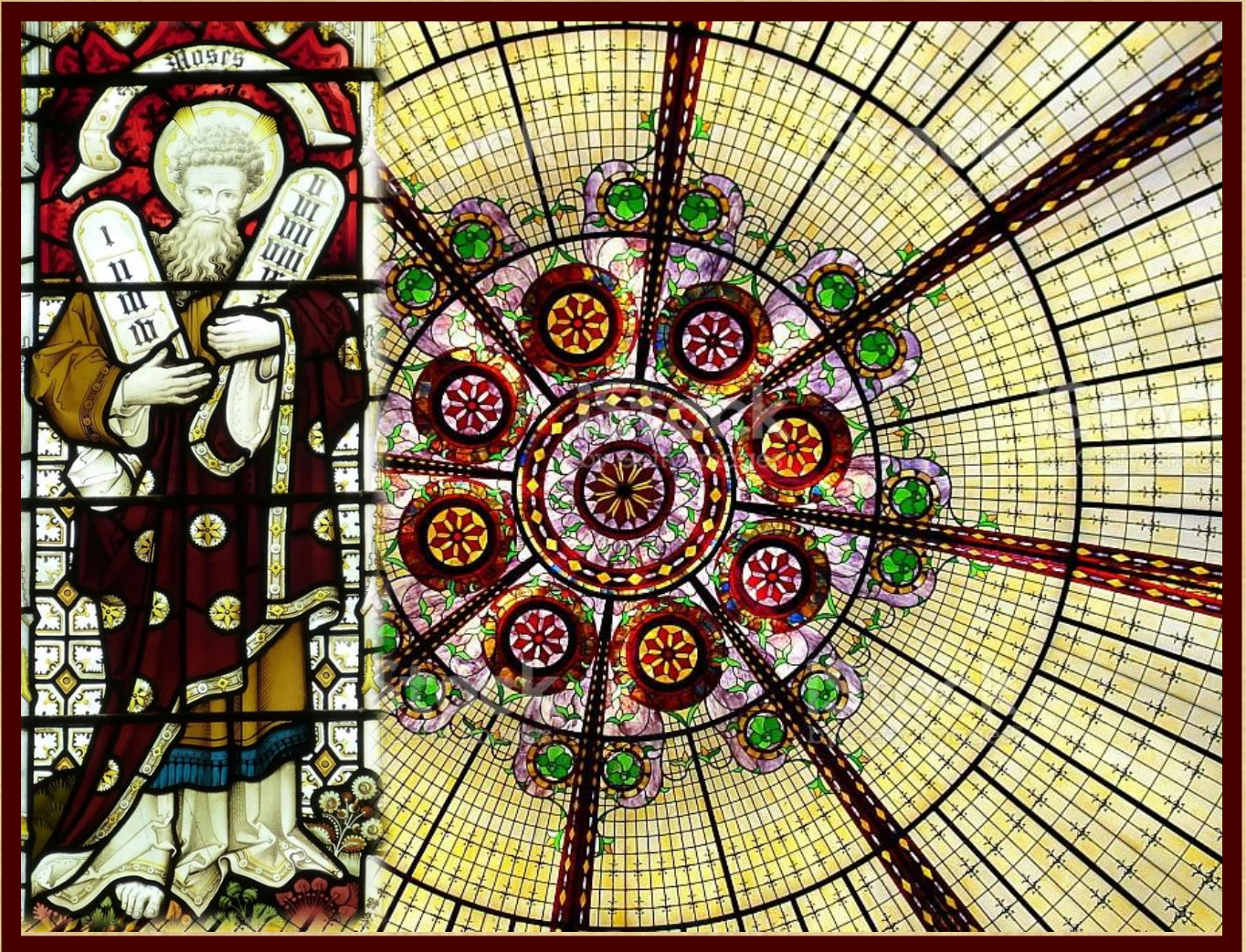


Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:3-17



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In this hectic and speeded up world, we may have forgotten the existence of the Ten Commandments.

In that case, let me remind you: they are in the Holy Scriptures, in the Book of Exodus, Chapter 20, verse 3 through 17 of the Old Testament.

If you believe that because a very long time has gone by, they are out of date, I would say they aren't, they are more up to date than ever. And whoever thinks that because they are in the Old Testament they are "demodé" and were replaced by the New Testament, I would say that it is not so but that both the Old Testament and the New Testament are intertwined; they are not two different testaments. They belong together.

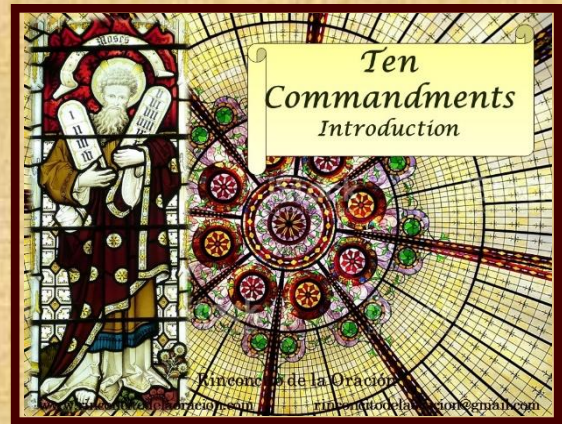
In the Gospel of St. Matthew 22: 34 – 40 of the New Testament, Jesus himself referred to them when the Pharisees asked him which was the great commandment of the Law. What Jesus did was divide or organize the Ten Commandments into two different categories. The first four refer to our behavior towards God, the following six refer to our behavior towards others. Within these two groups the entire Ten Commandments are implicit and all the Law and prophets depend on them. This simplification does not eliminate the Ten Commandments but summarize them showing us the core of God's will for His people.

Thus, we may ask ourselves, what does God expect from His people? What does He expect from them after mankind fell into sin due to disobedience?

What God expects from mankind is obedience to His Holy will read in Scripture (Micah 6:8).

And what is the first thing that God revealed to both man and woman as a rule to obey?

The rule that God gave us is to comply and follow has been the moral Law (Romans 2:14), in which the Ten Commandments are summarized (Exodus 20: 3 – 17).



And in what way should we summarize the intention of these Ten Commandments? Loving, “... *the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind ... and loving thy neighbor as thyself.*” (Matthew 22: 37 – 39).

And what would be the preamble of these Ten Commandments and their teachings?

The preamble is: “*I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage*”. (Exodus 20:2). When we move away from God and stop obeying His commandments to do as we wish, in a certain way, we fall into sin which is a way of remaining trapped in “Egypt”, so we continue being slaves of sin. It is there where he shows His immense love by which He has come to redeem us through His son Jesus Christ.

Because God is our Lord and Redeemer, we should follow all His commandments. That is His basic teaching.

The problem is that we have not followed the two commandments, and much less all ten. And further, we are aware that Jesus Himself was the only one who followed the Law perfectly, whether they be all ten or two. He never needed to sacrifice Himself because of His sin for He is Holy with no stain whatsoever, that is why it was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. “*For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens...*” (Hebrews 7:26).

In the next unit, we shall start analyzing the “Ten Commandments.”

Translation: E.G. Monteagudo

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