Exodus 20

The Ten Commandments

1And God spoke all these words, saying,

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.

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.

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 the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

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

13“You shall not murder.

14“You shall not commit adultery.

15“You shall not steal.

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

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."

18Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” 20Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to
test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." 21The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Laws About Altars
22And the LORD said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven. 23You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold. 24An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you. 25If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it. 26And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, that your nakedness be not exposed on it.’

Exodus 21

Laws About Slaves
1“Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. 2When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. 3If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out alone. 5But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ 6then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

7“When a man sells his daughter as a slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do. 8If she does not please her master, who has designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has broken faith with her. 9If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her as with a daughter. 10If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights. 11And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money.

12“Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death. 13But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee. 14But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.

15“Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

16“Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.

17“Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.
18“When men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist and the man
does not die but takes to his bed, 19then if the man rises again and walks outdoors with his
staff, he who struck him shall be clear; only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall
have him thoroughly healed.

20“When a man strikes his slave, male or female, with a rod and the slave dies under his
hand, he shall be avenged. 21But if the slave survives a day or two, he is not to be
avenged, for the slave is his money.

22“When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out,
but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman’s husband
shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23But if there is harm, then
you shall pay life for life, 24eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,
25burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

26“When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let
the slave go free because of his eye. 27If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or
female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.

28“When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh
shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. 29But if the ox has been
accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and
it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death.
30If a ransom is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life
whatever is imposed on him. 31If it gores a man’s son or daughter, he shall be dealt with
according to this same rule. 32If the ox gores a slave, male or female, the owner shall give
to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

Laws About Restitution
33“When a man opens a pit, or when a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a
donkey falls into it, 34the owner of the pit shall make restoration. He shall give money to
its owner, and the dead beast shall be his.

3“When one man’s ox butts another’s, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and
share its price, and the dead beast also they shall share. 30Or if it is known that the ox has
been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has not kept it in, he shall repay ox for
ox, and the dead beast shall be his.