Questions

1. What does greed for gain accomplish (Proverbs 1:19, 15:27)?

2. According to Proverbs 23:4-5, why is the yearning to be rich foolishness?

3. Explain the wisdom of Proverbs 30:8.

4. Why will the covetous person never be satisfied (Ecclesiastes 5:10)?

5. Explain the significance of Matthew 6:19-21 as it touches on covetousness. In what should one’s life consist (Luke 12:13-21)?

6. How does a covetous heart interfere with one’s discipleship (Matthew 6:24-34, 13:22; James 4:1-4)?

7. To what does Paul liken covetousness in Colossians 3:5 and Ephesians 5:5?

8. How does Paul describe the blessings of contentment (First Timothy 6:6-10, Philippians 4:11-13)?

9. What advice does Paul give the rich so that they might not fall into covetousness (First Timothy 6:17-19)?

Lessons For Us:

1. We must learn how to be content - I Timothy 6:6-10
2. Covetousness is idolatry - Ephesians 5:5
3. Guard your heart
**Introduction:** Though the Old Testament was never binding on non-Jews and it is no longer binding on either Jews or Gentiles. Read Hebrews 8. Still we have it preserved for a our learning and comfort (Romans 15:4). Included in the Old Testament Scriptures is the famous story of God giving the Israelites 10 commandments on stone tablets as they left Egypt under the direction of Moses and it can provide us a good education. Here are a few general observation and lessons as we begin...

Out of all the many commandments Jehovah could have singled out to pen with his own finger, why these? They must have prominence if they made the top ten list. Ha! One thing is for certain, they deserve our attention at the very least.

People sometimes think, that if I just keep the Ten Commandments I will be fine with God and go to heaven. This is a mistake. There were 100’s of other commandments, and the greatest two are not even included. See Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34 (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18). And of course, commandments cannot save anyone (except obeyed perfectly)...only Jesus saves.

They are recognized as the basis of public morality and common law in the Western world. The so-called Judeo-Christian ethic in our western world may be under attack, but it remains nonetheless. These commandments are worth considering, from even a judicial, sociological standpoint.

Each tablet probably had all Ten Commandments, thus there were two copies – written on both front and back. According to the ancient covenant forms, two copies were made of all treaties; one was given to the people and kept in the temple of the gods, the other remained with covenant-lord. In the case of Israel both tablets were kept in the ark in the tabernacle which was to be considered as the throne of God in the center of Israel.

Are we under the Ten Commandments today? Well, Yes and No! The commandments were commandments before they were written. For example...Cain sinned when he murdered Abel...and adultery was understood to be sinful long before it was written in stone. See Genesis 12:14-20. Sin is sin and the will of God as expressed on the stone tablets is the will of God whether written or not, unless God says otherwise. For

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b. Philippians 2:3-4
c. Proverbs 22:12
d. Revelation 21:8

9. Read Matthew 15:16-20. Why is it especially significant that bearing false witness is said to proceed from the heart of a man?

10. What did John tell the soldiers to do as fruits of repentance (Luke 3:7-14)? What then is true of a Christian today who tells lies?

11. List some common ways in which people tell “little white lies” today.

Lessons For Us:

1. Remember: This comes from having an evil heart - Matthew 15:19
2. It is a dangerous thing to speak against another
   * Be sure of the accuracy of information
   * Check your motives, even if true.
3. Do not bear false witness!

Commandment #10 - You Shall Not Covet (Deuteronomy 5:21)

* A mistake: Thinking the O.T. only dealt with externals
* Covet = Desire (read verse again)
* God expected them not to long for what was another’s...they must control their “wants”
* Notice example of neighbor’s wife - adultery already prohibited; now longing for her is forbidden
* Job understood it before the 10 commandments - Job 31:1, 9-11
* New Testament verses - I Corinthians 5:11; II Peter 2:14

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Questions

1. False witnessing can occur outside the courtroom (Exodus 23:1-3). How might we be guilty of circulating false reports in everyday life (Proverbs 10:18)?

2. Some people justify dishonesty in legal matters if it benefits a needy person. Is false witness ever justified (cf. Leviticus 19:15)?

3. List areas in which one could bear false witness (Leviticus 6:1-7).

4. What two parties are offended by false witnessing? What was the penalty for a convicted false witness? How was God often involved in cases of false witness (Leviticus 19:11-12)?

5. How many witnesses were required to establish a matter (Deuteronomy 19:15-21)? What penalty was due a false witness in a case in which a man was criminally accused?

6. How did God describe false witnessing in Proverbs 6:16-19? In what company did this sin fall?


8. At its root, false witness is a willingness to tell lies for selfish gain, self-promotion or protection. What do the following passages say about telling lies and selfishness?
   a. Ephesians 4:25

Commandment #1 - You Shall Have No Other God’s Before Me (Deuteronomy 5:6-7)

* Emphasizes the place God is to occupy in our life - First & Only!
* Only one true God - Deuteronomy 4:19; 6:4; Psalm 86:8-10
* New Testament teaches it as well - Ephesians 4:6; I Corinthians 8:5-6
* First place - Deuteronomy 6:5
* Requirement & result - 6:6-9; 10:12-13

* N.T. - Jesus repeats - Matthew 4:10

Questions

1. Upon what great blessing did God base his claim to Israel’s exclusive praise (Exodus 20:2)? Elaborate.

2. In giving this commandment, was God acting jealously (cf. Exodus 34:10-16)? How is that a good thing?
3. How do the scriptures describe the following gods of Canaan?
   --Molech (Leviticus 18:21, Jeremiah 32:35)
   --Ashtoreth (Judges 10:6, First Samuel 7:3-4)

4. Is the first commandment still binding on us today, as a tenet of the Law of Moses? Why or why not? If not, may we now have other gods before Jehovah?

5. What other gods did Paul and Barnabas encounter in Lystra (Acts 14:8-13)? How did they handle the problem (Acts 14:14-18)?

6. Study First Corinthians 8. Discuss the Christian’s attitude and conduct towards others who regard other gods.

7. Name some “other gods” which men are tempted to serve in our day.

8. Which is the first commandment of all, according to the teaching of Jesus Christ (Mark 12:28-30)? Before the first of the ten?

   * Lessons For Us
   1. Nothing must mean more to us than God
   2. Ultimate loyalty is always to Him
   3. All things should be done with a view to pleasing Him
   4. We revere and praise Him
   5. There will be no other god in our lives (emperor, religious leader, superstitions, entertainment figures, even our own pleasure - Philippians 3:19)

6. In times of economic downturn, situation ethicists argue that a certain amount of stealing is justifiable. Stealing bread is rationalized as a crime of necessity. Does Proverbs 6:30-31 justify theft under certain circumstances?

7. Judas Iscariot was not only a traitor, but a thief. Describe his thievery (John 12:1-6) and link the two sins.

8. How can a love of money lead disciples to betrayal (Titus 1:12-16)?

9. What do you say about those who bemoan those who rob banks and mug innocent people, but themselves will cheat on their taxes, steal cable television or violate copyright laws?

   Lessons For Us:
   1. Do not rob God today by not giving as we have purposed or prospered; or by giving from what is leftover
   2. Owe no one anything - Romans 13:8
   3. Love for others will prevent this - Romans 13:9-10
   4. Avoid excessive concern over thieves of earthly property by laying up treasures in heaven - Matthew 6:19-21
   5. In no way steal from another

   Commandment #9 - You Shall Not Bear False Witness (Deuteronomy 5:20)

   * This is false testimony about another - lying about someone
   * False accusations or charges - Exodus 23:1-2
   * Perversion of justice; forsaking oneself is prohibited
   * Ruining reputations; slander, defamation of character is outlawed
   * It carried severe consequences - Deuteronomy 19:16-21
   * It is an abomination to the Lord - Proverbs 6:16-19; 12:17-22
Commandment #8 - You Shall Not Steal (Deuteronomy 5:19)

* Taking another’s property without permission is prohibited
* It can be a broad category - Leviticus 6:1-5
* Restitution is required - Exodus 22:1-8,12
* Withholding what is due someone was included - Leviticus 19:13; Deut. 24:15
* Withholding from God is robbery - Malachi 3:8-10


Questions

1. Moses enlarges upon the commandment, dealing with hypothetical cases of theft (Exodus 22:1-13). What was the restitution when a rustler was caught? How was a property owner who killed an intruder during the act punished (verse 2)? Was a property owner guiltless who later hunted down an intruder and killed him (verse 3)? Is this an example of stealing in verse 5? Why? How could something like this happen today? What care should be exercised when holding another’s property for safe keeping (verses 7-13)?

2. Leviticus 19:13 condemns those who cheat their neighbors. How is it possible to cheat your neighbor today?

3. Consider Joshua 7. Why was God so angry with Israel that he allowed them to lose the battle of Ai? Did Achan confess his sin willingly? What did he call the root of his crime? What effect did Achan’s crime have on Israel (Joshua 7:25)? What was his punishment?

4. What is the effect on our society because of theft?

5. What about shoplifting and stealing from your work place?

Commandment #2 - You Shall Not Make For Yourself Any Carved Image (Deuteronomy 5:8-10)

* The Israelites had seen no form to replicate - 4:15-18
* God prohibits us placing an image in our worship of Him or anything!


* Why?
1. God is SPIRIT and our worship must then be spiritual - John 4:24
2. Idols tend to act as a mediator - I Timothy 2:5
3. Images tend to become an object of prayer or worship
4. Superstitions may surround them - mystical power or influence
5. It dumbs down our religion

Questions

1. We are not only to have no other gods before Jehovah, but do not make images or representations of Him or any other god. How is this helpful in obeying commandment #1?

2. God ordained images in the worship of Him in tabernacle and temple, such as the cherubim over the mercy seat on top of the ark of the covenant. What’s up with that? Is God being inconsistent? We cannot make images, but He can?

3. What was going on back at the camp while Moses was receiving the tablets (Exodus 32:1-6)?

4. List the attitudes or characteristics of the people that led to the making of the gold calf?
5. Read Exodus 32:7-10. How does God describe the idolaters and their actions? Where did they likely get at least part of the gold needed for this idol (Exodus 12:35-36)?

6. What punishment did God initially suggest for the idolaters? How did Moses react to the sight of this idolatry (Exodus 32:19-21)?

7. List two phrases in Romans 1:25 that show how God feels about idolatry.

8. What forms of idolatry are most prevalent today?

9. Covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). How?

* Lessons For Us:
1. Be careful of pictures of God, Jesus & angels
2. Do not idolize the cross or crucifixes, or any other “good luck” charm
3. Be sure we do not see token service or symbolic ritual as acceptable
4. God is not limited to a place (like an idol), we ought to be godly everywhere - I Corinthians 10:7

**Commandment #3 - You Shall Not Take The Name Of The Lord Your God In Vain (Deuteronomy 5:11)**

* Holy and awesome is His name (Psalm 111:9)
* Should not be used vulgarly or dragged through immoral dirt
* Should not to be used to vent our frustrations, curse others, or emphasize exclamations.
* But God is not simply using His name in vain, but prohibits TAKING of His name in vain.
* All vows must be performed - Numbers 30:2ff; Deut. 23:21-23

5. What did Bathsheba do that may have contributed to the adultery (Second Samuel 11:1-17). What mistake did David make when he saw her for the first time? How did David initially attempt to cover up his sin? Why did it fail? How did David attempt a cover-up a second time? Why did it fail? How did David finally succeed in keeping Uriah ignorant of his sin?

6. List some ways in which adultery damages society today.

7. How did the doctrine of Christ go deeper than what was taught concerning keeping the seventh commandment (Matthew 5:27-30)?

8. Did Jesus continue the Mosaic divorce allowance into the New Testament (Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Matthew 19:1-9)? To what ideal did he point as the hallmark of his doctrine and law on marriage?

9. What single ground is mentioned as justifying divorce and allowing the wronged party to remarry in the Lord?

10. Did his disciples perceive this doctrine to be stricter than under the law of Moses, about the same, or looser (see verse 10)?

* Lessons For Us:
1. “To avoid this problem, just divorce and remarry” - No! Unless a divorce is for the reason of fornication, the subsequent remarried sexual activity is still adultery - Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9
2. Regardless of what man’s laws permit, God has spoken.
3. Beware of adultery even in the heart - Matthew 5:27-28
Commandment #7 - You Shall Not Commit Adultery
(Deuteronomy 5:18)

* Sexual relations involving a married person with someone other than their lawful spouse - Leviticus 18:20
* From the beginning it was wrong - Genesis 2:24
* Seen even before the Ten Commandments given - Genesis 12:10-20
* Punishment - Death of both (Leviticus 20:10)
* Another Old Testament warning - Proverbs 6:29,32


Questions

1. What was the penalty for violating the commandment (Leviticus 20:10)? If the ten commandments are still binding, is the penalty binding?

2. What is the penalty for adultery under the New Testament of Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:8, Ephesians 5:5)?

3. Leviticus 18 describes a number of forms of sexual immorality which were condemned under the law of Moses. List those mentioned in the following verses:
   - Leviticus 18:6-18
   - Leviticus 18:20
   - Leviticus 18:22
   - Leviticus 18:23

4. What did Jesus do when the Pharisees challenged him to judge a woman caught in the very act of adultery (John 8:2-11)? Did this action show tolerance of adultery or validation of what was sin?

5. Read Matthew 23:16-22. Did one really escape making an oath on God’s name by swearing only on his temple or creation?

6. What are some other ways in which people use God’s name in a vain, empty, trifling way (Matthew 12:35-37)? Hint: We even call it profanity...treating something sacred as common.


8. Consider the oaths in the following New Testament passages:

* Vain invocations (invoking His name in a situation) is condemned - Matthew 6:7
* Religious formalism is likewise, unacceptable - Isaiah 1:11-16
* New Testament references - Matt. 15:8-9; 6:9
9. Instead of oaths, how should a person make promises (cf. James 5:12)?

10. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-6 and comment

* Lessons For Us:

1. Watch your mouth! (James 3:9)
2. Your word is your oath
3. Give as you have purposed in your heart or spoken with your mouth.
4. God does not accept acts of worship with no heart...it is taking His name in vain.

Commandment #4 - Remember The Sabbath Day, To Keep It Holy (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

* The people people of Israel were to not be solely concerned with their own affairs.
* Each 7th day they were COMMANDED to stop working.
* And allow all under their oversight (including animals) to rest.
* It commemorated deliverance from Egyptian slavery
* Keeping it holy meant keep it special, set apart, different than the other 6 days
* The 7th day was determined by that being the day the Lord rested at creation.


5. How did God recognize life in the womb as worthy of legal protection (Exodus 21:22-24)?

6. Read Matthew 5:21-26. What are the root causes of murder?

7. What sin does the apostle John equate with murder (First John 3:14-15)? How would this prohibition include apathy toward a troubled brother (First John 3:16-18)?

8. What was the penalty for murder under the Old Testament law of Moses? What is the penalty under the New Testament law of Christ (Revelation 21:8)?

9. What provision does the New Testament make so that states may execute murderers (Romans 13:1-7)?

10. Is it murder to kill an animal for food (Genesis 1:26, Acts 10:12-13)? How about for clothing? How about for sport?

11. Is it murder to kill an elderly person with a special machine, if the person has requested that he be killed?

Lessons For Us:

1. Leave vengeance to God and His civil authorities (Romans 12:17-13:4)
2. Murder in the name of religion (Saul - Stephen) or morality (eg. murdering abortionists) is WRONG!
3. Beware lest we murder through not loving brethren - I John 3:15
4. John seems to picture you either love or hate the brethren.
5. Do not murder...physically or in the heart.
3. If unworthy parents - commandment does not change; anymore than it did for civil authorities or masters (I Peter 2:18)
5. HONOR you father and mother!

Commandment #6 - You Shall Not Murder (Deuteronomy 5:17)

* “Thou Shalt Not Kill” in the KJV causes many to question capital punishment or military service in which people are killed.
* “Murder” is the thought. See NKJV. God on many occasions ordered godly men to put other men to death (I Samuel 15:32-33), but never murder.
* Personal vengeance is forbidden or taking another’s life out of ill-will (Exodus 21:12-14)
* Murder was already immoral before the 10 commandments given on Mount Sinai. - Cain sinned in murdering Abel.
* Judgments had to be made - Numbers 35:16-24; 30-31

* New Testament - Galatians 5:21; Rev. 22:15; Matt. 5:21-22; I Jn. 3:15

Questions

1. Describe the first murder in Bible history and its cause (Genesis 4:1-12).

2. There actually was a murder prior to Cain’s. Who? (Gen. 2:17; John 8:44)

3. Describe the punishment for murder enacted by God in the covenant with Noah following the flood (Genesis 9:6).

4. How was negligence that led to a person’s death punished (Exodus 21:28-29, Deuteronomy 27:25)?

1. Sabbath rests, along with many other observances of the Jews, were a foreshadow of Christian age
2. All foods are now acceptable - I Timothy 4:3-5
3. Circumcision avails nothing regarding salvation - Galatians 6:15
4. 7 days a week are holy - no special high days. It is seen as weak faith that observes some days as holy over others.

Questions

1. To what group of people was the Sabbath given, according to Exodus 31:13-17?

2. Consider Exodus 31:16-17. What was the purpose of the Sabbath observance? What was to be its duration for the nation of Israel?

3. What was the penalty for working on the Sabbath (Exodus 35:1-3)?

4. Read Numbers 15:32-36. Was stick-gathering considered work?

5. Read Numbers 28:1, 9-10. What does God make a part of the Sabbath day observance here?

6. Did Jesus observe the Sabbath according to the law? Why then did the Jewish leaders often object to him on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-14, 15:7-9; cf. Matthew 27:18)?


8. One common objection to the Sabbath ending is to point out that Jesus kept the Sabbath. How would you answer this objection?
* Lessons For Us:

1. Life is more than work (making a living)
2. Rest is profitable (Sabbath was made for man, not vice versa)
3. Though Sunday is not a sabbath day, it nonetheless is similar in that it was chosen by Jesus as the day to remember weekly our deliverance from sin slavery
4. There remains a sabbath rest for the people of God (Hebrews 4:9)...the rest found in Christ and in heaven at last.

**Commandment #5 - Honor Your Father And Mother**  
(Deuteronomy 5:16)

* Honoring parents involves a number of things...
1. Reverence (respect) - Leviticus 19:3; Exodus 21:15,17
2. Obedience - Deuteronomy 21:18-21
3. Financial support - Mark 7:9-13
* It is the 1st commandment with a promise attached - that you might live long and prosper.
* How? Avoid death from rebellion of course; through parents teaching God’s law (Deuteronomy 4:40) it brought blessing, if followed. Others?

* New Testament teaching - Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20; I Timothy 5:4

Questions

1. What comment upon this commandment is made in Deuteronomy 27:9-16? Define “contempt.”

2. What was the Old Testament penalty for cursing one’s parents (Exodus 21:17)? Is this law still binding today?

3. The Pharisees of Jesus’s day lived under the law of Moses. How did they violate the fifth commandment without actually pronouncing a curse upon their parents (Matthew 15:1-9)?

4. Consider the list given in Romans 1:28-32. Included are the sins of sexual immorality, murder and maliciousness. Disobedience to parents is included in this list. How does God rate the awfulness of this sin as compared to other sins? How does verse 28 then describe disobedience to parents, among other sins? What penalty does God pronounce as fitting for one who is disobedient to his parents?

5. What does Paul recommend we do to those who prove themselves disobedient to their parents (Second Timothy 3:1-5)?

6. When is it right to disobey one’s parents (Acts 5:29, Ephesians 6:1)?

7. How does the Spirit suggest we learn to show piety at home (First Timothy 5:3-4)?

8. How does Paul express the seriousness of neglecting parents (First Timothy 5:8)?


10. List some specific ways in which we can show honor to our parents.

**Lessons For Us:**

1. Honoring parents is a God ordained training ground for respecting all authority - ultimately later transferred to Himself (Heb. 12:9)
2. Parents - Demand it! Instill it! Expect it!