

Ten Commandments (Exodus:20 1-17; Bold)
Applications (Patriarchs and Prophets Ch 27; italicized)

1. “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”

Love and serve Jehovah (He causes to become) over everything. Remove anything that lessens love or service for Him.

2. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven 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: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them.”

Worship God directly without using images. They lower our thoughts of God.

“Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.”

Children suffer from their parents’ wrongdoing but are only punished by God as they continue in wrongdoing. Wrong thoughts and actions are transferred to three and four generations.

“Showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.”

True worshippers of God receive mercy for thousands of generations.

3. “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.”

Use God’s name with honor. Do not take false oaths, commonly swear, or repeat God’s name carelessly.

4. “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: 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: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

We honor God as creator and law-giver by keeping our thoughts on worship on the seventh-day Sabbath. Necessary and merciful work honor God on Sabbath but not common work. Business and common talk are like doing the actual things that dishonor the Sabbath, including our visitor’s conversation.

5. “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

Children should love, respect, and obey their parents as representatives of God, lightening their cares, guarding their reputation, and comforting them in old age. This promise applies to ministers, rulers, and others with godly authority. God promises faithful children long life on earth and eternity in heaven.

6. “Thou shalt not kill.”

Unjust actions that shorten life; hatred and revenge; selfish neglect of others and self, self-indulgence, and overwork does not honor God.

7. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Anything that feeds sensual thoughts and actions does not honor God.

8. “Thou shalt not steal.”

Fraud in heaven’s books include slave trading, wars of conquest, theft, robbery, unfair trade, nonpayment of debts or wages; and taking advantage of other’s ignorance, weakness, or misfortune.

9. “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”

Lying to others with a word, eye glance, hand motion, facial expression; intentional overstatement, hinting at an error or exaggeration to mislead; misrepresentation to injure another’s reputation; gossip, and truth suppression to injure others does not honor God.

10. “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s.”

God is not honored by selfish desires for things belonging to others, which are like wrongdoing against others.

(Dr. Easton A. Reid; February 17, 2026)