

Another Look at the Ten Commandments

Most everyone in the English speaking world has heard of the Ten Commandments, although a majority can't recite all 10 of them. And most don't obey all of them in their entirety.

The Ten Commandments as they are known in our English translations of Scripture are called the "Ten Words" in the Hebrew in Exo. 34:28; Deu. 4:13; Deu. 10:4.

I will be using the KJV as we take a closer look at the meaning of the words in these Ten Commandments. The true names as shown in the Hebrew text are restored.

Exo 20:2 I *am* YHWH thy Elohim, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Yahweh identifies Himself as the one making the covenant here which in reality is part of His marriage proposal to Israel as expressed in Exo. 19:3-7 and accepted by the people in verse 8. He was now going into the details of what He expected from Israel in return for His promises to them.

Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other Elohim before me.

The Hebrew words "*Al Paneh*", (Lit. against my face) which were translated "before" in most English translations, are the words #5921 and #6440 in Strong's Concordance. They actually mean "against, in opposition or counter to."

Therefore, verse 3 could have been translated: ***You shall have no other Elohim, that are in opposition to Me.***

The Hebrew root of the word "*paneh*" means the face or the part of man that turns. In this case, it means turning to or accepting other Elohim.


Exo 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth:

The word translated "Graven image" is "*pesel*" which means to chisel or cut out an idol or carved likeness. The word "likeness" is "*T'munah*" or something fashioned as a shape. We are not to carve out a likeness of anything in heaven or on earth or in the seas to worship as the next verse indicates.

The Catholic Church removed this commandment and split the last one into two so they could retain ten. It's quite obvious why this was done because of all the idols and relics the Catholics cherish.

Exo 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I YHWH thy Elohim *am* a jealous El, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me.

“Bow down thyself” is the translation of the word “*Shachah*” whose root meaning is to corrupt or degenerate irreversibly. We are not to corrupt ourselves irreversibly by serving these carved or graven images. Both the ancient Hebrew Pictographic script and the later Hebrew roots indicate that the meaning is a pitfall designed to impede.

“*Qanna*” which is translated “jealous” means “nest building”  in Pictographic Hebrew. The parent will guard over the nest He has built.



“*Sane*” translated “hate” should be “reject of forsake” according to the root meaning of the word.

The word “*avon*” translated “Iniquity” doesn’t make as much sense in the Pictographic Hebrew. It means to “continue the eye” or watch closely. However, *avon* is used in the rest of scripture where “iniquity” is the correct usage and understanding of the word. It may mean that YHWH watches us closely when we miss the mark.

Paqad translated “visiting” has a root meaning of investing with purpose or responsibility.

Some would say that it doesn’t fit that YHWH would punish the children for the sins of their fathers. Scripture does say that the children shall not be put to death for the sins of their fathers. See Deu 24:16; 2Ki 14:6; 2Ch 25:4. But Exo 34:7 also says the sins of the fathers would be visited upon the children to the 3rd and 4th generations. Maybe they won’t die for these sins, but they certainly can be affected by them.

Exo 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Mercy is from the word “*chesed*”. The root meaning of this word is to devote oneself entirely. The Pictographic Hebrew root *chet samech* () indicates that the meaning is that the one who is strong will support the one who is weaker. The word “keep” is *shamar* and means to hedge about, to observe, guard and protect. The ancient Pictographic Hebrew script () shows the meaning to be a close watching and guarding. Shepherds often built a corral or hedge of thorns around their sheep to keep predators away. We are to hedge about and guard YHWH’s commandments in our own lives to ensure we live according to His expectations. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15).

Exo 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of YHWH thy Elohim in vain; for YHWH will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

YHWH's name reveals His character. We are not to diminish His name by misuse. The word translated "vain" here is "*shav*" which means to bring it to "nothingness" or to "ruin" or to "uselessness". It also means "falsely" or as a "lie". When we call Yahweh any name other than what He revealed to us, we bring it to naught. The Pictographic Hebrew meaning of this word is "devastation". Calling Him by a pagan title or name is a way of devastating or defaming His character and His *kadosh* name.

Guiltless here is the word "*naqah*" and means "made clean". The one who misuses YHWH's name will not be made clean. The Hebrew root word means the same, to cleanse, protect through effort, to be made innocent. The ancient Hebrew root is *nun qof* (נ-ק) where the *nun* indicates an heir, a perpetual kingdom and the *qof* means gathering. This may indicate that the one who continues to bring the name of YHWH to devastation by using it falsely will not inherit the kingdom of YHWH. This is very serious and should not be taken lightly. I have heard preachers say it doesn't matter what name that one calls the Almighty One, it is only His character behind the name that matters. I truly fear for them.

The word translated "take" is "*tisha*", and is actually the verb *nasa* meaning to lift up but it is prefixed with the "ti" meaning "you" - you will lift up". The "lo" preceding it means 'not'. The root of *nasa* is נשנ and also means to "weaken". The Pictographic Hebrew root נשנ gives it the meaning of "continuing to change". You shall not lift up or change the name of YHWH your Elohim falsely.

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Quite a bit of instruction is given here, so the keeping of the Sabbath must be very important to the Father. There is no scripture anywhere in the entire canon of scripture that justifies a change from the 7th day Sabbath to the 1st day of the week (Sunday). This change was instituted by Constantine and the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church admits they made the change on their own authority and not from scripture. They think it is laughable at the railings of the Protestant churches against their beliefs and then observe Sunday themselves submitting themselves to the authority of the mother Catholic Church. The Protestant churches are the harlot daughters of Mystery Babylon (origin of sun worship) of Rev. 17:5

The word translated "Remember" is *zakar* which in Pictographic Hebrew זכר has the meaning of feeding and storing in the head.

The word "*Shabat*" (Sabbath) means to "cease" from your activities or work. The Ancient Pictographic Hebrew gives the meaning of the root *Shin bet* (שבת) as returning to your tent to rest. The *tav* (†) on the end of the word means a "mark" or sign. So it would mean to cease work and rest as a sign of the perpetual covenant made with Elohim (Exo. 31:17). The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign between YHWH and His people forever.

The Hebrew root of the word *Kodesh* (holy) means prepare for the task and dedicate all resources. It means to set something apart for a special function or purpose. We

are also to be set apart to YHWH for His purposes and dedicate all our energy and resources to him as He directs.

Exo 20:9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Labor is "*abad*" and means a work performed for another or to work at a profession. "Work" is *malakah* and is from the same root for messenger (*malak*) or agent, often translated "angel". It would be your employment, business or acting as an agent for someone else.

Exo 20:10 But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of YHWH thy Elohim: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

The Sabbath is the 7th day of the week or commonly called "Saturday" on our Roman calendar. Sunday is the first day of the week and is also indicated as such on the calendars we commonly use today.

You are not to cause anyone to work on your behalf on the Sabbath, which includes going to a restaurant and having someone prepare food for you (buying and selling is also forbidden).

Exo 20:11 For *in* six days YHWH made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore YHWH blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

The word for "rest" is *Nuach* and means to stop movement. The Ancient Hebrew word pictures (𐤎𐤏𐤃) indicate the meaning as to build a wall to stop the continuation of something. YHWH blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.

Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which YHWH thy Elohim giveth thee.

"Honor" is the Hebrew word *Kabed* and without vowel pointing is the same word as *Kabod* often translated as "glory". It means to give the proper weight in a good sense to something, in this case our parents. To give them great importance, esteem and respect. The Pictographic Hebrew shows the palm of the hand which is often cupped, the *bet* represents the family and the *dalet* is the path or way (𐤁𐤀𐤋). The parents direct the path of those in their household or family. They lead us in the way we must go so that when we are old, we will not depart from it.

Giving the proper respect to your parents may cause YHWH to extend your days for a longer life on earth.

Exo 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

The word "Kill" means to murder. The Ancient Pictographic Hebrew word (𐤀𐤍𐤏𐤍) shows a man lying on his side (𐤀) indicating a snare, hunted or as prey. The *resh*(𐤏) represents man and the *chet*(𐤍) is a wall that represents separation. The meaning is that the man is killed purposefully and is separated from his life. The Ancient Hebrew Pictographic script does not seem to indicate an accidental killing, but that the person is hunted or a trap is set for him. It shows premeditation.

Exo 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Adultery is *Na'aph* נִאֲפָה in Hebrew. The root meaning is to turn from one to another, to apostatize. The Pictographic Hebrew (𐤍𐤏𐤍) shows a seed, meaning continuation and offspring, the *aleph* for power and the *pey* for scatter or edge. I think it is showing the meaning to be a cessation of a man continuing to have more heirs or offspring. If the man is the one committing the adultery, his offspring could well be scattered. If it is the woman, her offspring might not be his.

Adam Clarke states that adultery comes from the Latin word *adulterium*, and was probably derived from the words *ad alterius torum*, (to another's bed); for it is going to the bed of another.

Exo 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

The word "steal" is *ganab* in the Hebrew. Its root word means "covertly taking advantage or use of something". The Pictographic Hebrew (𐤂𐤏𐤍) conveys the meaning of walking into a protected enclosure of seeds (garden - *gan*) and gathering them. The adopted ancient root came to mean steal, taking something from a protected enclosure such as a home, garden, corral or store house that belonged to someone else.

Exo 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

The word "bear" is from the Hebrew *anah* meaning to testify or answer. The word translated "witness" is 'ed' meaning testimony. It comes from a primitive root "ud" meaning to establish facts. The Pictographic Hebrew (𐤀𐤍𐤏) indicates repetition or recounting facts about another person or event; in this case falsely. Basically it means to not lie about anything.

Exo 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.

The word "covet" is from the Hebrew word *chamad* חָמַד . It means to desire, value or delight in. The Ancient Hebrew (𐤀𐤍𐤏) seems to mean a separation or drawing out of something. It may mean that to covet is to desire to separate or deprive your neighbor of what he has for your own use.

It is not wrong to desire things, but it is wrong to desire that which your neighbor has, thus depriving him of the continued use of it. This can be understood as in a desire to steal. You wish you had these things instead of him.

As we recall from Scripture, that even as YHWH was writing the Ten Words with His finger on the carved tablets of stone, Israel was already breaking them. Israel today breaks these commandments because of hardness of heart, false teachers, unbelief and a lack of understanding. Many believe the Ten Commandments are just suggestions and are not binding on them. Some think they have been done away at the crucifixion stake of Yahshua along with the rest of the law. However, scripture indicates they are eternal and they will be observed in the age to come. It is my hope that this in depth look at the meaning of the words will give us a fresh understanding of what was in the heart of Elohim when He spoke these words, giving us instructions on how to live a life pleasing to Him.

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