

Moses – part 19

The Lord told Israel "you shall not murder"

by Victor Torres

Every command of God has a literal meaning and has a spiritual, deeper meaning. Most people of this world focus only in the literal meaning. The true children of God need to know what the spiritual meaning also and obey them.

The first commandment is to not have any other God but the LORD your God.

Exo 20:1 (ESV) And God spoke all these words, saying,

Exo 20:2 "**I am the LORD your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Exo 20:3 "**You shall have no other gods before me.**

We learned that the Lord is speaking on His Father's behalf here, so He's really telling us that we should not have any other God but the Father.

But what is the deeper meaning of this commandment. The Bible talks of "the beast" that the whole world worship.

Rev 13:12 (ERV) This beast stood before the first beast and used the same power the first beast had. **He used this power to make everyone living on the earth worship the first beast.** The first beast was the one that had the death wound that was healed.

There are many symbols in that single verse from the book of Revelation. Studying these symbols in detail will take hours. However, what I want you to notice is that this second beast used the power of the first beast to make everyone living on the earth worship the first beast. So we all worship this first beast, and we are all guilty of having a god besides the Father. Who is this first beast that we all worship? I'll tell you in our discussion of the second commandment.

The second commandment is to not make an image of anything or anyone and bow down to it. This sin is called idolatry.

Exo 20:4 (ESV) "**You shall not make for yourself a carved image**, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

Exo 20:5 **You shall not bow down to them or serve them**, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

When Israel received this commandment, they were probably thinking of the idols of the nations around them. Egypt worshiped and still worships many false gods, and they have huge statues of them. Laban, the father-in-law of Jacob, had his own carved idols which Rachel took and worshiped until Jacob told his family to get rid of them.

Nowadays, you'll see statues of Buddha, not only in Buddhist temples but even in restaurants. You'll see people offering food and incense and bow down to these statues. The Catholics bow down and light a candle to statues of Jesus, the apostles and to statues of Mary.

We are not supposed to do these things. God refers to people who do these as those who hate Him.

Exo 20:5 (GNB) Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the LORD your God and I tolerate no rivals [competition/enemies]. I bring punishment on those who hate me and on their descendants down to the third and fourth generation.

But the deeper meaning of idolatry is greed.

Col 3:5 (GNB) You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed (for greed is a form of idolatry).

Why is greed considered idolatry? Because when we are greedy or selfish, we worship "the beast" mentioned in the book Revelation we saw earlier.

This beast is our self, our old man. Most people don't realize it but when we do what we want even though it is against God's teachings, we are bowing down to our self, and we are telling God that we hate Him.

The third commandment is to not take the name of the Lord our God in vain.

Exo 20:7 (ESV) "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Some people even swear or use bad words with the word "God" or the name Jesus Christ. We are not supposed to do that. But that is only the literal meaning.

The deeper meaning of taking His name in vain is to claim that you're a follower of Jesus Christ, but your actions do not reflect this claim.

Are you a Christian? If you say yes, but you are disobedient or disrespectful to your parents, you are taking His name in vain. If you say you are a follower of

Christ but you are not willing to forgive those who wronged you, you are taking His name in vain. If you say you love God, but you are not interested in learning the Bible, you are taking the Lord's name in vain.

The fourth commandment is to remember the Sabbath day.

Exo 20:8 (ESV) "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

The deeper meaning of the Sabbath day is the Lord's rest. The Lord's rest is every day of our life, not just one day out of the week. The Lord's rest is to do His work every day.

The fifth commandment is to honor your father and your mother.

Exo 20:12 (ESV) "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

After Israel suffered through the hands of the Egyptians, they were certainly looking forward to live in the promised land. This promised land is said to be "flowing with milk and honey". This is a fertile and spacious land where Israel can have an abundance of food and everything they need.

Exo 3:8 (GNB) and so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of Egypt **to a spacious land, one which is rich and fertile** and in which the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites now live.

So this reward to live long in the promised land is a huge motivation to Israel to honor their father and their mother. We are to treat our dad and our mom with our utmost respect. But as you probably have guessed already, this commandment has a deeper meaning.

The Lord tells us who is His brother and His sister and His mother.

Mat 12:46 (GNB) Jesus was still talking to the people when his mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside, asking to speak with him.

Mat 12:47 So one of the people there said to him, "Look, your mother and brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak with you."

Mat 12:48 Jesus answered, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"

Mat 12:49 Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "**Look! Here are my mother and my brothers!**

Mat 12:50 Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother, my sister, and my mother."

So the deeper meaning of this commandment is to love the true followers of Jesus Christ. What is our reward if we do so? There's also a deeper meaning of the promised land.

1Co 15:42 (GNB) This is how it will be when the dead are raised to life. When the body is buried, it is mortal; when raised, it will be immortal.

1Co 15:43 When buried, it is ugly and weak; when raised, it will be beautiful and strong.

1Co 15:44 When buried, it is a physical body; when raised, it will be a spiritual body. **There is, of course, a physical body, so there has to be a spiritual body.**

The reward for honoring Christ's spiritual family is to be given a spiritual body. This body does not get sick or die. It is powerful and not frail like the physical body that we now have. Those who are in the first resurrection will be given this spiritual body first, so in a sense "their days will be long" in the promised land.

Exo 20:13 (ESV) "You shall not murder.

What is murder? It is killing someone after you planned it. If someone is killed unintentionally, like if someone was ran over by a car, that is not murder. But what about killing someone to defend your self or your country? Is that okay to God? Here is our Lord's answer to those questions:

Mat 5:43 (CEV) You have heard people say, "Love your neighbors and hate your enemies

Mat 5:44 **But I tell you to love your enemies** and pray for anyone who mistreats you.

Mat 5:45 Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong.

Mat 5:46 If you love only those people who love you, will God reward you for that? Even tax collectors love their friends.

Mat 5:47 If you greet only your friends, what's so great about that? Don't even unbelievers do that?

Mat 5:48 But you must always act like your Father in heaven.

I hope it is clear to you kids that when you grow up, you should not get a job that might require you to kill someone. That will disobey our Lord's command to love

our enemies.

If we hate each other, we are murderers in the eyes of God:

1Jn 3:15 (CEV) If you hate each other, you are murderers, and we know that murderers do not have eternal life.

1Jn 3:16 We know what love is because Jesus gave his life for us. That's why we must give our lives for each other.

1Jn 3:17 If we have all we need and see one of our own people in need, we must have pity on that person, or else we cannot say we love God.

Here are our Lord's other commandments that we will hopefully discuss in detail next time:

Exo 20:14 (ESV) "You shall not commit adultery.

Exo 20:15 "You shall not steal.

Exo 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Exo 20:17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Exo 20:18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off

Exo 20:19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

Exo 20:20 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin."

Exo 20:21 The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Exo 20:22 And the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven.

Exo 20:23 You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold.