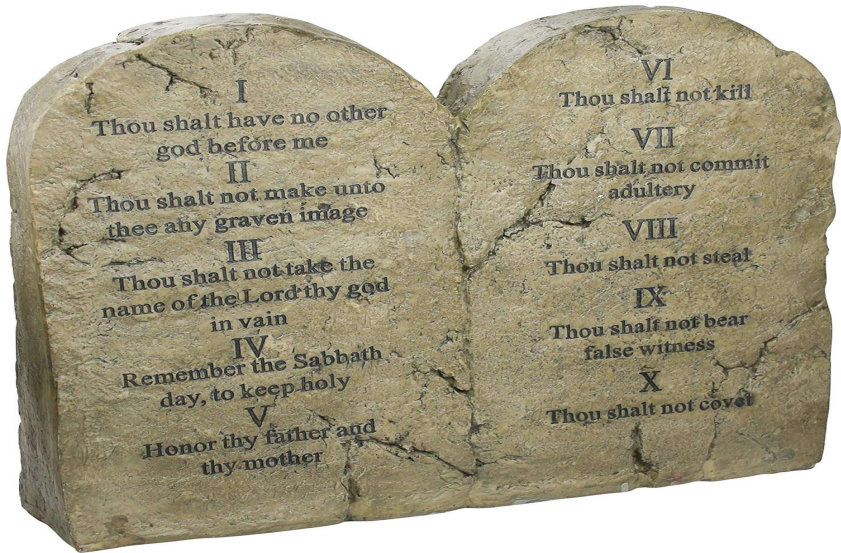


THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 20:1 -17.



Introduction to article -“**Ten Commandments.**” How many of us as students of the “BIBLE” have ever stopped and pondered **why** did God number the commandments? Why are the “Commandments just ten?” God, having confounded the one language at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:6-8); which of the languages did He use when He wrote them? What do they teach us about God? **How profound are they really?** These questions and others not mentioned, at times ponder in the mind of the seeker for **the “Truth”** about God, whose **ways** are past finding out. As we earnestly seek an answer to these questions, let the sent Teacher of righteousness now guide our thoughts into all truth.

The Ten Commandments

Gem Thought - “It is the **first and highest duty of every rational being** to learn from the Scriptures **what is “Truth,”** and then to walk in the light and **encourage others** to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing Scripture with Scripture. With divine help we are to **form our opinions for ourselves** as we are to answer for ourselves before God. The **truths** most **plainly revealed** in the Bible have been involved in **doubt** and darkness by **learned men**, who with a **pretense of great wisdom** teach that the **Scriptures** have a **mystical**, a **secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed**. These men are **false teachers**. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God.” Mark 12:24.

Study

It is written and taught that the **“Law”** of God given amidst the scene of awful grandeur at Mount Sinai, **is His “Will” and “Character.”** (**Patriarchs / Prophets Pgs: 8888888**. But how can we know for sure that it is so? How can we prove the truthfulness of this saying, concerning the **Law**? In the book of Deuteronomy 29:29; we read “The **secret things belong unto the Lord our God**: but those things which are **revealed** belong unto us and to our children **for ever**, that **we may do all the words of this “Law.”**”

The “Law” in Judaism is written on scrolls, but in Christendom it is written in a book called the Bible. The Bible is the acknowledged written Book in which the **“Law” of God** is found.



The first five books of the Bible are called by the Jews “Torah” and the **“Law” the “Decalogue.”** These pictures of the **“Law** beautifully adorned in the imagery of

today's minds, is quite different to that given by God on carved out stones. The artist portrays Moses to whom the Law was given standing at the side of the black tables upon which the Law is written, and Aaron clothed in priestly robes standing at the other side of it.

Since the "Law" of "Ten Commandments" bespeaks the "Will" and "Character" of God, then, a diligent study of this "Law" should prove this saying to be true.

Throughout the books of the Bible, the "Law" is spoken of in many chapters under various titles; but king David was so enthused with the "Law of God," that he chose the Alphabet of the Jews, twenty and two letters to be the headings under which he would collect the various titles ascribed to the "Law." Psalms one hundred and nineteen; is profuse with the various titles given to the "Law.

In this psalm king David refers to the Law as "Testimony" the very title by which they were first called when given by God to Moses, to be placed in the Ark. Exodus 25:16, 21; 31:18; 40:20. Other titles such as "Precepts, Statutes, Thy Word, Ways, Law, Commandments, are all mentioned."

Seven Biblical Titles Of The Law

Now if we were to stop here and sum up the many titles by which the "Law" in Psalms 119 is called; we would find that these titles are "Seven" in number. How interesting? "Seven" is the symbolical Bible numeral for "Perfection." In Psalms 19:7; we read "The Law of the Lord is perfect," Thus these "Seven Titles" even before the endeavour is begun points to "Perfection!"

The aim then, must be to analyse these titles in order to grasp their understanding of the perfect character, and perfect will of God, as set forth in the Law.

To begin the title "Testimony" will be the first in line.

Testimony

Now what does being perfect mean? Bear in mind that the very first title of the “**Law**” when it came from the hand of God, was “**Testimony**.” This title is made up of Nine letters. **Now numbers are esoteric symbols with divine significance.** The numeral Nine has to do with both sides of God’s divine judgment; that is Life or Death. When the judgment is Life, the number represents the Spirit bearing fruit and forward progression. I.e. At the **Ninth Hour** an angel visited Cornelius the centurion, and told him to send for the Apostle Peter who was then residing in Joppa. While the Apostle Peter, “was yet speaking the Holy Spirit fell on all them that heard the word.” Acts 10:1–8, 34–45. Herein is the Spirit bearing fruit and progression.

Nine Negative Judgment - Death, finality. I.e. - Jesus said, - “Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? **Father save Me from this hour**: but for this cause came I unto this hour.” John 12: 27.

“Then He said unto them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful **even unto death** And He went a little father, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O My Father, if it be possible let **this cup pass from Me**: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt.” Matthew 26: 38, 39. “And at the **ninth hour** Jesus cried with a loud voice.....And Jesus cried with a loud voice and **gave up the ghost.**” Mark 15: 34 -38. “Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows yet we did esteem Him **stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.**” Isaiah 53: 4.

The fruit of the Spirit” numbers Nine. Galatians 5:22.

Comments -The Oxford Dictionary explains the word “**Testimony**” thus the Latin root for this **noun** is “**testis**” and is something that serves as **evidence**. (2). A declaration or statement (especially one made under oath) (3). An assertion offering first hand authentication of a fact. (4). A type of assertion a declaration that is made **empathically as if no supporting evidence were necessary.**”

The “**Law**” then, titled “Testimony” from the time given, is the sole evidence that God gives of Himself, that He is “Perfect! “That His “Perfection” embodies two sides of **judgment** Positive - Obedience - life everlasting; and judgment **Negative - disobedience death everlasting!**

Precepts

The “Law” is also titled “**Precepts**” in the book Patriarchs and Prop - hets pg: 305; we read “ **The precepts of the Decalogue**” are adopted to all mankind, and they were given for the instruction and government of all. “**Ten precepts,**” **brief, comprehensive, and authoritative,** cover the duty of man to God and his fellow man; and all based upon the great fundamental principal of love.Jehovah, the eternal, self - existent, Uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship.”

The word **Precepts** is made up of **Eight Letters**, and is the numeral used by God in His divine plans for a “**New Order**. I.e. Only **eight persons** were saved in the ark to begin life anew on the earth. 1Peter 3:20. “And God blessed Noah, and his sons, and said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..**” Genesis 9:1. A male child was given a **new order** on the Eighth-day he was circumcised. Leviticus 12:3. The Eighth day of the Tabernacle Feast an holy convocation Leviticus 23: 34. A new order for the leper and unclean persons, who were made clean on the eighth day. Leviticus 15:14, 29.

Here is what the Oxford Dictionary states on. - **Precepts** - this noun means - “A guiding principle a general **rule intended to control, influence, or regulate conduct.** (2) A rule or principle prescribing a particular **course of action or conduct.** (3) A rule of **moral conduct**; maxim. (4) A commandment or direction **meant as a rule of action or conduct law** a direction or order issued by **an authority** a writ, command or process.”

Comments — Herein is seen that there are attributes manifested in “Perfection.” Authority, guiding principles to regulate conduct, to rule, and to control actions. **To command supreme reverence and worship**, all of which are found within the “Law” of God making it perfect indeed!

Statutes

Statutes - are another title by which the “Ten Commandments” are called. What is the role of **statutes** in God’s perfection? In Psalms 19:8; King David declares, “The **Statutes** of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart....” David’s prayer in Psalms 119: verses 12, 26, 68; etc. is to be taught the “Statutes” in verse 33; he asked to be taught the **“Way” of the statutes**. **What are statutes?** According to David They are right, they are the rejoicing of the heart, and there is also a **Way** in them.

Here is what the Dictionary on the Bible states, of this noun. Statutes - “Archiac (Biblical use) **a law or decree made by a sovereign or by God.**”

Further Dictionary explanations of this noun are, “an ordinance a decree an act of the legislature, of state or country declaring, commanding, or prohibiting something, a **positive law**; the written will of a legislature expressed with all the requisite form of legislation used in distinction from common law.

Biblical statutes are boundaries for holiness. What is interesting is that it’s **primitive root**. brings a **stronger perspective** to the table. Strong’s Concordance #2710 means **lawgiver, governor**, to cut out, to hack, inscribe, engrave, to enact laws, to cut into stone or metal tablets in primitive time, to print. **“Biblical Statutes” may set appointed times such as “Festivals,”** define important customs and even establish **the procedure.**”

Comments - as both **Precepts** and **Statutes** are laws, what is the difference between them? (Answer) **“A Precept is a legal written command**

especially a demand for payment, while a Statute is (legal) common law) legislated rule of society which has been given the force of law by those it governs.”

The explanations given in the above concerning these two nouns “Precepts” and “Statutes” is helpful to the mind in rightly defining their significance. “Statutes” like the word “Precepts” is also made up of “Eight” letters, which is symbolical of a New Order. Thus Statutes 8 plus Precepts 8 when added together $8+8=16$; twice then is the New Order title exemplified in the Law. (1) A perfect Creation. (2) A perfect Plan of Redemption. The number Sixteen is symbolical of “Love” - “God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son...” John 3:16; and in 1Corinthians 13: 4-8; can be found all the attributes that “Love” possesses. The number “Three” is widely accepted in Christendom, to represent the revealed Members of the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is the numeral upon which God has stamped divinity; and illustrates fullness, being complete., and resurrection. I.e. Jesus was resurrected on the third day.

It was God’s love for David, that his son Solomon became king, and the son to build the Temple of the Lord. 1Kings 8:5 –20. The Temple built by king Solomon was finished in the eighth month, (1Kings 6:38); thus was established for the children of Israel a “New Order” a “System” of Worship, that was separate and distinct from all others at that time. Another “New Order” for Israel at that time, was the “ivory throne” over laid with the best gold, from which their king reigned over them the like of which none other kingdom had .

1Kings 10: 18 –20. “Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and over laid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: “ there was not the like made in any kingdom.”

King David was the **eighth son of Jesse**. 1Samuel 17:10, 11; Psalms: 119; is divided into twenty-two sections of eight verses. This numeral “**Eight**” twice found in the titles which identify the “**Law**” in the divine order of things, must represent also the **New Order** in the physical life brought about through **Birth** (baptism); into the spiritual kingdom of God, through which one becomes a “**New Creature**.” John 3:3,5; 2Corinthians 5: 17.

Way

This three letter noun “**Way**” varies with it’s understanding according to how it is used i.e. I do not like the **way** you do things: or please look that **way**; or that **way** is the path to the Bakery Store; etc. It is versatile in it’s application. King David in Psalms 119 verse 33, prayed to be taught the “**Way** of the Statutes.” Here then is an opportunity to explore the title “**Way**.” by which the Law of God is called.

Jesus, when His mission on earth was coming to a close, began to explain to His disciples that He was going away. “Thomas saith unto Him, “Lord, we know not wither Thou goest; and how can we know the **Way**? Answering him, Jesus said, “**I Am the “Way...**” John 14:5–6.

Let the student note, that Jesus claimed the same title by which His Father’s Law is called “**Way**.” This noun is singular in form yet it, has a **threefold significance**; for it reveals the Heavenly Father, Who gave the Law, then gave His Son, and gave His Spirit; without these “**Three**” there is **No way**! God has stamped divinity on the numeral **Three** to represent the Godhead, and all of Christendom accept it.

King David in the very beginning of Psalms 119: verse one states, “Blessed are the undefiled in the “**Way**.” In Numbers 22:32; the angel said to Balaam “....Thy **Way** was **perverse** before Me.” Ecclesiastes 11:5 “...Thou knowest not the **Way** of the Spirit.....”

the Dictionary explains “Way” thus - “**The Biblical Way** - whether

directly or indirectly reveals a **constant indebtedness** to the Old Testament, drawing upon the history of Israel, the exodus from Egypt and the covenant between God and His chosen people.”

Comments - how true is the above commentary. Jesus, through the sacrificial system was the embodiment of that **“Way”** in the Old Testament period for salvation and as He said, the **“Way”** in the New Testament for salvation; for **He came to fulfil the Laws in the Old Testament**. Matthew 5:17. **“....I Am not come destroy but to fulfill.”**

The number “Three, illustrates “fullness, being complete, “For in Him dwelleth **all the fullness** of the Godhead bodily. And ye are **complete in Him** which is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:9-10. It also represents—resurrection. Jesus was resurrected on the **third day**. And it is the number upon which God stamps His divinity. The numerals **“two and three”** represents “Witnesses” 2 Corinthians 13:1 **“....In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”** Manifest was this text at the Baptism of Christ, when (1) The Spirit of God in the likeness of a dove (bronze in colour) descended out of heaven lightning upon Christ. (2) A voice was heard from heaven saying “This is My beloved Son....” Mathew 3:16-17. The Apostle John writes thus of the “True Witnesses;” “There are three that bear record in heaven, the **Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: these three are One!** 1 John 5:7-8;

The “Law” is titled “Way” Christ said “I Am the Way.” They both bear record in the earth of **“Perfection!”**

Law

The next title is **“Law;”** this title is also made up of “Three” letters thus solidifying a double verification of the symbolic numeral three; which illustrates fullness, being complete, and the number upon which God stamped divinity and resurrection. The numbers “Two” and “Three” are the numerals in the Bible that stands for **“True Witness.”**

A man could be put to death for an offence worthy of death by the mouth of two or three witnesses; will it be the same in the last analysis in the “Final Judgment” for there are “Three” that bear record in heaven?

The whole creation is established on set rules—“Law” the Sun and Moon, the Sea, etc. We were born into a world that operates by and with “Law.” How best can we define this three letter word—Law? Let the Dictionary on the Bible help here with a few quotes.

“Law” - is a rule established among a Community enjoining or prohibiting certain action, the system made up of these rules, it’s controlling power, the order produce by it, it’s administration etc. This noun defined as a rule or set of rules, prescribes or prohibits our actions to confirm to a certain order or pattern of behaviour.

“The Law of God” has many aspects and there are a variety of words used in the Hebrew text, for the different categories within His Law which identifies their classification.....The “Law” is God’s Rule Book on how to love Him, with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and how to love those around us as ourselves. Those rules instruct us how to interact socially and morally with our neighbours, how to enteract with our enemies, how to deal in business and with property and contain the “Blueprint” for every act of life in the kingdom of God, and how to avoid the path which leads to death. For sin is the transgression of the Law. 1John 3:4

“.... Those rules were given to the nation of Israel as the Constitution of the nation to guide every division in government, in the judiciary system and in both their religious and private life.”

The SDA BC PG: 896; states that, “Psalms 119 sets forth the joy and happiness that comes to the man who take the “Law” of the Lord as his counsel and guide.”

In that very Psalms verse 72, David through inspiration continued to

write “The **Law** of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of **gold and silver.**” In verse 34, David prays “Give me **understanding**, and I shall keep **Law**; yea I shall observe it with my whole heart.” Verse 174, He speaks of the Law as his “**delight.**” Verse 165. “Great peace have they which **love Thy law....**” And in verse one, “Blessed are the **undefiled in the Way**, who walk in the **Law of the Lord.**” The **Law** of the Lord affords so great spiritual benefits as well as physical, that the resolve is “**So shall I keep Thy Law continually for ever and ever!**”

Thy Word

Two separate words an adjective and a noun makes up this title of the **Law**. “Thy” an adjective meaning belonging to; and “Word” a noun referring to a Law or person—Son of God. . **Seven** are the letters in this title which is the Biblical number for “Perfection.” This title is very profuse, profound and unending in it’s use. It has **No** “Beginning” and No “End!” **The Word in the (Gospel of John) is the second Person in the Trinity.the Word of God is the Bible.**” It can never cease because “Word” as speech, is used in the eternal realms above; and “Word” the “Son” of God a “Being” dwells there too. “**Word**” the **Son of God**, and “**word**” in speech is the means of communication in heaven and earth.

Now how does the Oxford Dictionary define this noun?

Thy Word - the Oxford Dictionary gives several meanings so we will select the explanations that make the point. i.e. “ sound or sounds expressing a meaning independently and forming one of the basic elements of speech.... (2) This represented by **letters or speech.**”

This definition is perfect for “Word” begins with the Hebrew letter “Aleph” and ends with the Hebrew letter “Tau.”

Now “**Thy Word**” is indeed the “Bible” spoken and written, and “The “**Word**” is the Son of God: The adjective **the** (called the definite article) applied to a noun standing for a specific person or thing.” Thus

the adjective “**The Word**” defines the noun - Person Christ –Son of God and separates it from “Thy Word”- Speech belonging to Him, the spoken —Law.

Keep in mind that “Word” is one of the titles by which the Law is called. “**The Word**” in **Person—Son**, and “**Thy word**” **spoken and written** “Two” yet “One;” created all things in heaven and earth. Colossians 1:16-17. “For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers, all things were created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.”

The “Ten Commandments,” —The Law—are a **language** made up of “**words**” written by the finger of God Himself. Exodus 31:18.

Now here is a list of what “The Word” and “**Thy Word**” has done and can do.

Creation - “And God **said** (Person) **Let there be light** and there was light.” Genesis 1:3. “By the **Word (Spoken)** of the Lord (Person) were the heavens made: and all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth. Psalms 33: 6. V.9. “For He **spake**, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. ”

The Apostle Paul, speaks of the **power** of the “**Word**” **when spoken**, in Hebrews 4:12. “For the **Word of God** is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword piercing even to dividing asunder of the soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a “discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

“**Thy Word**” - **A wonder** - Luke 4:36 “ And they were all **amazed**, and spake among themselves, saying, What a “**Word**” is this! for with authority and power He commandeth the **unclean spirits**, and they come out.”

“Thy Word” - heals. “.....Speak the **word** only and my servant shall be healed.” Matthew 8:8.

“Thy Word” was unto me the **joy and** rejoicing of mine heart: for I was called by Thy name.” Jeremiah 15:16.

In Psalms 119:162; it is written “I rejoice at **Thy Word**, as one that findeth great spoil.”

The definition of “**Thy Word**” given by king David in Psalms 119:105; is that of light. “Thy Word is a **lamp unto my feet and light** unto my path.”

“**Thy Word**” reconciles - “O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with **you words** and turn to the Lord....” Hosea 14: 1-2.

“The Word” “In the beginning was “**The Word**,” and **The Word** was with God and **The Word** was God.” Note carefully here, **that** “the” before “Word” identifies the Person, the Son.

“**The Word**” and “**Thy Word**” are inextricably bound together, it is impossible to have one without the other. “**The Word**” is unfathomable, likewise is “Thy Word” which is speech an expression of commands and desire. There is no way of finding out to perfection “The Word” or “Thy Word” above what is **already revealed**, so this **title** “**Thy Word**” which refers to the “Law” of God, shews that the profundity of **God’s “Perfection”** is unsearchable, can never be found **Out** search as you may!

Consider now the question posed by Job the gentile prophet. - “Canst thou by searching **find out God**? Canst thou find out the **Almighty unto “Perfection?”** It is as high as heaven: what canst thou do? Deeper than hell what canst thou know?”

Commandments

“Commandments” is the last title in this Article. Let the student note, that this noun has **twelve letters**. **Twelve** is the last of four numerals that God uses to show His perfection. It is the number that symbolically shows God is in control and actively ruling over the Universe as King. It also represents His perfect plans and government, in the Universe at large.

According to the perfect plan of God, the **first recorded words** of Jesus were at the **age of twelve**. “And He said unto them, How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father’s business.” Luke 2:49. Jesus when on earth ordained **twelve disciples**. Matthew 10:1. Moses sent **twelve spies** to search out the land of Jericho. Numbers 13:1 –17. “Jesus answered, Are there not **Twelve** hours in a day.....” Luke.11:9.

Now one may here ask what is the definition of a Commandment? Answer - The Dictionary explains this word thus -“ Commandment” A a rule or mandate, especially a divine one. In many versions of the Bible, the commandments are mentioned as laws in Exodus 24: 12-13 and named the “Ten Commandments.” Exodus 34:28.

“Commandment” - A divine rule especially the Ten Commandments.” A rich Ruler came to Jesus and said “Master what good thing shall I do to that I may have eternal life.” Jesus replied “.....If thou wilt enter into life, “**Keep the Commandments.**” Matthew 19:16-17.

King David in Psalms 119 verse 32 said, “I will run the **way of Thy commandments....**” v.48. “**My hands** also will I lift unto Thy commandments which I have loved:....” V. 86. “**All** Thy commandments are **faithful:...**”

John 15: 10 “If ye keep My **commandments**, ye shall abide in My love even as I have kept My **Father’s commandments** and abide in His love.” With this assuring promise of Jesus Himself, the “Titles of the Law” are ended.

