

12.15 God Gives Laws (Exodus 20:1–23:33; Deuteronomy 5:1–33)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools

- “Life of Moses” Series 2 Flash-a-Cards from A Beka Book and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) *Herein Is Love Commentary Series; Exodus, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002.
- (optional) If the teacher wishes to teach each of the Ten Commandments individually, a good resource is “Why Did God Give the Commandments?” Series L¹ and L² (Volumes 1 and 2), Children’s Ministry International, Inc., Tucker, GA, ©2000. Each lesson includes a catechism question, a memory verse, a Bible story, a song to teach the memory verse, a review game, and creative expression. All of these elements have printed visual aids that come with separate flocked backing that the buyer attaches.
- (optional) Another helpful resource for each of the commandments is *Kids’ Travel Guide to the 10 Commandments: Thirteen Lessons on Right and Wrong*, Carol Mader, Group: Loveland, CO, ©2001.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *man*: a term used to represent all people
- *covenant*: an agreement between two or more people
- *fear of God*: being aware that the Almighty God is always watching me
- *angel*: a divine spirit that occasionally manifests itself in physical form

Scripture

Exodus 20:1 (NIV) And God spoke all these words: 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 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. 7 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. 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.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land 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 give false testimony against your neighbor. 17 You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”
[End of Ten Commandments.]

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” 21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

22 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: 23 Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold. 24 “‘Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. 25 If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. 26 And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.’

Exodus 21

Vv. 1–11: Treatment and redemption of slaves

Vv. 12–27: Personal injuries by man

Vv. 28–36: Personal injuries by animals

Exodus 22

Vv. 1–15: Property rights

Vv. 16–31: Interpersonal relationships

Exodus 23

Vv. 1–9: Personal holiness

Vv. 10–13: The Sabbath and land

Vv. 14–19: Three national feasts—Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Harvest

Exodus 23:20 “Behold, I am going to send an angel before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him. 22 But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 For My angel will go before you and bring you in to the land of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will completely destroy them. 24 You shall not worship their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds; but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their sacred pillars in pieces. 25 But you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst. 26 There shall be no one miscarrying or barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days. 27 I will send My terror ahead of you, and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. 28 I will send hornets ahead of you so that they will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites before you. 29 I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. 30 I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land. 31 I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River Euphrates; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you. 32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods. 33 They shall not live in your land, because they will make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”

Deuteronomy 5:1 Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully. 2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. 3 The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, *with* all those of us alive here today. 4 The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, 5 *while* I was standing between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain. He said, 6 ‘I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 7 ‘You shall have no other gods before Me. 8 ‘You shall not make for yourself an idol, *or* any likeness *of* what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 9 You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your

God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 10 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 11 ‘You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. 12 ‘Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.

16 ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you. 17 You shall not murder. 18 You shall not commit adultery. 19 You shall not steal. 20 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 21 You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.’

22 “These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain from the midst of the fire, *of* the cloud and *of* the thick gloom, with a great voice, and He added no more. . . . 23 And when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. 24 You said, ‘Behold, the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives. 25 Now then why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer, then we will die. 26 For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? 27 Go near and hear all that the LORD our God says; then speak to us all that the LORD our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do *it*.’

28 “The LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken. 29 Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever! 30 Go, say to them, “Return to your tents.” 31 But as for you, stand here by Me, that I may speak to you all the commandments and the statutes and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe *them* in the land which I give them to possess.’ 32 So you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the way which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong *your* days in the land which you will possess.”

Introduction/Review:

God revealed Himself to His people in what ways at Mount Sinai? [A thick cloud, fire, lightning, a very loud trumpet sound, shaking mountain.]

Story:

God spoke

While all of this frightening activity was happening on Mount Horeb/Sinai, God spoke directly (“face to face”) to His people from the middle of the fire, the cloud, and the thick gloom with a great voice. What He said is known as the Ten Commandments. These words are so important that I want you to hear every word of them.

[Teacher, read or have others assist you in reading the passage, Exodus 20:1–17 (NIV), as found in the enlarged font on two pages below and singing the song, “Exodus 20:1–17,” also found below. Refer to the shortened list as found in the visual aids below for younger students and sing “Stop! It’s the Law” found below. Both songs are on the “Songs” page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.]

Notice that the first four commandments deal with our duty to God—have no other gods before Him, have no idols, treat His name with respect, set aside one day per week for worshiping Him. The fifth through tenth commandments show how we should treat other people—honor parents, do no murder, do no adultery, do not steal, do not lie, do not covet.

The people feared

The people heard God speak as He gave them these commandments in the context of a thick and dark cloud, fire, lightning flashes, a very loud trumpet sound, and a shaking mountain. They were overwhelmed with fear to the point that they moved back a distance from the mountain. All the leaders of the tribes approached Moses and pled, “Speak to us yourself, and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

This was their reasoning: They said, “The LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen today that God speaks with man; yet man lives. This great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer, then we will die. You go near, Moses, and hear all that the LORD our God says; then speak to us all that the LORD our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do it.”

Oh, they had a good dose of the might and majesty of God. It was something they should remember forever!

God responded

God was pleased with this apparent righteous fear of Him. He said, “I have heard what the people have spoken to you. They have done well in what they have spoken. Oh, that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!”

What did God say would cause the people to have things go well with them? [Fearing God and keeping His commandments always.]

Moses tried to allay the people’s fear by saying, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” What was the fear of God supposed to do? [Keep them from sinning.] Oh, that’s what the fear of God will do for us today too; it will keep us from sinning.

Thus, the people kept themselves away from the mountain while Moses went back up into the thick darkness to God, who told him to tell the Israelites this: “You saw with your own eyes that I have spoken to you from heaven. So do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.”

That’s twice that God has said the same thing: “Do not make any gods besides Me—no gods of silver or of gold.”

God instructed

God continued to instruct Moses for three more chapters in the book of Exodus. Here’s a list of some of the topics God covered. [Show chart found at the end of this lesson.]

Treating slaves well

Dealing with personal injuries by man

Dealing with personal injuries by animals

Property rights

Interpersonal relationships

Personal holiness

The Sabbath and the land

Three national feasts—Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Ingathering

An Angel would lead

God cautioned His people to obey someone special who would go with them. Who would that someone special be? Listen. “Behold, I am going to send *an angel* before you to guard you along the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Be on your guard before him and obey his voice.”

So this special person is described as an angel. Let’s see if we can identify him further. God continued, “Do not be rebellious toward him; for he will not pardon your transgression since My name is in him.”

That’s interesting. Nowhere in Scripture do we read of an angel’s forgiving sins. Nowhere do we read of an angel’s having God’s “name in him.” Surely, this is more than a “common” angel, for He has qualities like God. Indeed, as Moses learned at the burning bush, the “angel of the LORD” who appeared to him identified Himself as God—the one true “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” (Exodus 3:2–7).

Acts 7:35–38 tells us this Angel (with a capital A) who had appeared to Moses in the bush is the same Angel who, in this story, was with him in the wilderness and “spoke to him at Mount Sinai.” This same Angel was God Himself, Jesus in preincarnate form.

God warned

As God continued His instructions, His two-way covenant showed up in the statement, “*If* you truly obey His (the Angel’s) voice and do all that I say, then I will bless you. My Angel will go before you. But be warned about this important matter: You shall not worship the gods of the people in that land. You shall utterly overthrow them and break their sacred places.”

God promised

“*If* you shall serve the LORD your God, He will—.” Now look at this list; see all that God would do for them. [Teacher, display the list as found at the end of the lesson.] He would—

Be an enemy to their enemies
Send His Angel to go before them
Bring them into the land
Bless their bread and their water
Remove sickness from their midst
See that no one miscarried or was barren
Fulfill the number of their days
Send His terror ahead of them
Throw into confusion all the people among whom they came
Make all their enemies turn their backs to them
Send hornets ahead of them so that they would drive out the people of the land
Make them become fruitful and take possession of the land
Fix their boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River
Euphrates
Deliver the inhabitants of the land into their hand

What a wonderful list of blessings that God would perform! Nevertheless, the blessings were not given without another solemn warning: “You shall make no covenant with the people of the land or with their gods. If you do, they will make you sin against Me, and if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.” In other words, worshiping those false gods would truly bring them to a terrible end.

On the other hand, obeying would bring blessing. Moses admonished, “You shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you. [Teacher, point your hand ahead.] Do not turn aside to the right or to the left. [Point your hand in these directions.] You shall walk in all the way which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you will possess.”

God’s laws are important; they show us His character. Those who know God want that character to be shown to others. That’s one reason why God demands obedience of His people. Another reason is “that you

may live and that it may be well with you.” His commandments are not grievous.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
He is that Angel who met Moses at the burning bush and was with Moses in the wilderness at Sinai.
- Obey God’s commandments. They are not for your salvation, but they are for your good as well as for a testimony to our great God.
- Object lesson: Bring a stethoscope or show a picture of one (found below). Ask a student what its use is. Ask why one would be needed. (We can’t see our heart because it’s inside our chest. We use a stethoscope to listen to find out if something is wrong.) Explain that God knows something is wrong with our hearts. Every person is born with sin in the heart, but since we can’t see inside our hearts, we need something to help us see our sin! Just as a doctor uses a stethoscope to listen, God uses the Ten Commandments to show people their sin. Can a stethoscope make a sick heart better? No, it just shows something is wrong. Can the Ten Commandments make us better people? No, they can’t. The law shows us we need Jesus to change us. The remedy for sin is found only through faith in Jesus Christ (from eternitynow.org, a website that seems to be unavailable now).

Activities:

- Play dough: hornets (bees); three *I*’s, one *V*, one *X* for Roman numerals, often used to number the Ten Commandments
- Snack: Sugar cookies in the shape of letters *I*, *V*, and *X*.
- Review Roman numerals I–X (I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X).
- For a shortened form of the Ten Commandments, sing “Stop! It’s the Law” found below or at teachingthebibleto kids.org, where an audio and visuals are found.
- Review the unilateral/unconditional (“I will _____”) and bilateral/conditional (“If you do _____, I will _____”) aspects of a covenant. Which type of covenant did God make with the people in this story? [Bilateral/conditional—“If you obey, I will bless.”]
- For younger students practice an obeying-rules game: Make a big red card and a big green card. Instruct students that when you hold up a green card, they may take one step, and if you hold up a red card, they have to stay in one place. Play until the children end up at a designated line (from Danielle’s Place online).
- Play Hangman game for the Ten Commandments. (See separate document, “12.15k, 10 Commandments Hangman Game,” on the “Lessons” page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.)
- To remember the order of the Ten Commandments, use the mnemonic device found in the boat picture below. The letters *B I N S* on the boxes in the boat stand for *bins* but also for the words *before Me*, *idols*, *name*, and *Sabbath*—hint words for the first four commandments. The boat name, *Honor* (#5). The letters *M A S T* on the mast remind of *murder*, *adultery*, *stealing*, and *testimony* (#6–9). *Cove* written on the water reminds of *covet* (#10) (by Julie Beeston; unknown internet site).
- Review questions: (Game: Print, back with paper towel, and cut out each of the Ten Commandments found below. Students may place a commandment on a flannel board (or in a pocket chart) for each correct answer.)
 1. The Ten Commandments are divided into two sections. What are they? Duty to—. [Duty to God; duty to people.]
 2. Name one commandment that deals with our duty to God. [Have no other gods before Him, have no idols, treat His name with respect, set aside one day per week for worshiping Him.]

3. Name one commandment that deals with our duty to people. [Honor parents, do no murder, do no adultery, do not steal, do not lie, do not covet.]
4. When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. What did they say to Moses? [“Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”]
5. What command did God say two times in this passage? Hint: “Do not make—.” [“Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.”]
6. God said He would send whom to guide, guard, and bring them to the land? [“My angel.”]
7. How do we know this Angel was God? [He can forgive or not forgive sin; God’s name would be in Him; He, the same angel, was identified as God at the burning bush and was now with Moses at Sinai.]
8. God said, “*If* you truly obey the Angel’s voice and do all that I say, then I will bless you.” What is the name of this kind of covenant? [Bilateral or conditional.]
9. Name two of the fourteen blessings God said He would give if His people were obedient. [Be an enemy to their enemies; send His angel to go before them; bring them in to the land; bless their bread and their water; remove sickness from their midst; see that no one miscarried or was barren; fulfill the number of their days; send His terror ahead of them; throw into confusion all the people among whom they came; make all their enemies turn their backs to them; send hornets ahead of them so that they would drive out the people of the land; make them become fruitful and take possession of the land; set their large boundaries; deliver the inhabitants of the land into their hand.]
10. Trick question: In which direction—right or left—did God say His people could go from His commandment? [He said, “You shall *not* turn aside to the right *or* to the left.”]

Memory Verses: The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1–17 (NIV)—And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. 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. 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, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 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. 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.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

(Students will continue to memorize this passage through all the remaining lessons on Moses. Use hand motions found below or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3MZnOPmWVY> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr1wzb4SXh4>. An enlarged-print copy of this passage is found below. In addition, sing the song, “Exodus 20:1-17,” or a shorter song, “Stop! It’s the Law,” found below and on the “Songs” page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.)

Handwork:

- Print the enlarged copy of Exodus 20:1–17 found below on two sides of a paper. Have students draw simple illustrations of each commandment. Encourage students to memorize this passage at home.

man

covenant

fear of God

angel

- I You shall have no other gods before Me.**
- II You shall not make for yourself an idol.**
- III You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**
- IV Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**
- V Honor your father and your mother.**
- VI You shall not murder.**
- VII You shall not commit adultery.**
- VIII You shall not steal.**
- IX You shall not give false testimony.**
- X You shall not covet.**

Other Laws Given to Israel

Treating slaves well

Personal injuries by man

Personal injuries by animals

Property rights

Interpersonal relationships

Personal holiness

The Sabbath and land

Attending three national feasts—

Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Ingathering

If the people obeyed, God said He would

Be an enemy to their enemies

Send His angel will go before them

Bring them in to the land

Bless their bread and water

Remove sickness from their midst

See that no one miscarried or was barren

Fulfill the number of their days

Send His terror ahead of them

**Throw into confusion all the people among whom
they came**

Make all their enemies turn their backs to them

**Send hornets ahead of them to drive out the people
of the land**

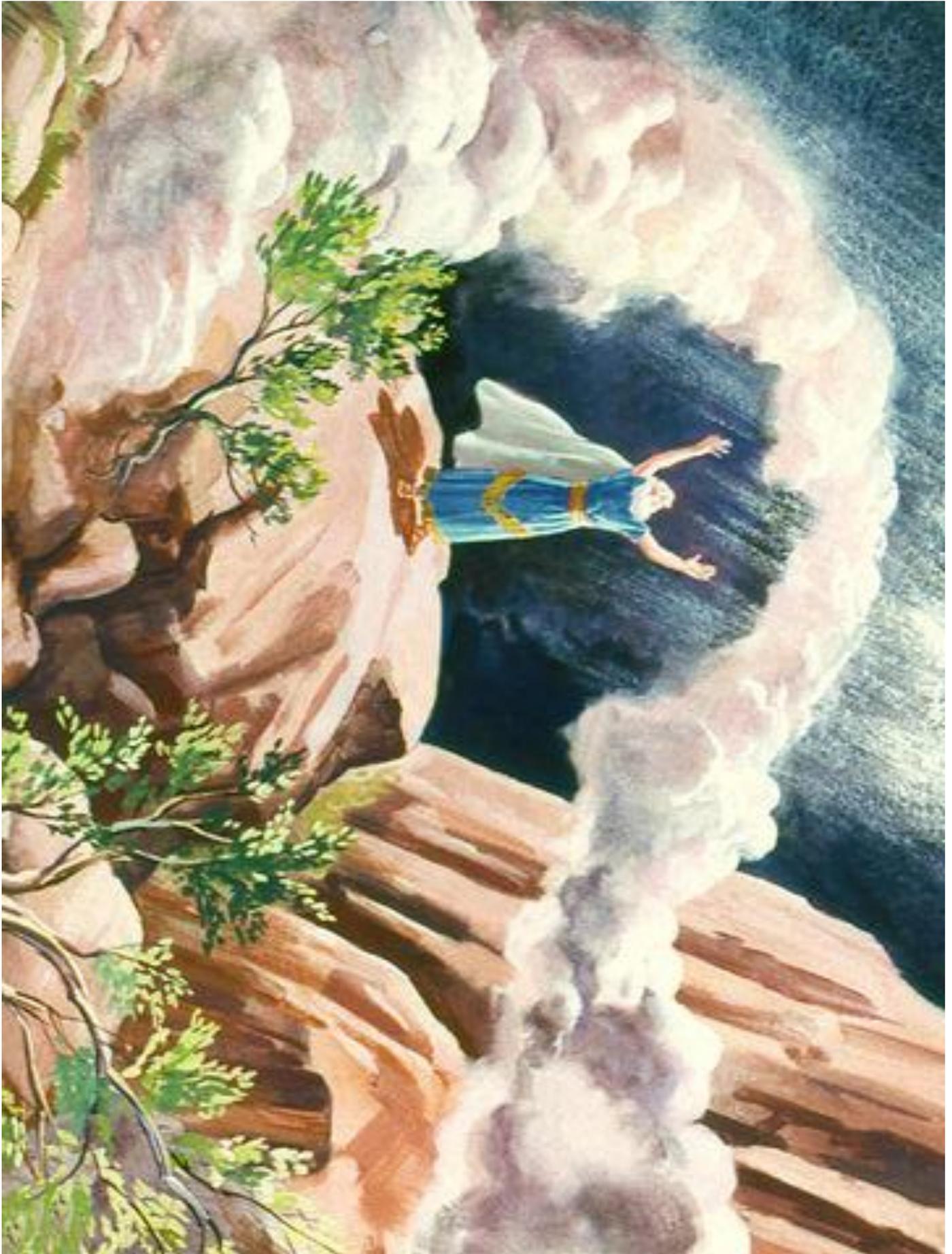
**Make them become fruitful and take possession of
the land**

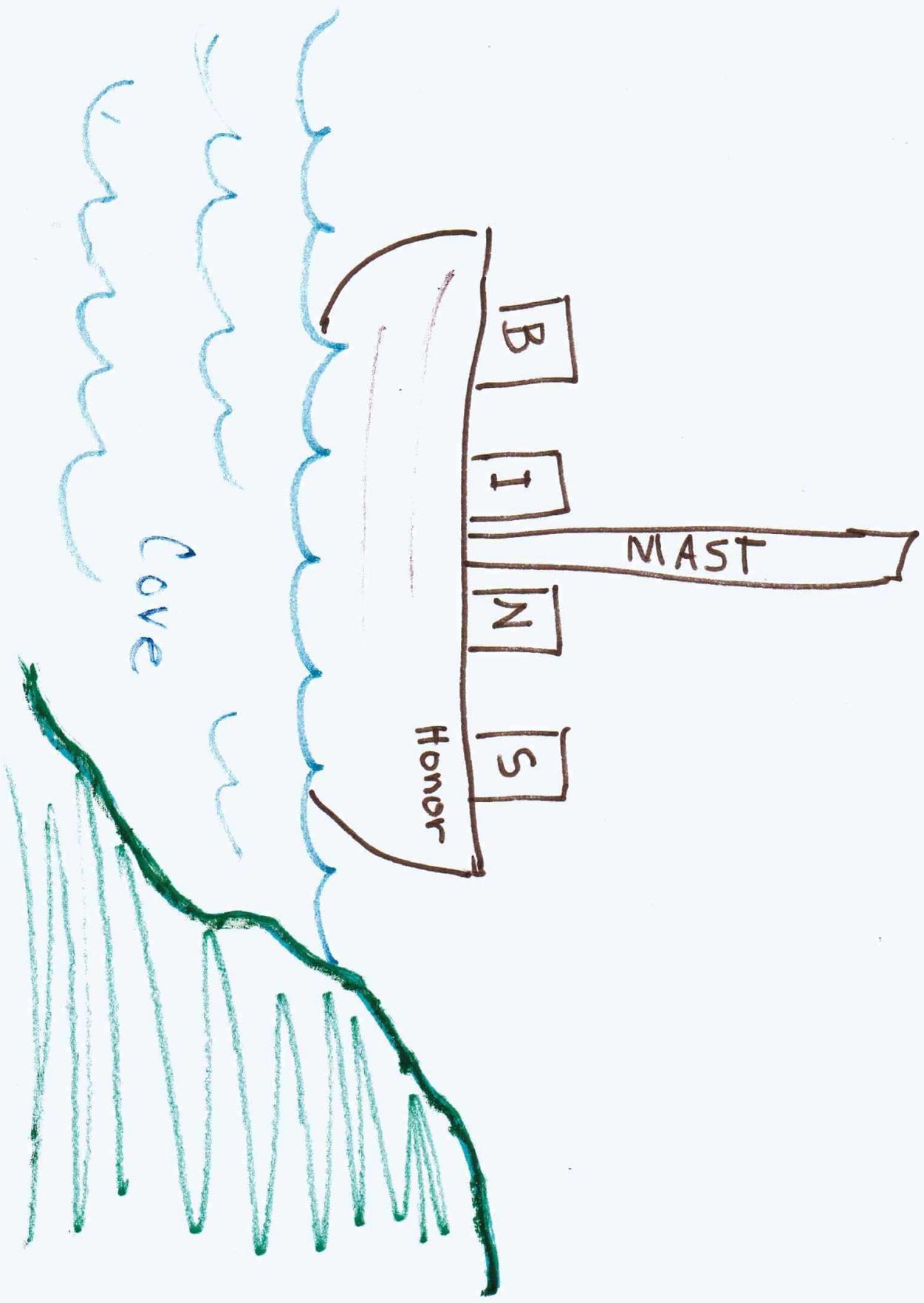
Fix wide boundaries

Deliver the inhabitants of the land into their hand









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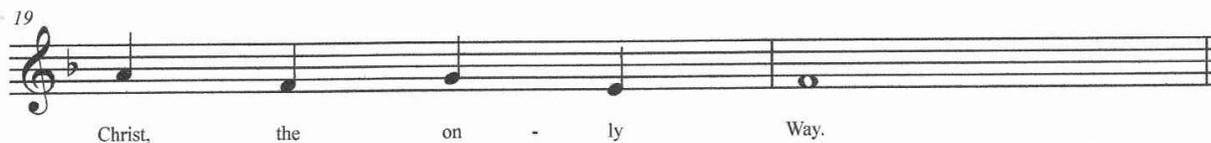
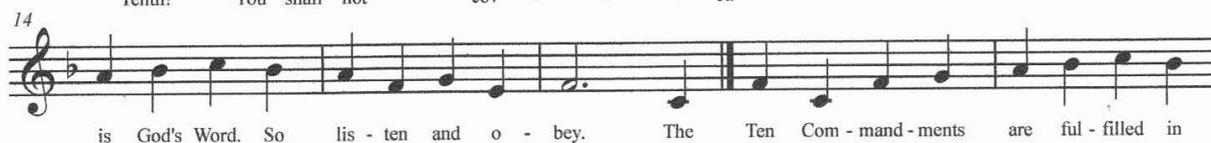
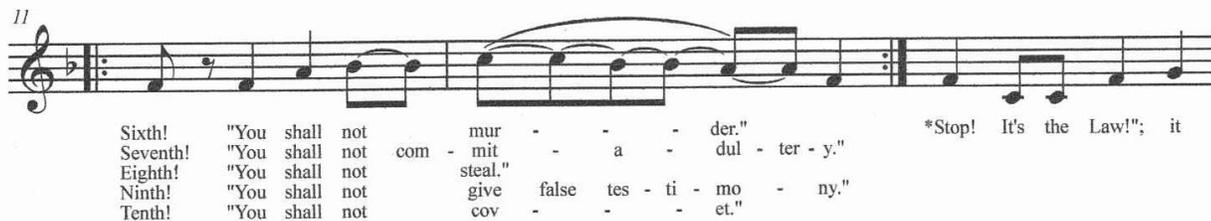
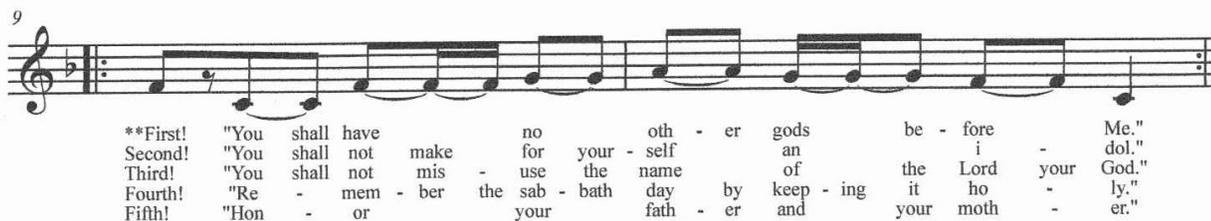
MAST

Honor

Cove

Stop! It's the Law

M. Alexander



*Pause after the word "stop" if desired for effect.

** Shout the commandment numbers and sing all the commandments. (The different melody is to indicate the two parts of the commandments--toward God [I've included #5] and toward man.)



<http://www.baronmedical.com/prestige-medical-clinical-i-stethoscope/>

Exodus 20:1–17 (NIV)—And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 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 fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord

(over)

your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 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.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“ You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Motions for Exodus 20:1–17 (Motions—not all are American Sign Language—are for italicized words.)

<i>Text</i>	<i>Motions</i> (all are right-handed unless otherwise noted by <i>l.</i>)
And <i>God</i> spoke all these words:	right hand facing side of face pulls down; <i>C</i> fingers to l. fingers
“ <i>I</i> am the LORD your <i>God</i> ,	little finger forward; right hand facing side of face pulls down
who <i>brought</i> you out of <i>Egypt</i> , out of the land of <i>slavery</i> .	palms up, move from left to right; right fist faces out from forehead w/index finger crooked; right fist makes counterclockwise circle over l. hand palm down
“You shall have <i>no other gods</i> before me.	shake head “no”; both little fingers pull down
“You shall <i>not</i> make for yourself an <i>idol</i>	shake head “no”; fingertips touch at top and pull down
in the form of anything in <i>heaven</i> above;	point up
or on the <i>earth</i> beneath or in the <i>waters</i> below.	point down; palms-down hands move like waves
You shall <i>not</i> bow down to them or <i>worship</i> them;	shake head “no”; bow; palms together as if praying
for I, the LORD your God, am a <i>jealous</i> God,	<i>L</i> diagonal across body; both hands <i>K</i> (for caring), r. over l.
<i>punishing</i> the children for the <i>sin</i> of the <i>fathers</i>	index swipes l. elbow; palms down as if patting heads; both index crooked; thumb at side of head with fingers extended
to the <i>third</i> and <i>fourth</i> generation of those who hate me,	sideways show thumb, 1 st , and 2 nd fingers; add 3 rd finger
but showing <i>love</i> to a <i>thousand</i> generations	pull crossed arms toward heart; 4 fingers standing in l. palm
of those who <i>love</i> me and <i>keep</i> my <i>commandments</i> .	crossed arms to chest; thumbs up move forward; <i>C</i> fingers to l. fingers
“You shall <i>not</i> misuse the <i>name</i> of the Lord your <i>God</i> ,	shake head “no”; point to mouth; fingers 1 & 2 strike l. fingers 1 & 2 on side; right hand facing side of face pulls down
for the Lord will <i>not</i> hold anyone <i>guiltless</i> who misuses his <i>name</i> .	shake head “no”; fingers 1 & 2 of both hands move out from corners of mouth; fingers 1 & 2 strike l. fingers 1 & 2 on side
“ <i>Remember</i> the <i>Sabbath</i> day by keeping it <i>holy</i> .	thumb by eyes lowers to touch l. thumb; rest head on palms-together hands; swipe fingers 1 & 2 from wrist across l. palm
<i>Six</i> days you shall <i>labor</i> and do all your work,	show 6 fingers; raise a muscle arm
but the <i>seventh</i> day is a <i>sabbath</i> to the Lord your God.	show 7 fingers; rest head on palms-together hands; (God)
On it you shall <i>not</i> do any <i>work</i>	shake head “no”; raise a muscle arm
neither you, nor your <i>son</i> or <i>daughter</i> ,	shake head “no”; point to boy; point to girl
nor your <i>manservant</i> or <i>maidservant</i> ,	shake head “no”; point to boy, move palms-up hands back and forth; point to girl, move palms-up hands back and forth
nor your <i>animals</i> ,	shake head “no”; wag hands on head as if ears
nor the <i>alien</i> within your <i>gates</i> .	shake head “no”; right thumb and 1 st finger make circle at l. elbow; both sideways 4 fingers face chest, hinge at wrists
For in <i>six</i> days the Lord made	show 6 fingers; right hand facing side of face pulls down
the <i>heavens</i> and the <i>earth</i> ,	palms-out hands wave high once; point down
the <i>sea</i> , and all that is in them,	palms-down hands move like waves
but he <i>rested</i> on the seventh day.	rest head on palms-together hands
Therefore the Lord <i>blessed</i> the <i>Sabbath</i> day and made it <i>holy</i> .	(God); thumbs-up fists, spread hands palms down; rest head on palms-together hands; swipe fingers 1 & 2 across l. palm
“ <i>Honor</i> your father and your mother,	fingers 1 & 2 touch head and salute; right thumb to center of forehead; right thumb to center of chin
so that you may <i>live</i> long in the land the Lord your <i>God</i> is <i>giving</i> you.	fists with thumbs up move from waist to chest; (God); palms up move out from body
“You shall <i>not</i> <i>murder</i> .	shake head “no”; index finger and thumb point past l. palm
“You shall <i>not</i> <i>commit adultery</i> .	shake head “no”; hands sweep from head to knees
“You shall <i>not</i> <i>steal</i> .	shake head “no”; right hand grabs and pulls in
“You shall <i>not</i> <i>give false testimony</i> against your <i>neighbor</i> .	shake head “no”; point to lips; point to others
“You shall <i>not</i> <i>covet</i> your neighbor’s <i>house</i> .	shake head “no”; fists crossed toward body; finger tips form roof
You shall <i>not</i> <i>covet</i> your <i>neighbor’s wife</i> ,	shake head “no”; fists crossed toward body; point to others; right hand comes down to clasp left hand
or his <i>manservant</i> or <i>maidservant</i> ,	point to boy; move palms-up hands back and forth; point to girl; move palms-up hands back and forth
his <i>ox</i> or <i>donkey</i> ,	index fingers point out from head; hands wiggle from head
or <i>anything</i> that belongs to your <i>neighbor</i> .”	move palms-out hands from center out; point to others

Exodus 20:1-17

The Bible (NIV)

Marilyn Alexander

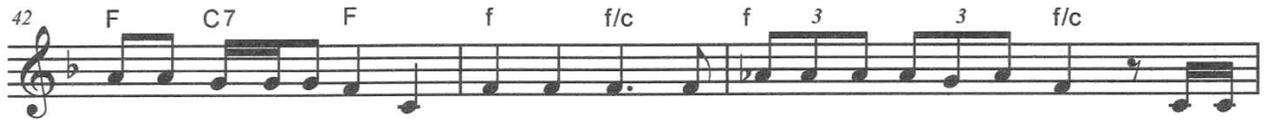
5 F C7 F B^b F
 And God spoke all these words, "I am the Lord your God, who
 10 B^b C7 F B^b g C F C7
 brought you out of E-gypt, out of the land of sla-v'ry. (1) You shall have no
 13 F C7 F F C7 F C7 F
 oth-er gods be-fore Me. (2) You shall not make for your-self an i-dol in the
 17 B^b C7 a d g C B^b C7
 form of an-y-thing in heav'n a-bove or on the earth - be-neath or in the wa-ters be-low.
 22 f C7 f C7 f C7 f f/a^b b^b
 You shall not bow down to them or wor-ship them; for I, the Lord your
 26 f b^b b^b/d f b^b b^b/a^b
 God am a jea-lous God, pun-ish-ing the chil-dren for the
 31 b^b/f b^b/e^b b^b/d b^b/c b^b f b^b f C7
 sin of the fa-thers to the third and fourth gen-er-a-tion of those who hate Me, but
 36 F C7 F F/A B^b C7 F F/A g/b^b C7
 show-ing love to a thou-sand gen-er-a-tions of those who love Me and keep My com-mand -
 36 F F C7 F C7 F
 ments. (3) You shall not mis-use the name of the Lord your God, for the

39 C7 F B^b C7 F ³ B^b/F F F C7



Lord will not hold an - y - one guilt - less who mis - us - es His Name (4) Re - mem - ber the Sab - bath

42 F C7 F f f/c f ³ ³ f/c



day by keep - ing it ho - ly. Six days you shall la - bor and do all your work but the

45 f f/c f C7 f f/a^b b^b



sev - enth day is a Sab - bath to the Lord your God On it you shall not do - an - y work,

49 b^b f C7 f b^b f



nei - ther you, nor your son - - or daugh - ter, nor your man - ser - vant or maid - ser - vant,

52 C7 f b^b f C7 F C7



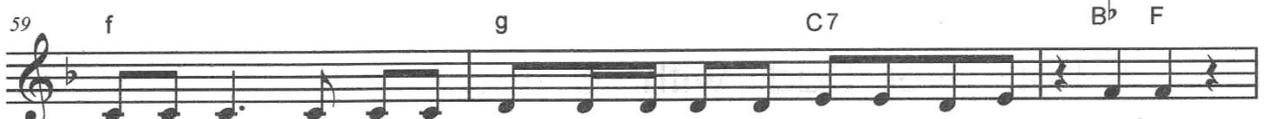
nor - - your an - i - mals, nor the a - li - en with - in your gates. // For in six days the Lord made the

55 F B^b d C b^b



hea - vens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rest - ed on the

59 f g C7 B^b F



sev - enth day. There - fore the Lord blessed the Sab - bath day and made it ho - ly.

62 F C7 F g C7 F C7 F F/A



(5) Hon - or your fa - ther and your moth - er, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your

66 B^b C7 F F C7 F C7 F F C7



God is giv - ing you. (6) You shall not mur - der. (7) You shall not com -

70 F C7 F F C7 F C7 F F C7

mit a - dul-ter - y. (8) You shall not steal. (9) You shall not

74 F C7 F a C7 F F C7 F C7 F F/A

give false tes - ti - mo - ny a - gainst your neigh - bor. (10) You shall not cov - et your

78 g C7 F B^b C7 F g C7 F F/A C7

neigh - bor's house. You shall not cov - et your neigh - bor's wife, or his man ser - vant or

82 F d g C7 F g/b^b F/C C7 F

maid - ser - vant, his ox or don - key, or an - y - thing that be - longs to your neigh - bor.

86 g7 C7 F g7 C7, F

These are the Ten Com - mand - ments found in Ex - o - dus - twen - ty, ver - ses one through sev - en - teen.