Notes
1. "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.

2. "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; you shall not bow down to them nor 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 fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My Commandments.

3. "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.

4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

5. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

6. "You shall not murder.

7. "You shall not commit adultery.

8. "You shall not steal.

9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."
Reasons To Know & Understand
The 10 Commandments

#1) The Words Of Jesus:
✓ Matthew 5:17-19.
✓ John 14:15, 21

#2) The Words Of Scripture:
✓ I Thessalonians 4:1-3
✓ I John 2:2-3; 3:22-24
✓ II John 1:6
✓ Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14

#3) The Pressure Of Culture: We live in a culture and society which creeps & seeps into our lives.

#4) The Lack Of “Sound Doctrine” In Today’s Church: The emphasis on “grace,” the focus on Christian liberty, and the claim of “legalism” have all launched a disparagement of “commandments,” rules, or standards — I Corinthians 9:1-10.

#5) Understanding The Practical Implications & Applications: The Ten Commandments are not designed to communicate that there are only 10 rules for life and living.
AND
There are also principles which flow out of commandments — I Corinthians 9:1-10.

#6) Damage Control: Not knowing and/or breaking laws have consequences.
The Reason For The Ten Commandments

Why?: The Ten Commandments were all understood and practiced from the days of Creation. They can all be found in the book of Genesis. It is not that before Exodus 20 men are allowed to steal, kill, be immoral, worship idols, serve other gods, but now that is all forbidden.

So WHY?: Why are “The Ten Commandments” given by God to Moses, written on two stone tablets, and presented to God’s people at this point in time?

#1) A significant change has occurred:
   - Up to this time there were 70 souls which moved into Egypt under the leadership of Joseph.
   - When moving to Egypt, they originally lived in Goshen.
   - They grew and multiplied in Egypt and became a great nation (God’s promise to Abraham).
   - They spent 400 years in bondage to the nation of Egypt.
   - In the Exodus, they would now operate as a autonomous nation.
   - Their destination was the Promise Land (God’s promise to Abraham).
   - They would have to displace the many different pagan-polytheistic nations around them.

#2) The Mosaic Law was the sign of the Lord’s covenant with His people -- just as the sign of circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic covenant, or the rainbow was the sign of the Noahic covenant.

#3) The Exodus is a major turning point for the nation of Israel which is now numbered in the millions of people. 6:6).

#4) They were to be a “holy” people -- “Holy” in the sense of “separate.” They were to live differently among the nations and God’s blessing on their community was conditional on their obedience.

The Ten Commandments were the conditions of the covenant.

The Holiness Of The Law

The weight of Law is seen in the surrounding details:
   - Wash your clothes -- Exodus 19:10, 14
   - Don’t touch the mountain lest you die - man or beast -- Exodus 19:12
   - The sounding of trumpets (from heaven) -- Exodus 19:19
   - Great sounds of thunder, lightening, and smoke -- Exodus 20:18
   - Written with God’s own finger -- (Exodus 31:18 makes the point that it was written by God’s own finger.)
   - It was placed in the Ark of the Covenant -- Deuteronomy 10:2
   - Angels were in attendance -- Deuteronomy 33:2
   - On the third day -- A possible prophetic statement

All these should create a reverence, attention, obedience, sobriety, importance, holiness, fear, motivation, etc. (cp. Hebrews 12:18-29)
Basic Facts Concerning The Ten Commandments

The Key Figure - Moses:

- Moses was born of the tribe of Levi, raised in Pharaoh’s palace in Egypt. -- Exodus 2; Deuteronomy 18:15; Genesis 15:13
- “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.” -- Acts 7:22
- Moses is believed to have been born -- 527 B.C.
  Exodus 3 - 80 years old -- 1445 B.C. -- Died at 120 years of age -- Deuteronomy 34:1-6
    - At age 40, left Egypt
    - 40 years in Midian with Jethro
    - 40 years leading the nation of Israel
- “The law of Moses” was one of the understood divisions of the Old Testament Scriptures: “And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” -- Luke 24:44
- Moses was one of the two people who appeared on the Mt. of Transfiguration. -- Matthew 17:4
- Abraham and Moses were the two key figures mentioned by the religious leaders of the Lord’s day.

After The Crossing The Red Sea:

The deliverance out of Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, and heading for the promised land all form the foundation and preface of the giving of the law and The Ten Commandments. *Those events form an argument which precedes the giving of the Law.*

The Old Testament Law:

- The first five books of the Old Testament -- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy -- are called the Pentateuch, “The Books of Moses,” or “The Books Of The Law,” or the Torah
- The Law is broken down into the . . . .
  - **Ceremonial:** Instructions as to the conduct of worship
  - **Dietary:** Instructions regarding the preparation and eating of various plants and animals
  - **Moral:** Moral laws and legal instructions concerning personal practices, civil and criminal actions.
The Ten Commandments

- The Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai approximately three months after leaving Egypt. Compare Exodus 3:12: “This shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Mt. Sinai was also the place where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush -- “Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.” -- Exodus 3:1

- The Ten Commandments were spoken and written in stone by God Himself according to Exodus 20:1.

- The Ten Commandments were given twice -- Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:4-21

- The Ten Commandments are also call the “Decalogue.”

- They were given to Moses on two stone tablets and were placed in the “Ark of the Covenant.”

- Seven of the Ten Commandments are in the negative, three are stated in the “positive.”

- Most of the commandments are stated in the negative: We engage in the same practice because of the principle called “The economy of words.”

When the number of positive examples exceed the negative, it is easier to cite the negative -- i.e. Adam & Eve in the garden -- “not eat of the tree of good and evil.”

When the number of negative examples exceed the positive, it is easier to cite the positive --i.e. marriage vows - “unto thee alone.”

- The first four of the commandments are about our relationship to God, the other six are about our relationship to our fellow man.

- The Ten Commandments were part of God’s standard before Exodus 20. They can all be found stated or implied in the book of Genesis.

  The first: “Put away the strange gods that are among you” - Genesis 35:2
  The second: “Wherefore hast thou (Jacob) stolen my (Laban) gods?” -- Genesis 31:30
  The third: “And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven -- Genesis 24:3
  The fourth: ‘God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it” -- Genesis 2:3
  The fifth: “and (Noah) he was uncovered within his tent.” - Genesis 9:21
  The sixth: “Where is Abel thy brother?” - Genesis 4:9
  The seventh: “God said, “For I also withheld you from sinning against Me” - Genesis 20:6
  The eighth: “and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack” -- Genesis 44:12
  The ninth: “And they took Joseph’s coat . . . and dipped the coat in the blood; “ -- Genesis 37:31
  The tenth: “why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?” -- Genesis 12:18

- The Ten Commandments are all stated and/or implied throughout the New Testament (except for worshipping on the Sabbath, which is replaced for by the pattern of worshipping on “The Lord’s Day.”).

- The Ten Commandments are summarized by Jesus in two “laws” -- Matthew 22:37-40

  Love God with all your mind, heart, soul and strength.
  Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.
Notes
“Rav Saadia Gaon (888-942) wrote Azharot, or liturgical hymns, for Shavuot, in which all 613 commandments are distributed under the headings of each of the Ten Commandments.

Furthermore, the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in 1947 include at least three small scrolls, which contain the Ten Commandments, the Shema (Deuteronomy 6 and 11) and other selected passages from Deuteronomy and Exodus. Esther Eshel, in an exhaustive study of one of those fragments, believes that they were collections of prayers recited at Qumran.”

In addition, the Church Father Jerome, who lived in the Land of Israel (342-420 C.E.) relates that the Ten Commandments were still included in the tefillin [phylacteries] in his day. . . . he says that:

“The Hebrews say that the Sages of Babylon who observe the precepts surround their heads until today with the Ten Commandments written on parchment, and these are what they were commanded to hang before their eyes on their foreheads…”

It is difficult to choose sides in this debate [whether they should be read every day]. On the one hand, the Ten Commandments are very important to Judaism and it is good for Jews to recite them daily and to know them by heart. On the other hand, there is indeed a danger that people will think that “there are different levels in the Torah”; they will ignore the entire halakhic [Jewish law] system and observe only the Ten Commandments.

Therefore, it is good that our ancestors only required the reading of the Ten Commandments in public three times a year, but encouraged their recitation in private all year long. In this fashion, we emphasize their importance without turning them into the only important mitzvot [commandments].


Notes
Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the Law. He came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it, to fulfill all of its demands. To abolish the Law meant that we no longer can be law breakers. To fulfill it means that He met the demands of the law which is then still in force. If His death abolished the Law, then His death did not pay for our sins. No Law means no sin. If the law is no longer in effect, then we need no one to meet the demands of the Law. -- Matthew 5:17

We have been redeemed from the curse of the law, not from obedience to the Law. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.” -- Galatians 3:13.

The Law was designed to be a “school-master” to bring men and women to Christ - Galatians 3:24

The Law was always and will always be in effect.

✓ “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” -- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 -- Such a passage indicates that the same Mosaic standard still applies to New Testament believers.

✓ Even in the eternal city, there will be no sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie” -- Revelation 22:15

✓ The Ten Commandments reflect the very character and essence of Jehovah God.

✓ Even the lost live by a law written on their hearts -- Romans 2:14-15

✓ The law of the Lord is perfect. -- Psalm19:7

✓ The law is to be loved. -- Psalm 119:113, 163, 165

✓ The law is the will of God of all believers because it is Christlikeness.

✓ God’s will includes “nots.”

✓ “The way of the transgressor is hard.” -- What is one transgressing which makes it hard?

✓ Holiness means separating ourselves from the ways of this world. “Be ye holy as I am holy.”

✓ The whole LAW can be summed up with “love God” and “love you neighbor” -- (Matthew 22:37-40). That does not mean that the 10 Commandments are void, but in fact are no different from loving God and loving others.

✓ Other verses about the Law: “the Law is spiritual” - Romans 7:14; keep whole Law and offend in one point - James 2:10; “being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ.” - I Corinthians 9:21; A new heart to obey -- Ezekiel 36:26-27; “Do not . . may be summed up in this one rule” - Romans 13:9-10
https://www.bible-history.com/maps/4-israel-natural-features.html

Notes
The Bible

Though the cover is worn,
And the pages are torn,
And though places bear traces of tears,
Yet more precious than gold
Is this Book worn and old,
That can shatter and scatter my fears.

This old Book is my guide,
’Tis a friend by my side,
It will lighten and brighten my way;
And each promise I find
Soothes and gladdens the mind,
As I read it and heed it each day.

To this Book I will cling,
Of its worth I will sing,
Though great losses and crosses be mine;
For I cannot despair,
Though surrounded by care,
While possessing this blessing Divine.

—Author unknown
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