

BIB102 OA/OB Old Testament Literature

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Assignment #3

10 Commandments.

I believe that Christians should obey the 10 commandments. They are precisely what Jesus preached and taught. He declared in Matthew 5 that He did not come to abolish the law, but He came to fulfill them. The 10 Commandments reveal the character of God and who God is. The 10 Commandments set us apart from the world as God's holy people who live according to God's ways. A Christian writer says "we should consider the 10 Commandments as traffic laws not prison bars" (Kevin DeYoung). They are God's rules to help free people stay free. He also writes that the 10 Commandments are like the constitution for God's people and everything after the 10 Commandments are like the "regulatory statutes".

Jesus and the New Testament upheld the Ten Commandments. Jesus said: "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled, Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5: 18-19).

In the New Testament, the apostle John later wrote: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

The 10 Commandments still matter, and they are relevant today. We know that in the New Testament salvation comes by grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament it was

just slightly different. Salvation came through faith that God would one day send the Promised Redeemer. “The just shall live by his faith” (Habakkuk 2:4). Salvation did not come by the law. The law was however a teacher (schoolmaster) to lead us to Christ. No one in the Old Testament was declared righteous by observing the law. The law served to make them conscious of their sin. They pointed out sins. In the Old Testament men were aware of the promised redeemer and it was their faith in the Promised Redeemer, coming Messiah, Jesus Savior, that saved them from sin. The law had no power to save mankind from sin.

In the New Testament Jesus teaches that the 10 Commandments are summarized into 2. You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, soul and mind and your neighbor as yourself. The 10 Commandments are upheld in the New Testament.

The people in Old Testament times knew about the promises of God. They knew about God’s and his grace and goodness. It was not their belief in the 10 Commandments that saved them but their faith in the promises of God, that he would one day send a redeemer for mankind. Jesus Christ is God ‘s promise redeemer. (Romans 8:3 NLT) “The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.”

Romans 8:3-4 NLT.

