



# EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

## BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 20:1-21

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**1** And God spoke all these words, saying, **2** "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **3** "You shall have no other gods before me. **4** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or 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. **5** You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, **6** but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. **7** "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. **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 to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. **11** For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. **12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. **13** "You shall not murder. **14** "You shall not commit adultery. **15** "You shall not steal. **16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **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 is your neighbor's."

**18** Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off **19** and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." **20** Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." **21** The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 20:1-21

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Have you ever been so defeated you literally feel broken, like at any moment you could just fall to your knees and cry out to God broken? This has been my week, and sitting down to write this, I felt empty. Who am I to speak to anyone, much less over the 10 commandments? They write entire books about those and I only have a few paragraphs. I have always used Holy week as a time of reflection, drawing near to the God I love dearly, but the devil crept in this week and had me all twisted up.

At first glance, the 10 commandments look fairly simple. I can only imagine the Israelites saying "yeah I got that". Once you dig in deep, you realize the truth behind them and how they point you to a holy, loving God who wants all of you. It also points to a need for a sacrifice, because it is impossible to keep the law. The Bible tells us that the law is holy, just, and good (Romans 7:12). The problem is the Israelites watered down the law making it easier to obey, removing the heart and intention of it. Jesus even pointed this out in His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:17-48. The purpose of the law was to show us our own depravity and need for a savior (1 Timothy 1:8-11).

In Exodus 20:21, we see that the Israelites stood far off, but Moses drew near to where God was. Moses had a true, intimate relationship with God that the common man in Israel did not. Moses was acutely aware of both God's holy power and glorious grace. Most of us are much like the Israelites. God is an acquaintance, but we do not truly know Him. We tend to water down the bible to fit our lives and needs. We keep our distance so that we are not to be held accountable for any of it, and we struggle when things get tough. We cry out to Him when we need Him and often wonder why we feel alone and broken.

As you reflect on the Holy week that just passed, I ask you to read 1 John 4:18-19. The ultimate motivation for obedience is love. We love Him because HE loved us first, years ago, on a cross where He shed His blood for you and me. Do you think He did that for the superficial, half-hearted, fake, watered down love we tend to give? The ultimate sacrifice was HIS obedience, which is credited to those who trust and love Him (Romans 8:2-4).



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**Questions:**

1. Deep down is your heart a reflection of Moses or the Israelites?
2. What truth do you water down to fit into your life?
3. What is God tugging on your heart about that you continue to keep your distance from?