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Old Testament Literature BIB 102 OC

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The Ten Commandments

The ten commandments were given to Moses on two tablets by God on Mount Sinai. They were given to serve as a guide to his people on how to live according to His will. These 10 commandments appear in the Old Testament, Exodus 20: 1- 17. God gave Moses instructions to build an Ark and this would be the home of the ten commandments written on the two tablets.

I think Christians should still obey the ten commandments. Although we now live under grace and not under the law. This does not mean the ten commandments should not be followed, what it means is that man was now able to be set free from their sins. The ten commandments still serve as a guide and instruction to God's required ways of living and salvation by grace which comes through Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament, there are several scriptures where the ten commandments are mentioned. All ten are not found listed one after the other but they are referred to in different chapters throughout the New Testament. One of the chapters which spoke about obeying the ten commandments was when Jesus gave the sermon on the mount. The scripture says in St. Matt. 5:17-18 says "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to

destroy, but to fulfill. 18. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled”.

In the Old Testament, there are several instances in which the concept of salvation was displayed. Noah was told to build an ark, and he was instructed on who was allowed in the ark. This was because the earth was filled with violence, and God destroying the earth by water would in essence cleans the earth. We also see in the Old Testament where Moses leads the children of Israel out of Egypt towards the promised land. This is also another concept of salvation, as he freed God’s people from their bondage and slavery. The Old Testament also speaks about the shed of lamb’s blood for sins to be forgiven. These concepts however could not fully be away from sin, therefore Christ came and shed His blood to take away all sin.

People in the Old Testament believed that obeying the Ten Commandments would lead them to their salvation, predominantly the Jews. They believe when God gave Moses the ten commandments these were supposed to be used as the main guide to living right and receiving salvation.