



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS TODAY

Revised June 23, 2011 8:09 AM

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**A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study
by Jeff S. Smith**

6. Although the law of Moses is no longer in effect, and its ten commandments are thus not binding upon Christians today, nine of them are renewed in the New Testament. Which of them is (are) not?

7. The first four commandments reveal the jealous nature of God. For what was God jealous? Is he still a jealous God (Matthew 6:24, James 4:3-5, Luke 9:57-62)?

8. List some of today's most popular idols.

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | d. |
| b. | e. |
| c. | f. |

9. The Sabbath day is more than just the last day of the week, it was defined by certain practices enjoined upon the Jews. List some of them. What was the penalty for violating any of these commands? Why isn't the Sabbath observance binding on God's people today?

11. Why isn't capital punishment an act of "murder"?

12. What does it mean to bear false witness?

13. To what does the New Testament compare covetousness?

Introduction

God revealed himself and the beginning of his will to Moses on Mount Sinai as the Exodus ended and the wilderness wandering was about to begin. Within the law of Moses are the ten commandments, long remembered and revered for their simplicity and purity. What is the place of the Decalogue today? Many teach that it is still binding while dismissing the rest of the Old Testament as antiquated. But if the Old Testament has been taken out of the way, how could the ten commandments continue to be in effect? This series of lessons will attempt to answer that question and mine the New Testament of Jesus Christ for hints of the ten commandments.

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Lesson 13: Review

The ten commandments rank as the world's simplest and greatest legal code ever. In the minds of many, that code is still binding upon man today, but this series of lessons was intended to debunk that theory without casting any denigration upon the great code of Moses. In fact, the principles set down by God on Moses's tablet are still influential today, despite the fact that the New Testament law has replaced the Old Testament as the code in force.

1. List the ten commandments.
2. What commandments was Israel violating while Moses was with God?
3. There were two parties in the Old Covenant in which Moses participated. Identify them (Exodus 19:3-7). Were the Gentiles also called to Sinai to receive the law and bind themselves to it?
4. What was Christ's mission concerning the Law (Matthew 5:17-18)?
5. How does the New Testament prove he succeeded (Second Corinthians 3:7-11, Ephesians 2:11-16, Colossians 2:11-15, Hebrews 7:11-13)?

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4. How does a covetous heart interfere with one's discipleship (Matthew 6:24-34, 13:22; James 4:1-4)?

5. To what does Paul liken covetousness in Colossians 3:5 and Ephesians 5:5? How does Paul describe the blessings of contentment (First Timothy 6:6-10, Philippians 4:11-13)? What advice does Paul give the rich so that they might not fall into covetousness (First Timothy 6:17-19)?

6. Identify the greedy people and what they coveted in the following passages:

- a. Acts 24:24-26:
- b. Acts 19:12-27:
- c. Acts 16:16-19:
- d. Matthew 19:16-22:
- e. Matthew 26:15-16:
- f. Matthew 14:1-7:

Lesson 1: The Giving of the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments rank as the world's simplest and greatest legal code ever. In the minds of many, that code is still binding upon man today, but this series of lessons seeks to debunk that theory without casting any denigration upon the great code of Moses. In fact, the principles set down by God on Moses's tablet are still influential today, despite the fact that the New Testament law has replaced the Old Testament as the code currently in force.

The giving of the Law of Moses might be compared to the Constitutional Conventions of the United States in the late eighteenth century. A people was being gathered in a new way and a new law was in order. With Israel, however, the law was coming from above in a way which precluded men from offering amendments or votes.

Three months after God had led Israel out of Egypt, she came to the wilderness of Sinai where the nation camped before the great mountain of that name. God introduces Moses to the concept of his covenant, about to be revealed and which required submission before blessing. The people rejoiced at this suggested arrangement and promised their undying loyalty. Preparations were made for the reception of the law set for three days later, with a special focus on consecration and reverence.

When that day dawned, God greeted Israel with thunder and lightning and a thick cloud on the mountain. The sound of a trumpet announced the divine presence, reminding Israel of the greatness of her God. With the awesome sight of this great smoky mountain before them, Moses ascended it to meet God again.

As the Ten commandments were revealed, the people grew even more fearful of Jehovah. The great sight before them was intended to help create godly reverence for the law Moses was bringing back, but while he tarried, the people soon forgot their oath of loyalty. Before the tablets could be dusted off, they had fallen into heathen idolatry by crafting a golden calf to worship as their deliverer. As Moses arrived with the tablets of testimony and saw what sin his brother had allowed Israel to undertake, he cast them against the mountain with anger, breaking them in pieces.

Moses punished the sinners and then received a duplicate copy of the law from God on the same mountain. The law revealed to this point contained more than just ten commandments, which were its first tenets. Many other laws were part of God's covenant with Israel (see Exodus chapters 21-31).

1. Why had the children of Israel been in Egypt (Genesis 45:3-8)? Why had Israel's comfort in Egypt been destroyed (Exodus 1:8-14)?

2. How did an Israelite like Moses gain standing among the Egyptians (Exodus 2:1-14)? How did God first appear to Moses (Exodus 3:1-12)? What mission did he give the man?

3. The strange route out of Egypt to Canaan that Israel took is justified as necessary by God for one reason. What was it (Exodus 13:17-18)?

4. The first eighteen chapters of Exodus establish the courage of Israel in undertaking the escape from Egypt at Moses's advice, but also her fleshly weaknesses and lack of trust in God. Although war did not overcome them, what did (Exodus 16:1-3, 17:1-3)?

5. How did God want the people to regard him and his law (Exodus 19:1-9)? What was their initial reaction (Exodus 19:8, 20:18-19)? Where was the law given to Moses? Describe the atmosphere (Exodus 19:16-19).

6. How did Israel's weakness become apparent quickly, proving that keeping even the ten commandments would prove difficult (Exodus 32:1-18)? How did the tablets get broken?

Lesson 12: Thou Shalt Not Covet

Exodus 20:17 reads: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." The tenth commandment exposes the jealousy and discontentment of heart that leads people to desire what belongs to another to such an extreme that hearts are corrupted and hands are soiled with sin. Covetousness is sinful under the New Testament law of Christ as well as having been a violation of the defunct law of Moses.

1. What does greed for gain accomplish (Proverbs 1:19, 15:27)? According to Proverbs 23:4-5, why is the yearning to be rich foolishness?

2. Explain the wisdom of the following statement from Proverbs 30:8: "Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny you, And say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God."

3. Why will the covetous person never be satisfied (Ecclesiastes 5:10)? Explain the significance of Matthew 6:19-21 as it touches on covetousness. In what *should* one's life consist (Luke 12:13-21)?

5. How did God describe false witnessing in Proverbs 6:16-19? In what company did this sin fall? To what three things does Proverbs 25:18 compare a false witness? Explain

6. At its root, false witness is a willingness to tell lies for selfish gain, self-promotion or protection. What do the following passages say about telling lies and selfishness?

a. Ephesians 4:25:

b. Philippians 2:3-4:

c. Proverbs 22:12:

d. Revelation 21:8:

7. Why is bearing false witness sinful today—because it violated the ninth commandment of the law of Moses or because it violates the New Testament of Jesus Christ?

8. Read Matthew 15:16-20. Why is it especially significant that bearing false witness is said to proceed from the heart of a man?

9. What did John tell the soldiers to do as fruits of repentance (Luke 3:7-14)? What then is true of a Christian today who tells lies?

10. List some common ways in which people tell “little white lies” today.

a.

b.

Lesson 2: Are the Ten Commandments Binding?

It will be a shocking statement to many, but the ten commandments were never given to any people on Earth other than the Israelites, beginning with the time of Moses. The ten commandments, and the entire law of Moses, were not given to Gentile nations; moreover, the New Testament of Jesus Christ actually supersedes that old law as it takes effect.

1. There were two parties in the Old Covenant in which Moses participated. Identify them (Exodus 19:3-7). Were the Gentiles also called to Sinai to receive the law and be bound to it?

2. Of all the ten commandments, the Sabbath seems to excite the most interest in controversy. Consider Exodus 31:12-18. List some clues from this passage that the ten commandments was bound only on Israel under the law of Moses.

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3. What was Christ’s mission concerning the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17-18)? How did he succeed (John 17:4, Romans 10:4, Luke 24:25-27)?

4. Three major passages from Paul’s letters indicate that the law of Moses was taken out of effect upon the establishment of the New Testament of Jesus Christ. The first appears in Second Corinthians 3:7-11. What is meant by “the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones”?

5. In what tense—past, present or future—does Paul call that ministry in stone? Of the ministry of death or ministry of the Spirit, which is declared superior?

6. How did Paul describe the Old Testament in Second Corinthians 3:11? Writing before the fall of Jerusalem and its temple, how is it described in Hebrews 8:13?

7. Paul's letter to the Ephesians pointed out the racial separation between Jew and Gentile, meant for relief under the New Testament. Considering Ephesians 2:11-13, could both the Old Testament and the New Testament be in effect simultaneously? Why or why not?

8. What has Christ done with the Old Testament, which served to divide Jew from Gentile (Ephesians 2:14-18)?

9. Under the law of Moses, only Israel was considered the people of God. Who are the people of God today (Ephesians 2:19-22, cf. Romans 2:28-29)?

10. What does fleshly circumcision signify today (Romans 2:28-29, cf. Galatians 5:6)? What form of circumcision brings one into God's family today (Colossians 2:11-15)?

11. What did Christ do with the handwriting of requirements (the old law)? How does the priesthood of Christ prove the law has changed (Hebrews 7:11-13)?

Lesson 11: Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness

Exodus 20:16 reads: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." False witness is rooted in lying and antipathy toward others but is expressed directly when called to speak under oath. A system of civil justice is dependent upon the general honesty of the citizenry and society itself is terribly harmed when trust does not reign. False witness is an assault on Christ's "golden rule" about doing unto others as you have them do to you.

1. False witness like this can occur outside the courtroom (Exodus 23:1-3). How might we be guilty of circulating false reports in everyday life (Proverbs 10:18)? Some people justify dishonesty in legal matters if it benefits a needy person. Is false witness ever justified (cf. Leviticus 19:15)?

2. List five areas in which one could bear false witness (Leviticus 6:1-7).

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

3. What two parties are offended by false witnessing? What was the penalty for a convicted false witness? How was God often involved in cases of false witness (Leviticus 19:11-12)?

4. How many witnesses were required to establish a matter (Deuteronomy 19:15-21)? What penalty was due a false witness in a case in which a man was criminally accused?

4. What is the effect on our society because of theft?

5. In times of economic downturn, situation ethicists argue that a certain amount of stealing is justifiable. Stealing bread is rationalized as a crime of necessity. Does the commentary on the seventh commandment found in Proverbs 6:30-31 justify theft under certain circumstances?

6. Judas Iscariot is perhaps the most famous traitor in history, but many do not realize that he was also a thief. Describe his thievery (John 12:1-6).

7. How can a love of money lead disciples to betrayal (Titus 1:12-16)?

8. What do the following passages say about those who bemoan thugs who rob banks and mug innocent people, but themselves will cheat on their taxes, steal cable television or violate copyright laws?

a. Matthew 23:14:

b. Romans 2:21-24:

c. First Corinthians 6:9-10:

Lesson 3: Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods

Exodus 20:2-3 reads: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me." The foundation of God's covenant with Israel was his exclusive right to their worship and his future blessing was dependent upon their faithfulness to this tenet. Indeed, Israel's demise many years later is clearly blamed on violating this commandment.

1. Upon what great blessing did God base his claim to Israel's exclusive and eternal praise as the ten commandments began to be given (Exodus 20:2)? Describe the Israelites' condition before this blessing (Exodus 1:8-16, 3:7).

2. Describe the impression that the Red Sea crossing must have created in the minds of the Hebrews (Exodus 14:1-31).

3. In giving this first commandment, was God acting jealously (cf. Exodus 34:10-16)? What step did God command to help Israel avoid putting other gods ahead of him (Exodus 34:12-15)?

4. How do the scriptures describe the following gods of Canaan?

- Molech (Leviticus 18:21, Jeremiah 32:35):

- Ashtoreth (Judges 10:6, First Samuel 7:3-4):

5. Is the first commandment still binding on us today, as a tenet of the Law of Moses? Why or why not? If *not*, may we now have other gods before Jehovah?

6. What other gods did Paul and Barnabas encounter in Lystra (Acts 14:8-13)? How did they handle the problem (Acts 14:14-18)?

7. Nowadays, a move to tolerate all religions and celebrate everyone's god has gained steam. Can Christians participate in this movement by refraining from teaching adherents of other gods (First Corinthians 8:5-6)? Why or why not?

8. Name some "other gods" which men are tempted to serve in this day. How can we make "Self" an other god (Luke 9:57-62)?

9. Which is the first commandment of all, according to the teaching of Jesus Christ (Mark 12:28-30)?

Lesson 10: Thou Shalt Not Steal

Exodus 20:15 reads: "You shall not steal." Property rights are an important facet of the American democracy and system of self-government by the people and this sentiment dates back to the seventh commandment of the law of Moses. Stealing violates personal property rights and leads to anarchy within society. Although the seventh commandment was done away with as part of the Old Testament law of Moses, the prohibition against stealing is renewed under the New Testament law of Christ.

1. Moses enlarges upon the seventh commandment, dealing with hypothetical cases of theft (Exodus 22:1-13). What was the restitution when a rustler was caught? How was a property owner who killed an intruder during the act punished (verse 2)? Was a property owner guiltless who later hunted down an intruder and killed him (verse 3)? Is this an example of stealing in verse 5? Why? How could something like this happen today? What care should be exercised when holding another's property for safe keeping (verses 7-13)?

2. Leviticus 19:13 condemns those who cheat their neighbors. Understanding that our neighbors are more than just those people who live on our street, how is it possible to cheat your neighbor today?

3. Consider Joshua chapter seven. Why was God so angry with Israel that he allowed them to lose the battle of Ai? Did Achan confess his sin willingly? What did he call the root of his crime? What effect did Achan's crime have on Israel (Joshua 7:25)? What was his punishment?

5. What did Bathsheba do that led to the adultery (Second Samuel 11:1-17). What mistake did David make when he saw her for the first time? How did David initially attempt to cover up his sin? Why did it fail? How did David attempt a cover-up a second time? Why did it fail? How did David finally succeed in keeping Uriah ignorant of his sin?

6. List some ways in which adultery damages society today.

7. How did the doctrine of Christ go deeper than what was taught concerning keeping the seventh commandment (Matthew 5:27-30)?

8. Did Jesus continue the Mosaic divorce allowance into the New Testament (Deuteronomy 24:1-4, Matthew 19:1-9)? To what ideal did he point as the hallmark of his doctrine and law on marriage?

9. What single ground is mentioned as justifying divorce and allowing the wronged party to remarry in the Lord?

10. Did his disciples perceive this doctrine to be stricter than under the law of Moses, about the same, or looser (see verse 10)?

Lesson 4: Thou Shalt Make No Graven Images

Exodus 20:4-6 reads: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love me and keep my commandments." Idolatry continues to plague spiritual Israel, though often through different means.

1. Explain the jealousy of God involving worship and idolatry. Compare it to a woman's right to be jealous over a husband's affections (cf. James 4:4).

2. What was going on back at the camp while Moses tarried with God, receiving this and other commandments (Exodus 32:1-6)?

3. List three of four attitudes or characteristics of the people (including Aaron) that led to this hasty descent into idolatry.

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | e. |
| b. | f. |
| c. | g. |
| d. | h. |

4. Read Exodus 32:7-10. How does God describe the idolaters and their actions in this passage? Where did they likely get at least part of the gold needed for this idol (Exodus 12:35-36)?

5. What punishment did God initially suggest for the idolaters? How did Moses react to the sight of this idolatry (Exodus 32:19-21)? What lesson could the Israelites have gained from the drink Moses gave them?

6. Clearly, the second commandment prohibits what Israel did that day. Is the second commandment still binding today as a part of the law of Moses? If not, is idolatry then permitted under the New Testament?

7. List two phrases in Romans 1:25 that show how God feels about idolatry.

- a.
- b.

8. What was Paul's first impression of the great, historic city of Athens (Acts 17:16)? What did he do about it?

9. How do we know that idolatry is condemned under the covenant of Christ (First Corinthians 6:9-11, Revelation 21:8)?

10. State simply the advice of Paul and John concerning idolatry:

- a. Paul (First Corinthians 10:14):
- b. John (First John 5:21):

11. What form of idolatry is often the most powerful in New Testament times (Ephesians 5:5, Colossians 3:5, Matthew 6:19-24)? Explain.

Lesson 9: Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery

Exodus 20:14 reads: "You shall not commit adultery." God's marriage regulations began in the Garden of Eden, but were cast aside not long after. Even the most spiritual of people in the Old Testament can be found with plural wives, concubines, prostitutes and in other immoral activity. When Jesus came, however, all the moral confusion surrounding human sexuality was put in perspective and the Eden Ideal was lifted up once more. The seventh commandment is no longer binding upon mankind, but the doctrine of Christ renews the divine mandate concerning adultery.

1. What was the penalty for violating the seventh commandment (Leviticus 20:10)? If the ten commandments are still binding, is the penalty binding?

2. What is the penalty for adultery under the New Testament of Jesus Christ (Revelation 21:8, Ephesians 5:5)?

3. Leviticus 18 describes a number of forms of sexual immorality which were condemned under the law of Moses. List those that appear in the following verses:

- a. Leviticus 18:6-18:
- b. Leviticus 18:20:
- c. Leviticus 18:22:
- d. Leviticus 18:23:

4. What did Jesus do when the Pharisees challenged him to judge a woman caught in the very act of adultery (John 8:2-11)? Did this action show tolerance of adultery or validation of what was sin?

6. Read Matthew 5:21-26. The gospel of the kingdom which Jesus was teaching provided for an assault on the root cause of murder. Verse 22 exposes things that lead to homicide. List them.

- a.
- b.

7. When disputes arise between brethren, what steps does Jesus recommend in the interest of resolution, according to the following passages?

- a. Matthew 5:23-24:
- b. Matthew 5:25:
- c. Ephesians 4:26-27:

8. What sin does the apostle John equate with murder (First John 3:14-15)? How would this prohibition include apathy to a troubled brother (First John 3:16-18)? What is apathy?

9. What was the penalty for murder under the Old Testament law of Moses? What is the penalty under the New Testament law of Christ (Revelation 21:8)?

10. What provision does the New Testament make so that states may execute murderers (Romans 13:1-7)?

11. Is it murder to kill a nasty spider, a tasty cow, or other animal (Genesis 1:26, Acts 10:12-13)? Is it murder to kill an elderly person with a special machine, if the person has requested that he be killed? Is any sin ever justified if both parties agree to its commission?

Lesson 5: Thou Shalt Not Take God's Name in Vain

Exodus 20:7 reads: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." Modern men hear God's name taken in vain so frequently that it is a temptation to become accustomed to it to the point that it does not sound offensive anymore. Although the ten commandments are no longer in effect, as such, taking God's name in vain is still sin to be avoided. There are two ways in which this sin is committed—using God's name to validate false swearing of an oath and using God's name in a trifling manner.

1. Consider Leviticus 19:12. What are two ways in which God's name was taken in vain? What was the penalty for swearing falsely (Leviticus 6:1-5)?

2. Read Numbers 30:1-2. Was it permissible to swear oaths under the law of Moses? How serious a matter was such an oath? Has God ever participated in an oath (Hebrews 6:13-18)? Explain.

3. Identify the nature of the oaths in the following New Testament passages:

- a. Acts 2:30:
- b. Acts 23:21:
- c. Romans 1:9:
- d. Romans 9:1:
- e. Galatians 1:20:

4. Read Matthew 5:33-37. An oath is defined as “a solemn affirmation or declaration, made with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed, and imprecating his vengeance, and renouncing his favor if what is affirmed is false” (*Barnes Notes, Gospels, page 57*). The condemnation before us in the sermon on the mount concerns the hypocrisy of the Jews in that age through which they professed to adhere strictly to the law, but had, in fact, assaulted it with the creation of loop holes. One of these loop holes involved the taking of oaths in common conversation which they did not consider to be binding. How did the Lord show the binding nature of all these oaths?

- a. swearing by heaven:
- b. swearing by the earth:
- c. swearing by Jerusalem:
- d. swearing by the head:

5. Instead of seeking the comfort of loophole oaths, how should a person make promises (cf. James 5:12)? On what occasion did Jesus accept a judicial oath (Matthew 26:62-64)?

6. Read Matthew 23:16-22. Of what sinful and baseless oath distinction did Jesus accuse men here? Did one really escape making an oath on God’s name by swearing only on his temple or creation? Were such oaths thus non-binding?

7. What are some ways in which people use God’s name in a trifling way (Matthew 12:35-37)?

Lesson 8: Thou Shalt Not Kill

Exodus 20:13 reads: “You shall not murder.” This command seems to be the simplest of all and yet the Old Testament is filled with bloodshed. The sixth commandment did not condemn the killing of animals, for sacrifice was also commanded. Nor did it condemn killing within warfare or capital punishment. The sixth commandment condemned killing people in more common settings, and although the ten commandments are not binding upon Christians today, the prohibition against murder has actually expanded to cover its root causes as well.

1. Describe the first murder in Bible history and its cause (Genesis 4:1-12).

2. Describe the punishment for murder enacted by God in the covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:6).

3. How was negligence that led to a person’s death punished (Exodus 21:28-29, Deuteronomy 27:25)?

4. How did God recognize life in the womb as worthy legal protection (Exodus 21:22-24)? Should abortion fall into condemnation as murder under the law of Christ? Explain.

5. On what basis can we condemn the sin of murder today?

5. Disobedience to parents is included in this list. How does God rate the awfulness of this sin here or in any passage, as compared to other sins? How does verse 28 then describe disobedience to parents, among other sins? What penalty does God pronounce as fitting for one who is disobedient to his parents?

6. What does Paul recommend we do to those who prove themselves disobedient to their parents (Second Timothy 3:1-5)?

7. When is it right to disobey one's parents (Acts 5:29, Ephesians 6:1)?

8. How does the Spirit suggest we learn to show piety at home (First Timothy 5:3-4)? How does Paul express the seriousness of neglecting parents (First Timothy 5:8)?

9. List some ways in which we can show honor to our parents.

Lesson 6: Remember the Sabbath

Exodus 20:8-11 reads: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." The Sabbath was an important part of the old law and one that first century Jews clung to sentimentally and avidly. As a part of the law of Moses, however, it is no more in force today than any other part of that code. Protestantism has clouded the issue by calling Sunday the "Christian Sabbath," which it in no way is.

1. To what group of people was the Sabbath given, according to Exodus 31:13-17? Are you a member of this group of people? How does Ephesians 2:11-12 prove that Gentiles were not made part of this covenant?

2. Consider Exodus 31:16-17. What was the purpose of the Sabbath observance? What was to be its duration for the nation of Israel? How long was the Aaronic priesthood to endure (Exodus 40:15)? Is it still in effect today (Hebrews 7:11-13)?

3. What was the penalty for working on the Sabbath (Exodus 35:1-3)? If the Sabbath is still binding today, would not the penalty for Sabbath-breaking also be binding?

4. Read Numbers 15:32-36. Was stick-gathering considered work? How do you know? Will you carry sticks or stones this Saturday?

5. Read Numbers 28:1, 9-10. What does God make a part of the Sabbath day observance here? If the Sabbath day is still in force today, how can this observance be out of effect?

6. Did Jesus observe the Sabbath according to the law or was he a violator of the law (First Peter 1:19, Hebrews 4:15, Acts 13:27-28, Second Corinthians 5:21, First John 3:5)? Why then did the Jewish leaders often object to him on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-14, 15:7-9; cf. Matthew 27:18)?

7. Read Luke 13:10-17. How did Jesus show their hypocrisy in accusing him of breaking the Sabbath (cf. Matthew 12:11-12)?

8. How does Colossians 2:16-17 prove the Sabbath is not bound on Christians? Why did the Christians do much preaching on the Sabbath (Acts 13:43, 18:4)?

Lesson 7: Honor Thy Parents

Exodus 20:12 reads: "Honor your father and your mother; that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. Israel's heritage in Canaan became a Hebrew axiom, proving that the divine blessing was dependent upon the people's submissiveness. The fifth commandment marks a shift from responsibilities directly toward God to those toward other people. Although the ten commandments are no longer binding upon men today, as such, the doctrine of Christ updates a person's responsibility toward his parents for the final dispensation of time.

1. What comment upon this commandment does Moses make in Deuteronomy 27:9-16? Define "contempt."

2. What was the Old Testament penalty for cursing one's parents (Exodus 21:17)? If the law is still binding, would the penalty also be binding on us today? Since the law of Moses has been taken out of the way, are children now permitted to curse and show disrespect to their parents? Explain.

3. The Pharisees of Jesus's day did live under the law of Moses. How did they violate the fifth commandment without actually pronouncing a curse upon their parents (Matthew 15:1-9)?

4. Consider the list given in Romans 1:28-32. List three sins in this passage that people of the world would consider the most heinous.

- a.
- b.
- c.