

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

God on the Throne / All things subjected to Him

Actions and results of God on the throne

I. YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME / YOU SHALL NOT WORSHIP THE IMAGE OF ANYTHING GOD HAS MADE.

II. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD IN VAIN

III. REMEMBER THE SABBATH AND KEEP IT HOLY

IV. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, THAT YOUR DAYS MAY BE LONG ON THE EARTH.

V. YOU SHALL NOT MURDER

VI. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

VII. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

VIII. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR

IX. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE

X. YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, PEOPLE, POSSESSIONS (HOUSEHOLD).

Man on the throne / subjecting unto self

Actions and results of man on the throne

A Conversation With God

As we consider the layout of the ten commandments on the left, we begin to see not only a list of rules, but a contrast between two worlds: A world in which God is enthroned, versus a world in which mankind chooses to enthrone his/her own desires. If we are honest with ourselves, we realize how deeply we find ourselves enmeshed in a destructive, murderous society. How shall we respond? Israel responded by backing away from the mountain of God. The command was too much to bear. But Jesus, because of His once-for-all sacrifice for our sins, beckons us to come close, and to respond in prayerful conversation with God as our Heavenly Father. You are invited to meditate on the following in prayerful contemplation. Use it in worship, or as a means of private devotion.

I.

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. ⁵You 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, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

- *“Our Father in Heaven”*

II.

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.

- *“Hallowed be your name.”*

III.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but 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. ¹¹For 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.

- *“Your kingdom come”*

IV.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

- *“Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”*

IX - X.

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.”

- *“Give us this day our daily bread”*

VIII.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- *“And forgive us our debts”*

VII.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

- *“As we also have forgiven our debtors”*

VI.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

- *“And lead us not into temptation”*

V.

¹³“You shall not murder.

- *“But deliver us from evil.”*

**Scripture texts are taken directly from Exodus 20 and Matthew 6, using the English Standard Version of the Bible.*

**It is worth noting that the exact pairing of the commandments and the Lord's prayer may be subject to debate. Example: Should IX & X be split apart? How would that affect the matching of the prayer? I have chosen this layout to the best of my knowledge for this devotional exercise, though other readings may be possible.*