

Behold, Our Covenant God

Exodus 20:1-21

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■ Central Church

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Exodus 20:1-21

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.

God is not interested in cold regulations. He's interested in covenant relationships.

1. God Dawns The Covenant Relationship (v. 1-2)

2. God Defines The Covenant Relationship (v.3-17)

3. God Draws Near in Covenant Relationship (v. 18-21)

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Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God is the God of covenant relationships?
2. Why is the preamble in Exodus 20:1-2 so important? What are the consequences of reading God's commands in an isolated manner, apart from their covenantal context?
3. When reading God's commands, we should always ask, "What does this teach us about who God is?" Go through a few of the Ten Commandments and practice this exercise.
4. In what ways are the Ten Commandments a powerful instrument in evangelism?
5. How do the Ten Commandments direct us to Jesus Christ?

Quote for the Week. . . by Kevin DeYoung



"God's law is an expression of His grace because it is also an expression of His character. Commands show us what God is like, what He prizes, what He detests, what it means to be holy as God is holy. To hate all rules I to hate God Himself who ordained His rules to reflect His nature. The law is God's plan for His sanctified people to enjoy communion with Him."