

Primary Source

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments, according to the book of Exodus in the Jewish Torah, and in the Christian Bible, are laws for life given by God to Moses and the Hebrews of Israel. Great emphasis of the Ten Commandments is also placed in the three verses of the Quran, the sacred book of Islam. Although the Commandments are a guide for the three religions, Christian theologians place much more emphasis on the Ten Commandments as a moral law of God to guide society.

Directions: Read the Ten Commandments and answer the questions below. Each sentence is numbered.

THE HOLY BIBLE

Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words:

1. ² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before[a] me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.
2. ⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
3. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the

Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

4. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
5. ¹³ "You shall not murder.
6. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.
7. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal.
8. ¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
9. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant,
10. [shall not covet] his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Hey a table! Woo Hoo! Summarize the Ten Commandments in your own words in the table below.

COMMANDMENT NUMBER	SUMMARY
1	I am the only god. No other gods.
2	Do NOT worship other gods but me.
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	(covet means to yearn to possess or have something)

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____



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11. The Jewish religion was revolutionary during a time in history when societies around the world worshipped many gods. Why was Judaism so revolutionary? _____

12. Which of the commandments describe the Hebrews' relationship with God? _____

13. Why would the Sabbath(rest day) be a benefit of an agricultural society consisting of servants and slaves?

14. The Ten Commandments formed the basis of Jewish laws in their society.
Which commandments protect the family? _____

15. Which commandments protect human life? _____

16. Which commandments protect people's possessions? _____

17. Which commandments are the basis of our government today? _____

18. In your opinion, which three commandments are YOUR most valued? Why?

1. _____
Why? _____

2. _____
Why? _____

3. _____
Why? _____
