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BIB 102: OC- Old Testament Literature

21 February 2023

### The 10 Commandments, Relevant today or Not

When deciding whether the Law (Ten commandments) are relevant for Christians today, I must consider a few things. The Law was given as instructions for the moral and social behavior of the people of God. God spoke the Law through Moses, and repeated them through Joshua, and other leaders; to be passed down to each generation as guiderails for the children of Israel. The Law was God's instructions, and one of the ways He gave guidance to His children. The Law was also God's way of calling Israel back to His principles, for their everyday lives, helping them to live in a manner pleasing to Him. The Law was given by God to keep the people of Israel from sinning Exod. 20:20. The Law was not given as a temporary fix to a one-time situation, it was to be a way of life for God's people. The Ten Commandments was so important that God wanted the people of Israel to trust Moses and personally experience God speaking to them, as they heard God powerfully delivering the commands through Moses, Exod. 19:9,17, 20:1,18,19,22.

The Ten Commandments were given to the children of Israel about 3 months and 3 days after they had been delivered out of Egypt; they traveled from Rephidim, and entered the desert of Sinai to set up camp, stated in Exod.19:1-2,11. Later in Exod. chap 24-32 and again in chap 34, God set the 10 commandments, in stone, to be forever remembered, lived out, and held before the people as a sacred word from God. There was no time limit given to the children of Israel's for obedience to God, through His commands. Many times, throughout Exodus the

children of Israel replied to Moses and God saying, they would be obedient to everything God had said.

Fast forward to today, we know our way to the Father is through Jesus. Our salvation is gained through our faith in Christ and His death and resurrection for us; and we still need to be obedient to everything God says. The 10 commandments are a written, blueprint, passed down from our spiritual forefathers. A set of tested, approved commands from God Himself, on how to live life in a way that reflects Him. God's desire for us as His people, is that we live at peace with one another, not entangled in the sins of the world which draw us away from God's principals. Human nature and our tendencies to sin are the same today as when God first gave the commandments, and His commands are just as important and potent for our lives today.

If Christians today show their love for God through keeping God's Law, it can confirm to the world, our faith and commitment to God and His word. In Matt 5, KJV paraphrased, Jesus while teaching on the Mount said in v:17 that He did not come to get rid of or destroy the Law of the former Prophets but to fulfill them, and until heaven and earth pass away not one word of the law should be discarded; nor should anyone break one of God's commands or teach others to break them. In Matt 22:37,39, KJV paraphrased, Jesus also simplified the commands for us by summarizing them into two great commands. 1- Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and 2- Love your neighbor as yourself. Simply put, Love God and Love People. Christians can embody the Ten Commandments by keeping these two great commands. In John 14:15 Jesus said "if you love me keep my commandments and the Apostle John in 1 John 5:3a KJV, backed it up by saying "it is the love of God that we keep His commandments.

In the Old Testament the concept people had regarding salvation was that a Messiah would come not as their redeemer but as a warrior king who would deliver them from outward

oppression and set up an earthly kingdom. They believed forgiveness and staying in good standing with God required repeated animal sacrifices, and burnt offerings, listed in Lev. Chap 22-23. I understand these sacrifices and offerings, serve as a foreshadowing of what Christ would come and do, by giving His life a sacrifice “once” and for us all. The prophet’s emphasized outward demonstration of obedience while the people’s hearts were not in alinement with their actions. One example of mis-aliened behavior is how Eli two sons Hophni and Phineas behaved while acting as priest in 1Sam 2:12,22. Another example is how the children of Israel behaved in Exod. Chap 32 while Moses was up on the mount receiving the Ten commandments from God, after God had so mightily brought them out of Egypt. And in 1 Sam 15:22 KJV king Saul saved king Agag and the best animals which he was not supposed to allow to live, and God sent Samuel to Saul with a message saying “Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

We as believers need to be committed to doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord. We should do all that we can to be obedient to the things and ways of God, not causing anyone to stumble in their faith. We should not be satisfied to have a name of being God’s people, and our lives do not back up our actions. We should obey the Ten Commandments and all other standards or laws God requires of us. It does not mean we will be a prefect people getting everything right, but we should not willingly or repeatedly, be willingly walking into sin. We will all give an account of our deeds in the end, and history shows that God is a good record keeper.