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Assignment 3

The 10 commandments were a covenant between God and the children of Israel. After journeying through the wilderness the Israelites reached Mt. Sinai, also called, Mount Horeb. It was this same mountain where God beckoned Moses to come and he, Moses, received the 10 commandments. Exodus 20:2-7 give an account of the 10 commandments given to Moses by God. The 10 commandments given to Moses reads as follows “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days, the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” These laws were absolute, this is what God intended for his chosen people.

Jesus came to abolish old systems and traditions, His death and resurrection gave believers access to God. Sacrificial offerings were no longer necessary because of Jesus's death, we now have redemption through his blood, and the forgiveness of our trespasses" (Ephesians 1:7). The Apostle Paul uses this analogy in Romans 7:1-6 "Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? For example, by law, a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him. So then, if she has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress if she marries another man. So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code." Paul tells the early church that every believer is married to the law and if we should ever leave the law we would be an adulterer, only if the law dies then can we remarry another. Paul goes on to say that we died to the law, thus we are no longer married to it, instead, we can marry another, Jesus Christ.

I never understood salvation in the Old Testament, because according to Ephesians 2:8 "It is by grace that we have been saved through faith in Christ Jesus." But like Paul, I am convinced that the Old Testament way of salvation is the same as the New Testament, which is by grace alone, and through faith in Christ. Paul proves this point by using prominent figures from the Old Testament, In Romans 4, he mentions both Abraham and David, both individuals were saved through their faith in God. In fact, through their faith, they were able to gain favor in the sight of the Lord. Keeping the law was extremely important but the law in itself could not give one salvation, it is only by grace and faith in Jesus is one guaranteed salvation.