

Moses and the 10 Commandments

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19-32

MEMORY VERSE: All that the Lord has said we will do and be obedient.
Exodus 24:7

CHARACTERS: Moses, Israel people

After God's people, the Israelites, had escaped from Egypt, they camped in the desert. Moses, their leader, went up on the mountain called Mt. Sinai to talk to God. God gave Moses special rules for everyone to follow. We call those rules the 10 Commandments. When Moses came down and told the people all the words of the Lord and all his laws, the people said: "We will do everything God has said; we will obey."

Then God told Moses, "Come up again to Mt. Sinai and I will give you tablets of stone with the commandments which I have written. So Moses went up the mountain and stayed for 40 days and nights. A great cloud covered the mountain and God spoke these 10 commandments to Moses: God said:

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| 1. I'm your only God. | 6. Don't kill people. |
| 2. Never worship idols. | 7. Do not commit adultery. |
| 3. Don't misuse the name of the Lord. | 8. Do not steal. |
| 4. Keep the Sabbath holy. | 9. Never tell a lie. |
| 5. Honor your father and mother. | 10. Do not covet. |

When God finished speaking Moses came down from the mountain with these tablets and he saw the people worshiping a golden calf! These people who had promised to do everything God had said were now worshiping idols instead of the true God. This made God very sad!

God wants us to worship Him only. When Moses saw what the people were doing he became angry and threw 10 Commandments down on the ground and broke them. He wanted to show the people that they had broken God's laws and sinned. The Bible says, "we all have sinned (Romans 3:23) like the people of Israel. It also says that "the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

Moses and the 10 Commandments (cont.)

God wants us to admit that we are all sinners and need a Savior. Jesus is that Savior who died on the cross for our sins. He wants us to place our faith and trust in Him and then obey the 10 Commandments. The first 4 commandments show us how to love God. The last 6 commandments show us how to love others — our families, our friends, and even people we don't know.

Later God called Moses to come back up on Mt. Sinai again and bring two tablets of stone like the first ones. God said, "I will write upon these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke."

Moses obeyed and after 40 days and nights, he came down from the mountain with the tablets with the 10 Commandments written on them. The people said, "We will do everything God has said; we will obey." That's what God wants you and me to do!

Trust Jesus as our Savior and then obey God's commands.