

**EGF-9: Written in Stone**  
EGF Group Bible Study 10-22-11

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is rich in ancient inscriptions. Throughout the country, inscriptions were etched, engraved, pecked, or even sometimes carved in bas-relief on stones or on the rock-faces of cliffs and hills. The oldest scripts are known as Cuneiform in Mesopotamia and Hieroglyphic in Egypt. These writing systems had developed over time from the use of pictographs, signs and symbols. Such cultures used stone as their tablet because of its durability and longevity.

The Creator God used stone tablets one time to write something for all humanity. He also used stone because of its durability and longevity. What was it that the God of all creation thought so important as to put it into such long lasting material as stone? This is the subject of our study...

- 1. Did God Himself really write on tables of stone? Exodus 31:18; 32:15-16.**
  
- 2. What did God write on these tables of stone? Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 4:13**
  
- 3. What is God's definition of sin? 1 John 3:4**
  
- 4. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments? A) Proverbs 29:18; 3:1-2. B) Romans 3:20; 7:7. C) Deuteronomy 6:24; Psalms 119:117-118.**

**A:**

God created us to enjoy happiness, peace, long life, contentment, accomplishment, and all the other great blessings for which our hearts long. God's law is the road map that points out the right paths to follow in order to find this true, supreme happiness.

**B:**

God's law is like a mirror (James 1:23-25). It points out wrongdoing in my life as a mirror points out dirt on my face. The only possible way for a person to know if he is sinning is for him to carefully check his life by the mirror of God's law. It tells where to draw the line between right and wrong thoughts, words and actions!

**C:**

God's law is like a strong cage at the zoo, which protects us from fierce, destructive animals. It protects us from impurity, falsehood, murder, idolatry, theft, and many other evils that destroy life, peace, and happiness. All good laws protect, and God's law is no exception.

## 5. Why is God's law exceedingly important to me personally? James 2:12

*"Sin can triumph only by enfeebling the mind, and destroying the liberty of the soul. Subjection to God is restoration to one's self,--to the true glory and dignity of man. The divine law, to which we are brought into subjection, is "the law of liberty." James 2:12." {White, The Desire of Ages, p466.5}*

The Ten Commandment law is the standard by which God examines people in the heavenly judgment. How are you measuring up?

## 6. Can God's law (the Ten Commandments) ever be changed or abolished? Luke 16:17; Psalms 89:34; Psalms 111:7-8

If the law could have been changed, God would have immediately made that change when Adam and Eve sinned instead of sending His Son to die in the sinner's behalf to pay the penalty of the broken law. But this was impossible, because the commandments are not laws in the sense of rules or regulations that have been enacted. They are revealed principles of God's holy character that will always be true as long as God exists.

### Notice these scriptural comparisons between God and His law:

God is JUST - Romans 3:26.	His law is JUST - Romans 7:12.
God is TRUE - John 3:33.	His law is TRUE - Nehemiah 9:13.
God is PURE - 1 John 3:3.	His law is PURE - Psalm 19:7,8.
God is LIGHT - 1 John 1:5.	His law is LIGHT - Proverbs 6:23.
God is FAITHFUL - 1 Corinthians 1:9.	His law is FAITHFUL - Psalms 119:86.
God is GOOD - Nahum 1:7.	His law is GOOD - Romans 7:12,16.
God is SPIRITUAL - John 4:24.	His law is SPIRITUAL - Romans 7:14.
God is HOLY - Isaiah 6:3, 1 Peter 1:15.	His law is HOLY - Exodus 20:8, Romans 7:12.
God is TRUTH - John 14:6.	His law is TRUTH - Psalms 119:142,151.
God is LIFE - John 14:6.	His law is LIFE - Matthew 19:17.
God is RIGHTEOUSNESS - Jeremiah 23:6.	His law is RIGHTEOUSNESS- Psalm 119:172.
God is PERFECT - Matthew 5:48.	His law is PERFECT - James 1:25.
God is ETERNAL - John 8:35.	His law is ETERNAL - Psalms 111:7,8.
God is PEACE - Isaiah 9:6.	His law is PEACE - Psalm 119:165.
God is THE WAY - John 14:6	His law is THE WAY - Psalm 119:30-32
God is SURE - 2 Timothy 2:19	His law is SURE - Psalm 19:7, 111:7,8
God is UNCHANGING - Malachi 3:6	His law is UNCHANGING - Psalm 111:7,8
God is SWEET - Psalm 34:8	His law is SWEET - Psalm 19:10, 119:103
God is WISE - Psalm 111:10	His law is WISE - Psalm 19:7
God is OUR MEDITATION - Psalm 63:6	His law is OUR MEDITATION - Psalm 1:2
God is JUDGE - Psalm 50:6	His law is JUDGE - James 2:12
God is ENLIGHTENMENT - Psalm 18:27	His law is ENLIGHTENMENT - Psalm 19:8
God is LOVE - 1 John 4:7,8	His law is LOVE - Romans 13:8-10
God is CLEAN - Psalm 19:9	His law is CLEAN - Ezekiel 22:26
God is BLESSED - Psalm 28:6	His law is BLESSED - Exodus 20:11
God is DELIGHT - Psalm 37:4	His law is DELIGHT - Psalm 1:2
God is WONDERFUL - Isaiah 9:6	His law is WONDERFUL - Psalm 119:18

God is LIBERTY - Isaiah 61:1  
God is COMFORT - Psalm 23:4  
God is OUR SONG - Revelation 15:3  
God is MERCIFUL - Exodus 34:5  
God is KNOWLEDGE - Isaiah 11:2  
God is HOPE - Psalm 130:7  
God is LIFE - Psalm 36:9  
God is SOUND - Proverbs 8:13,14  
God is UNDERSTANDING - Psalm 147:5  
God is HAPPINESS - Psalm 146:5  
God is JOY - Psalm 16:11

His law is LIBERTY-James 1:25, Psalm 119:45  
His law is COMFORT - Psalm 119:50  
His law is OUR SONG - Psalm 119:54  
His law is MERCIFUL - Psalm 119:58  
His law is KNOWLEDGE - Psalm 119:66  
His law is HOPE - Psalm 119:74  
His law is LIFE - Proverbs 3:1,2  
His law is SOUND - Psalm 119:80  
His law is UNDERSTANDING - Psalm 119:99  
His law is HAPPINESS - Proverbs 29:18  
His law is JOY - Psalm 119:162

## **7. Did Jesus abolish God's law while He was here on earth? Matthew 5:17-18**

Jesus specifically asserted that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill (or keep) it. Instead of doing away with the law, Jesus magnified it (Isaiah 42:21) as the perfect guide for right living. The law was written in stone as a symbol of its immutability!

## **8. Don't Colossians 2:13-17 and Ephesians 2:13-16 teach that God's law ended at the cross?**

These passages both refer to the law containing "*ordinances*," or Moses' law, which was a ceremonial law governing the sacrificial system and the priesthood. All of this ceremony and ritual foreshadowed the cross and ended at Christ's death, as God had intended. According to Galatians 3:16, 19, the law of Moses was added till the "*seed should come*," and that "*seed ... is Christ*." God's law could not be involved here, for Paul spoke of it as holy, just, and good many years after the cross (Romans 7:7, 12).

### **So God's law and the law of Moses are not the same law?**

No, they are not the same. Moses' law was the temporary, ceremonial law of the Old Testament. It regulated the priesthood, sacrifices, rituals, meat and drink offerings, etc., all of which foreshadowed the cross. The ritual and ceremony of Moses' law pointed forward to Christ's sacrifice. When He died, this law came to an end, but the Ten Commandments (God's law) "*stand fast for ever and ever*." Psalms 111:8.

Please note that God's law has existed at least as long as sin has existed. The Bible says, "*Where no law is, there is no transgression*." Romans 4:15. So God's Ten Commandment law existed from the beginning. Men broke that law. Because of sin, Moses' law was given (or "added"--Galatians 3:16, 19) till Christ should come and die. Two separate laws are involved: God's law and Moses' law.

**Notice the following table:**

<b>MOSES' LAW</b>	<b>GOD'S LAW</b>
Called "the law of Moses" (Luke 2:22).	Called "the law of the Lord" (Isaiah 5:24).
Called "law ... contained in ordinances" (Ephesians 2:15).	Called "the royal law" (James 2:8).
Written by Moses in a book (2 Chronicles 35:12).	Written by God on stone (Exodus 31:18; 32:16).
Placed in the side of the ark (Deuteronomy 31:26).	Placed inside the ark (Exodus 40:20).
Ended at the cross (Ephesians 2:15).	Will stand forever (Luke 16:17).
Added because of sin (Galatians 3:19).	Points out sin (Romans 7:7; 3:20).
Contrary to us, against us (Colossians 2:14).	Not grievous (1 John 5:3).
Judges no one (Colossians 2:14-16).	Judges all people (James 2:10-12).
Carnal (Hebrews 7:16).	Spiritual (Romans 7:14).
Made nothing perfect (Hebrews 7:19).	Perfect (Psalms 19:7).

**9. The Bible says that love fulfills the law. Doesn't this replace the Ten Commandments? Romans 13:10; Matthew 22:37-40; John 14-15**

It is impossible to love the Lord and **not** keep His commandments, because the Bible says, *"This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* 1 John 5:3. *"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."* 1 John 2:4.

Love fulfills the law by taking away the drudgery and by making law-keeping a delight (Psalms 40:8). When we truly love a person, honoring his or her requests becomes a joy. Love to God makes keeping the first four commandments (which concern God) a pleasure, and love toward our neighbor makes keeping the last six (which concern our neighbor) a joy.

**10. Will people who knowingly continue to break even one of God's commandments be saved? Romans 6:23; Isaiah 13:9; James 2:10**

**11. Can anyone be saved just by keeping the law? Romans 3:20; Ephesians 2:8-9**

**12. Why, then, is the law an absolute essential for perfecting Christian character? Ecclesiastes 12:13; Romans 3:20**

The full pattern, or "*whole duty*," for Christian living is contained in God's law. Like the 6-year-old boy who made his own ruler, measured himself, and told his mother that he was 12 feet tall, our own standards are never safe. I cannot know whether I am a sinner unless I look carefully into the perfect standard—God's law-mirror. Millions who have cast out devils, prophesied, and done many wonderful works in Jesus' name will be lost (Matthew 7:21-23) because they did not bother to check their lives with His great law-pattern. Hence, they think they are righteous and saved when, instead, they are sinful and lost. "*Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*" 1 John 2:3.

**13. What enables a truly converted Christian to follow the pattern of God's law? Hebrews 8:10; Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:3-4**

**14. But isn't a Christian who has faith and is living under grace freed from keeping the law? Romans 6:14-15; 3:31**

Grace is like the governor's pardon to a prisoner. It forgives him, but it does not give him freedom to break one single law on the statute books. The forgiven person, living under grace, is under double obligation to keep the law. A person who refuses to keep God's law, saying that he is living under grace, is mistaken. He is living under disgrace.

**15. What does it mean to be redeemed from the curse of the law? Galatians 3:13**

The curse of the law is death (Romans 6:23). Christ tasted "*death for every man*" (Hebrews 2:9), thus He redeemed all from the curse of the law (death) and in its place provided eternal life.

**16. How does the devil feel about the people who pattern their lives after God's Ten Commandments? Revelation 12:17; 14:12**

**Do you believe a Christian must obey God's Ten Commandments, and will you ask Jesus to help bring your life into harmony with them... writing them in your heart and mind?**

Answer:

# The Ten Commandments of God reaffirmed in the New Testament:

## THE LAW OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10.
2. "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21. "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device." Acts 17:29.
3. "That the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed." 1 Timothy 6:1.
4. "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works." "There remaineth therefore a rest ["keeping of a sabbath," margin] to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Hebrews 4:4, 9, 10.
5. "Honour thy father and thy mother." Matthew 19:19.
6. "Thou shalt not kill." Romans 13:9.
7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Matthew 19:18.
8. "Thou shalt not steal." Romans 13:9.
9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness." Romans 13:9.
10. "Thou shalt not covet." Romans 7:7.

## THE LAW OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3.
2. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." Exodus 20:4-6.
3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Exodus 20:7.
4. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11.
5. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Exodus 20:12.
6. "Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13
7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14.
8. "Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15.
9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Exodus 20:16.
10. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." Exodus 20:17.