

# HE WAS GOD'S FRIEND

A Study of the Life and Ministry of Moses

A Study at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2014 A.D



The New Testament is filled with references to "Moses and the Prophets". Jesus quoted Deuteronomy, written by Moses, more than any other book of the Bible. No one was there when God created the universe, but God inspired Moses to write his account. Moses served as prophet, priest, and political leader, just as Jesus is our prophet, priest and king. No one ever knew where Moses' grave was located...because God buried Moses himself.

Of all the people in the Bible, Moses is special. His life, his experiences, his ministry—the things God did through him; all of it was exceptional. But of all the things that made Moses special, perhaps the greatest was this, "The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend" (Exodus 33:11).

As we study the life and ministry of Moses this summer we will see his dedication to the LORD, his faith, his love for God's people, and also his faults—and there especially we will see the undeserved love of God.

## #5 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 20:1-21

1. What is the fifth **commandment**?
  - a. Catholic or Lutheran answer:
  - b. Other Protestant answer:
  - c. Ancient Jewish answer: **מצוה**?
2. What advantages/disadvantages do you see in each of the three numbering **systems**?
3. What does it mean to have a **god**?
4. How could God punish innocent children for their parents' **sins**?
5. What does it mean to misuse God's name? How does this **occur**?

**Comment [DP1]:** There are three different numbering systems. The differences come from the first paragraph of Exodus 20 and the difference between the Hebrew word and the English translation. The Hebrew simply calls them the "ten words". This does not require all ten to be commandments.

The Talmud—which is like commentary on the Old Testament by Jewish Rabbis, numbered them one way—recognizing that they are the ten words, not necessarily commandments.

Philo/Josephus: historians who numbered them differently—some say this is the oldest, but it is only the oldest written. Who knows how far back oral tradition went.

Augustinian: A numbering system begun by Christian monks. Luther was also an Augustinian monk. See powerpoint chart.

**Comment [DP2]:** This is the Hebrew word mitzvah, which means commandment. An ancient Jew called them the ten words, divareem, not the ten commandments, mitsvot (plural of mitzvah).

**Comment [DP3]:** The ancient Jewish/Talmud includes a gospel message in the ten words as number 1.

The Lutheran/Catholic system gives two commandments to coveting, which may or may not have been intended. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, though, since all our sins start as sinful desires.

The Protestant system avoids the double covet problem, but includes graven image as its own commandment, which means that a whole commandment is not applicable to the New Testament church. See Colossians 2:17 and Hebrews 10:1. Also, if taken simplistically to mean that they couldn't have any sculptures at all, then it would conflict with the fact that the bronze sea for the temple sat on 12 bronze bulls, the ark of the covenant had cherubim on it and there were huge golden cherubim in the most holy place. If understood correctly, then this refers to sculptures made for the purpose of idol worship—which is obviously a component part of a commandment rather than a commandment itself.

**Comment [DP4]:** A "god" is the term for that to which we look for all good and in which we are to find refuge in all need. Therefore, to have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe in that one with your whole heart." The Large Catechism

**Comment [DP5]:** Key word: innocent. The idea that the children are innocent is an assumption. See Ezekiel chapter 18. God makes it very clear that it is not guilt that is transferred from one generation to the next, but rather behaviors and attitudes are often transferred from one generation to another. If sin is repeated, God will be faithful in his justice from generation to generation. If faith is repeated God will be gracious from generation to generation.

**Comment [DP6]:** "It is a misuse of God's name if we call upon the LORD God in any what whatsoever to support falsehood or wrong of any kind."

This occurs in flippant uses of God's name: OMG!, in hypocrisy—when people put up a Christian front for their own purposes, false teaching, any time we bring God disgrace rather than glory by our words or actions.

6. What did the strictness of the Sabbath requirement teach the Israelites? How do we often use our **freedom**?
7. What dignity does God give to parents, and the family in general, by attaching the promise to the fourth **commandment**?
8. The Hebrew word “to commit adultery” is used exclusively for heterosexual extramarital affairs. Does this make fornication ok? Does this make homosexual marriage **ok**?
9. How many ways are there to **steal**?
10. Martin Luther, in his explanation to the eighth commandment, wrote that we are to “take [our neighbor’s] words and actions in the kindest possible way.” Why is this a good explanation to the eighth commandment? What blessings come from doing **so**?
11. Why does God make such a big deal out of our **thoughts**?
12. Agree or Disagree: Fearing God means to respect **him**.
13. Judge this book by its **cover**...
14. Name the worst **crime** you can think of.
15. Review your answer to #2. After hearing all about all the things we can’t do, what advantage of the Jewish numbering system shines all the **brighter**?

**Comment [DP7]:** The Sabbath was more than just not working—it was a day dedicated to the LORD, to hearing his Word (Ecclesiastes 5:1), thanking the LORD for all his blessings (Ex 20:11). The fact that they could do no work but the day was entirely devoted to God showed its importance. Think of it, 1/7 of their lives were set apart exclusively for God. There was nothing that could take precedence. We often use our freedom in order to prioritize things above God’s Word.

**Comment [DP8]:** God declares the family to be the basic unit of society and parents to be his representatives, worthy of honor because of their office.

**Comment [DP9]:** The ten commandments are not the be all and end all of God’s moral law. They are a good summary and it is useful to classify sin according to them. Both the institution of marriage in the garden and God’s other condemnations of fornication and homosexuality certainly do an adequate job of condemning these as sinful behaviors. (See Romans 1 and Hebrews 13:4. It is God’s will that sex be enjoyed only within the marriage of one man and one woman.

**Comment [DP10]:** Many! From dishonesty, to cheating, to theft, to laziness, to greed, to ... This isn’t the one commandment that we have “kept”, that’s for sure.

**Comment [DP11]:** It is simply the opposite of bearing false witness. Instead of lying and destroying with words, I will assume only the best, then I won’t lie about him. It is a blessing because what if I assume the worst and I’m wrong? That’s embarrassing! Shame on me! What if I assume the best and I’m wrong? Then I’ve kept a clear conscience and the fault lies entirely with the offender.

**Comment [DP12]:** See James 1:13-15.

**Comment [DP13]:** As in Luther’s explanations: “We should fear and love God...” Most will say, yes, it does mean respect. And it certainly can, if the context indicates that. But our sinful nature should be entirely terrified of God, just as the Israelites were. As it says in verse 20, a terrified sinful nature is a good thing. That fear may help prevent falling into sin.

**Comment [DP14]:** The ten commandments aren’t really life changing. Grace is life changing. The ten commandments will make us worse sinners without grace (See Romans 7:7-12), but with grace they become the guideline for everything we want to do to thank God.

**Comment [DP15]:** Usually this will bring an answer such as genocide, rape, etc, --usually a sin against other people, a sin against the second table of the Law (sins against people, commandments 4-10) not a sin against the first table of the Law (sins against God specifically, commandments 1-3). Why is this? Is it accurate?

**Comment [DP16]:** It starts with the wonderful statement of God’s love and dedication to his people—I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. The LORD is our God, not because of our obedience, but we strive to obey because the LORD is our God.