

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: November 30, 2014

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: The Ten Commandments (1)

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-11

AIM: To see that the laws God made show us what kind of person He is and what kind of people He wants us to be—like Him. God's commandments also show us how we can please Him by obeying His commandments.

MEMORY VERSES: Exodus 20:2a (I am Jehovah your God"), 3 ("You shall have no other gods before Me"), 4a (You shall not make for yourself an idol,") 7a ("You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain,") 8 ("Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it"). Exodus 19:4b-5 ("I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ...if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure...")

SUGGESTED SONGS: 49 ("This is Lord's Day"); 192 ("We are different"); 8208 ("You shall love the Lord your God"); 146 ("I want the Lord to have the first place in my heart"); 7 ("I am a very special child"); 3400 ("I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N"); 152 ("What can I give Jesus?"); 8315 ("Moses climbed the mountain high); 6711 ("The Great Command")

BACKGROUND/REVIEW: In last week's lesson, we saw how God provided all that the children of Israel needed for their journey to the promised land by providing manna for them and water from the smitten rock. This week, we will see that God wanted His people to know Him, to know His character, and to know His personality and heart. He loved them, so He spoke to them and revealed Himself to them through His law. By looking at the Ten Commandments, we can see what kind of God we have, what He likes and what He hates, what He approves of and what He disapproves of.

CONTENT: In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, they settled (encamped) in the wilderness of Mount Sinai. Jehovah called Moses out of the mountain and told him to tell and remind the children of Israel of how He cared for them by delivering them from their burdens and bondage in Egypt. "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples,... And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Moses told the people all the words which Jehovah had commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, "All that Jehovah has spoken we will do." The children of Israel promised to obey God's law. Jehovah told Moses that He would come and speak to him (in a thick cloud) in the presence of the children of Israel, that they might believe him forever. So, Jehovah told Moses to tell the children of Israel to sanctify themselves and wash their garments and be ready for the third day when Jehovah will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. "Jehovah told Moses to set limits for the people all around, not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; that whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death; ...whether beast or man, ... When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain." So Moses went down from the mountain and told the people all that Jehovah had instructed him and they obeyed. On the third day, when it was morning, there was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud trumpet sound; and all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the base of the mountain.

The whole of Mount Sinai smoked because Jehovah descended upon it in fire, and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace; and the whole mountain shook greatly. And as the sound of the trumpet grew

louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him in a voice. Jehovah called Moses to the top of the mountain and told Moses to go down and tell the people not to break through to Jehovah to look; otherwise many of them would die. And the priests who came near to Jehovah were also to sanctify themselves. And Moses said to Jehovah, “The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You charged us, saying, Set limits around the mountain, and sanctify it.” And Jehovah said to him, “Go, get down; then you shall come up again, you and Aaron with you; but do not let the priests and the people force a way through to come up to Jehovah, so that He does not break forth upon them.” So Moses went down to the people and told them. And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the slave house.” Then He declared His laws to the people. They are called the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments (to be continued next week):

1. I am Jehovah your God...you shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20:2a, 3).

The first commandment tells us there is only one true God. He is the Creator of the universe. He created the heavens, the earth, and all things. Apart from Him, nothing has come into existence (John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6). Since He is the Creator of all things, we should only worship Him.

2. You shall not make for yourself an idol (Exodus 20:4a).

The second commandment tells us that we should not make or worship idols because our God is a jealous God. Anything that takes the place of God in our heart is an idol. We must utterly reject such things.

3. You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain (Exodus 20:7a).

The third commandment tells us to respect God’s name, not to take His name in vain, that is not to say His name in a disrespectful way or in a cursing way. Instead, we should learn the proper use of the Lord’s name – by loving His name, praising His name, openly confessing His name, and giving glory to His name.

4. Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it (Exodus 20:8).

The fourth commandment tells us to remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it. God created heaven and earth in six days and rested on the seventh day. Therefore He wants man to rest on this day to sanctify it (to keep it holy and separated for God). Today, in the New Testament age, we separate the Lord’s Day to go to the meeting to worship Him. We should not do other things to replace the meeting like going to a birthday party or to the beach.

APPLICATION: The first four commandments speak of our relationship with God. By giving His people the law, God has shown us what kind of person He is and what kind of people He wants us to be. He wants us to be like Him and to express Him. God also wants us to serve and to love Him; to be His special people on the face of the earth.

Adapted from *Bringing Children from Adam to Christ in God’s Economy*—Vol. 4, *The Travels of the Chosen Children of Israel*, Lessons 3 and 5, and from the Church in New York City’s Children’s meeting lessons: 7/17/88; 7/24/88; 7/31/88; 8/7/88; 8/14/88; 8/21/88; 11/19/95; 11/23/03, 11/29/09