

Timeline of Truth – Commandment #1: No Other Gods Before Me (Exodus 20:1-3)

<p>¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:</p> <p>² "I <i>am</i> the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.</p>	
<p>³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.</p>	<p>Deu 6:14 "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you</p> <p>Jer 25:6 "Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.</p> <p>Jer 35:15 "I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, "Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers. But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.</p> <p>10 Commandments Overview</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>You shall have no other gods before me.</i> 2. <i>You shall not make for yourselves a carved image.</i> 3. <i>You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain</i> 4. <i>Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy</i> 5. <i>Honor your father and your mother (+PROMISE)</i> 6. <i>You shall not murder</i> 7. <i>You shall not commit adultery</i> 8. <i>You shall not steal</i> 9. <i>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor</i> 10. <i>You shall not covet.</i> <p>Further Observations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>8 negative "shall nots"</i> • <i>2 positive commands (remember; honor)</i> • <i>Commands are relationship oriented:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>FIRST FOUR deal with our relationship with GOD.</i> ○ <i>LAST SIX deal with our relationship with PEOPLE.</i> • <i>10 commandments are a highlight of key areas. God then gives hundreds of commands (over 600) to explain and give more details.</i> • <i>The 1st command regarding people relates to protecting family structure</i> • <i>The 2nd second command regarding people relates to protecting life</i> • <i>The 3rd third command regarding people relates to protecting marriage</i> • <i>Interestingly, the command with the most information (largest amount of text) is #4.</i>

14	Yet I've become convinced it is one of the most powerful expressions of God's love in all of Scripture.
14	These ten statements are all-encompassing, touching virtually every part of our lives.
15	All I need to know is what God is plainly saying to me on the pages of my Bible.
15	[People] hear the clank of chains and the rattle of padlocks...
15	[People think] "God is a prude. God is a killjoy. God is a harsh old grandfather with a long, gray beard and bushy eyebrows who doesn't want anyone to have any fun—ever."
15	The enemy began [this line of reasoning] with Eve back at the dawn of creation when he said, "Has God <i>really</i> forbidden you this lovely fruit? Oh my. What a pity. What a shame. He knows that if you ever tasted from this tree, you'd be like a god. Nothing could hold you back. You think the Garden of Eden is nice now? You ain't seen nothin'. God wants to keep you from the tang and sweetness of life. True freedom means freedom from confining restrictions such as these.
15-16	Is he right? Are the Ten Commandments harsh and negative...narrow and legalistic...cold and confining? Could there be a brighter, warmer, more passionate side to his familiar portion of Scripture we may have missed through the years? Is it possible we've misunderstood the first few pages of God's love letter, the very words that set the Ten Commandments in context?
16	Context – Ex 19:3-6 (see page 17-21)
18	Did the Lord deliver these people out of four hundred years of slavery in Egypt just to browbeat them and brutalize them in the wilderness? Do we ever stop to consider just how much the Lord longed after these people and delighted in them?
29	But God understands the long-term <i>consequences</i> of disobedience...the consequences of life apart from His help and His blessing.
30	<i>God, better than anyone else anywhere, understands how life works!</i> The reason He gave us these commands is because He knows the consequences of each decision.
30	The Ten Commandments will keep us from destruction. Carefully heeding these ten warning signs in the power of the Holy Spirit will change the whole course of our lives. It will allow us to discover our very destiny as a child of God.
31	He knows what we can <i>become</i> in Him as we are obedient. He doesn't want us to miss that opportunity. He holds it out before us, and He knows that His commandments, as we are enabled to live in them by the power of His indwelling Son, point the way toward that future. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
34-35	Read marked...