

Cover to Cover: The 10 Commandments…

 *Exodus 22:33–23:33*

Big Picture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNpTha80yyE>

Context: Exodus 1–15 recount the story of the Exodus from Egypt, a story referred to again and again as a display of God’s grace and glory. Israel then journeyed through the Wilderness to Mt. Sinai where God gave His people specific instructs about how to live as His holy people. These are commonly called the 10 commandments, the Laws of Moses or the Mosaic Covenant. Following on from the 10 commandments, which are a sort of summary and representative of the entire Law of Moses, the LORD gave Moses many other specific laws (around 52 to be precise).

*Questions*

The 10 Commandments used to be displayed and taught in many churches and commonly known. Today they can seldom be recalled, even by Christians. Why do you think that is?

The 10 Commandments may be split between laws dealing with God and us and us and others. Which laws would fit into each category?

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| **God and Us** | **Us and Others** |
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How are the 10 commandments mirrored in the Great Commandment of Jesus (Mk 12:28–31)?

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Though the Old Covenant was fulfilled in Christ, how are Christians to view the relationship between the Law and the Gospel?

A traditional approach to the Law of Moses by Christians is to see its threefold division (moral, civil, ceremonial). The moral law remains as the Law of Christ (Mt 5:17–20; 1 Cor 9:21; Gal 6:2), even if other aspects were fulfilled in Christ. Do you believe this to be a helpful tool to understand how the moral law remains valid under the Gospel?

If the law of Christ cannot save us, what is its purpose?

Does John Bunyan’s quote help us in this at all? *Run, John, run, the law commands; but gives us neither feet nor hands. Far better news the Gospel brings; it bids us fly and gives us wings.*

*Specific Questions:*

Choose one law from each of the following 4 categories from today’s reading. Think about what it is saying and consider the wisdom of why God gave it (Dt 6: 24). What relevance do you think it might have for today?

* Laws of Restitution: *In an era where unbridled revenge was the norm among the nations, Israel was instructed to exercise justice proportional to the crime.*
* Laws of Social Justice: *Social justice is ensuring one’s social dealings, especially with the vulnerable, are just.*
* Laws about the Sabbath and Festivals: *These concern ordinances and religious obligations the LORD laid down.*
* The Conquest of Canaan Promised

*BIG Questions to bear in mind:*

* *Where is this passage in the wider story of salvation history?*
* *In what ways does this passage point to Jesus? (Lk 24:27)*