenant

20:1-17

Decalogue: General Expectations or Obligations

20:22-23:33

“Book of the Covenant”: Specific Application

24:1-18

Ratification of the Covenant

**The Decalogue compares  
to the U.S. Constitution**



**“the law of the land” (Article VI)**

# Overview

- In **CONTENT**, the Decalogue is authoritative as any other biblical law.

In **FORM**, however, the Decalogue does not resemble typical laws.

## REASONS

- ① **TOO** brief
- ② **NO** punishment specified

# Overview



## Comparison to Hammurabi's Code

**The Old Testament Law is superior because:**

- ① Old Testament Law placed a higher value on life than property.
- ② Old Testament Law tempered gross punishments.  
*“eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise” (EX. 21:24-25)*

**JUSTICE**

**Equal Protection  
Under the Law**

- ③ Old Testament Law rejected class distinctions.
- ④ Old Testament Law expressed greater concern for the privileges of slaves and encouraged humane treatment.

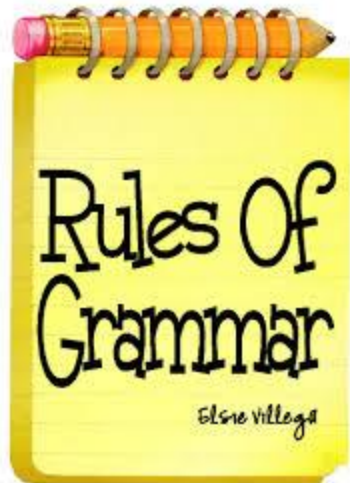
# Analysis

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

**(Exodus 20:3)**

**“Not it will be for you other gods above my face”  
answers the question, “WHOM do we worship?”**

**Catholics treat Exodus 20:3-6 as ONE command.**



**God should be the ONLY direct object of the  
verb “to worship.”**

# Analysis

- **You shall have not make for yourself an idol.**  
(Exodus 20:4)

**The second commandment answers a DIFFERENT question, therefore a follow-up to the first commandment: How do we worship God?**  
**We worship Him directly (SEE Dt. 4:15-19)**



**NO IDOLS**

# Analysis

□ **You shall not take God's name in vain.**

(Exodus 20:7)

NAME	Character
VAIN	<p>“for no good purpose”</p> <p>“treating the Lord lightly or thoughtlessly”</p> <p>Antonym: HONOR (Hebrew verb כָּבַד “to be heavy”)</p>



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
STOP  
CUSSING



# Analysis

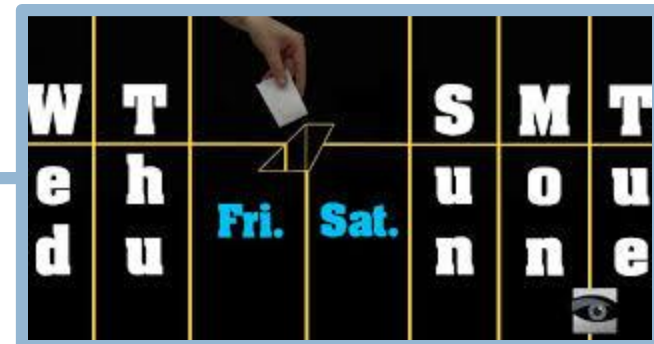
- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**  
(Exodus 20:8)

## first ADMONITION

## Hebrew verb שבת “to rest, cease, desist”

**7<sup>TH</sup> Day: Friday Sunset → Saturday Sunset**

# Postpone routine—all earthly pursuits—for God (PRINCIPLE)





# Analysis

## □ Honor your father and your mother.

(Exodus 20:12)

**“the first commandment with a promise” (Eph. 6:5)**

**The verb “honor” represents a LIFETIME obligation.**

**“Obey,” on the other hand, is what a child does  
(See Eph. 6:1).**

**DEUTERONOMY 21:18-21**

**ROMANS 1:30**



# Analysis

□ **You shall not MURDER.**  
(Exodus 20:13, NASB)

**Thou shalt not KILL.**  
(KJV)

**According to the Bible . . .**

**1. Murder is PRE-MEDITATED (Dt. 19:4-6)**

**2. The murder victim is INNOCENT (Prov. 6:16-18).**

**capital punishment  
euthanasia  
war  
suicide  
abortion**



3 instrument  
machine. ♦ v -trolling, -tr  
have power over. 5 lin  
strain. 6 regulate, operat  
trollable adj controller n  
**controversy** n, pl -sies  
gument or debate. c  
sial adj causing controver  
**contumely** [kon-tume-  
Lit scornful or insult

# Analysis

- ❑ **You shall not commit adultery.**  
(Exodus 20:14)

**PRINCIPLE: Sexual Purity**

- ☑ **NO Pre-Marital Sex**
- ☑ **NO Extra-Marital Sex**

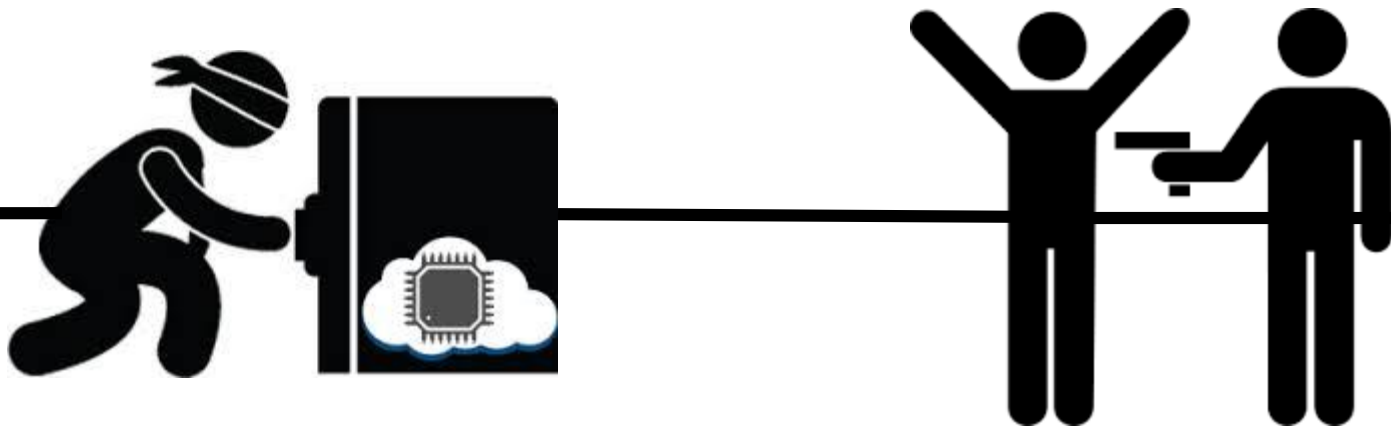


# Analysis

□ **You shall not steal.**

(Exodus 20:15)

**PRINCIPLE: Ownership <or> Private Property**



# Analysis

- **You shall not bear false witness.**  
(Exodus 20:16)



**CONTEXT: Hebrew Legal System**

**A guilty verdict required 2-3 witnesses whose testimonies agreed (DT 17:6; 19:15).**

**PERJURY: To bear false witness**

**SEE 1 Kings 21:1-14; Mark 14:53-59.**

**PRINCIPLE: Words have consequences.**

**SEE Ephesians 4:15, 29.**

# Analysis

## □ **You shall not covet.**

(Exodus 20:17)

**Catholics divide Exodus 20:17 into  
TWO commands.**

**Covetousness is an attitude, NOT an action.**

**“summary commandment” [John I. Durham]**

