

Exodus 20: The Ten Commandments

Called *habrit esereh davarim* – The Covenant of Ten Wordings, in the original Hebrew text (v.34:28).

These were written by God, five on each of two stone tablets given to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Yeshua said (Matthew 22:37-40), ³⁷ “You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).” ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18).” ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all of the Law and the Prophets.”

Each of the commandments on the first stone contain God’s holy Name – Yahweh. They teach us how to love Yahweh as our God.	None of the commandments on the second stone contain God’s holy Name. They teach us how to love our neighbor.
The commandments on the second stone parallel the commandments on the first stone with a one-to-one relationship of subjects.	
1 ² “I am <u>Yahweh</u> your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” (Some modern versions call verse 3 the first commandment.)	6 ¹³ “You shall not murder.”
Doing away with your neighbor relates to doing away with Yahweh as your God.	
2 ³ “You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, <u>Yahweh</u> your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”	7 ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.”
Adultery is used throughout the Bible to represent idolatry (i.e.: Jeremiah 3:8). Having improper gods relates to having improper mates.	
3 ⁷ “You shall not take the name of <u>Yahweh</u> your God in vain, for Yahweh will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”	8 ¹⁵ “You shall not kidnap.” (Common stealing is covered by the tenth commandment.)
Using God’s holy Name on something improperly relates to using your family name on someone improperly.	
4 ⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath of <u>Yahweh</u> your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. ¹¹ For in six days <u>Yahweh</u> made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore <u>Yahweh</u> blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”	9 ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
Bearing false witness against a neighbor relates to bearing false witness against God in creation. The six days of creation culminated with God making the seventh day holy. “Remembering” the Sabbath, to “keep” it holy, is a witness to our faith in our God as Creator.	
5 ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which <u>Yahweh</u> your God gives you.”	10 ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”
Honoring father and mother signifies honoring all authority under God. Honoring authority under God relates to honoring your neighbor’s authority over his possessions.	