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## *We're Not Under The Law*

# **We're Not Under The Law We're Under Grace**

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**Matt 13:40** "As the poisonous weeds are collected and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom everything that causes sin as well as all lawbreakers. 42 They will **throw them into the fiery furnace**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. " NET

According to Jesus all people who break God's law are going to be destroyed in the fiery furnace. This takes place on the judgement day when the lost will be burned to ashes. When reading the New Testament of the bible we find that there are verses that appear to be quite contradictory regarding Christianity and the observance of the God's law. Some verses tell us that the law is to be obeyed while other verses give the impression that the law is abolished. The bible teaches that we are saved by God's grace but we need to know where the law fits in with the plan of salvation. The bible is clear that the law cannot save us from our sins. The law was given as a standard of right and wrong and to condemn us as sinners. It was not meant to be a method of salvation. The bible teaches us that the blood of Jesus rescues us from the penalty of Sin; it is the Spirit of God bought for us by the blood of Jesus that rescues us from the effects of sin. Talking about being born again by the Spirit Jesus says -

**John 3:5-8** "Jesus answered, "I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born of water and spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must all be born from above.' 8 The wind blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." NET

**Romans 8:9** "... indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him." NET

So necessary is the Holy Spirit to be involved in a Christians life that without it there is no salvation. With this in mind the Apostle Paul says this concerning the Christian and the law of God.

**Galatians 5:18** "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." NET

This is a strong statement made by the Apostle Paul. We as Christians are led by the Spirit therefore we are not under law. But what does Paul mean by the expression 'under law'? Does he mean that Christians do not have to obey God's law, or does he mean that Christians are not under the laws condemnation? The answer lies in the next passage.

**Romans 6:14-16** "For sin will have no mastery over you, because you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in righteousness? NET

Notice the Apostle Paul's parallel from Galatians 5:18 and the above verses.

Under Law	Led by the Spirit
Under Law	Under Grace
slaves	slaves
sin (the transgression of the law)	obedience
death	righteousness- (immortality)

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Only those who are under the dominion of sin are under law. To be led by the Spirit under Grace is to be a slave of obedience that leads to righteousness. To be under the law is to be a slave of sin (the transgression of the law) that leads to death. Under law is the opposite of under Grace. Sin is the opposite of obedience. Death is the opposite of righteousness (immortality in this case). Only those Christians who are led by the Spirit and obey God's law are under grace. Those of us who willfully disobey God (ie. sin) are under law. Therefore the expression 'under law' means to be under the condemnation of the law because of disobedience.

### ***The Beginning of Sin on the Earth***

***Genesis 2:15-17*** "The Lord God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for it and to maintain it. 16 Then the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat fruit from every tree of the orchard, 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will surely die." NET

God gave Adam a direct command and then makes a solemn declaration. If you disobey My command, on the day you disobey, that is the day you will die. To disobey God is to invite death.

### ***It was Satan who first came up with the idea that disobeying God is a virtue.***



***Genesis 3:1-4*** "Now the serpent was shrewder than any of the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Is it really true that God said, 'You must not eat from any tree of the orchard'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit from the trees of the orchard; 3 but concerning the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the orchard God said, 'You must not eat from it, and you must not touch it, or else you will die.'" 4 The serpent said to the woman, "Surely you will not die,". NET

Satan the fallen angel, using the serpent as a medium, (Rev 12:8) contradicts the declaration of God. Satan says that you can disobey God and you will not die. In other words - **Satan says that you can disobey God and live.** From that day to this Satan's ministers have been telling the world the same lie. The sin that was committed in the garden by our first parents was the transgression of the first commandment 'you shall have no other God's before Me'.

Now that this highly infectious mental disease called sin had entered the world God in mercy decided to put into operation the plan of salvation. Part of this plan involved the redemption of human beings from the curse of sin; sins guilt, sins effects, and eventually sins presence. This involved the son of God giving himself as a sin offering for the guilty race. And for the holy spirit to undo the effects of sin by recreating the righteous requirements of the law within fallen human beings.

***Romans 8:3-4*** "For God achieved what the law could not do because it was weakened through the flesh. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." NET

### ***The Day of Pentecost***

***Acts 2:1-6*** "Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And tongues spreading out like a fire appeared to them and came to rest on each one of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. 5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven residing in Jerusalem. 6 When this sound occurred, a crowd gathered and was in confusion, because each one heard them speaking in his own language." NET

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***Pentecost*** (Ancient Greek: Πεντηκοστή [ἡμέρα], *Pentēkostē [hēmera]*, "the Fiftieth [day]") is one of the prominent feasts in the Christian liturgical year commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. The feast is also called **Whitsunday** especially in the [United Kingdom](#). Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday, hence its name. Pentecost falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday. ***Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus.*** Among Christians, Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus as described in the New Testament Acts of the Apostles 2:1-31. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church" *From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. For the Jewish holiday sometimes called Pentecost, see [Shavuot](#).*

The day of Pentecost was the annual memorial for the Jews celebrating the giving of the ten commandments at Mt. Sinai. Pentecost is also considered to be the birth of the Christian church. It's interesting that on the very day when the ten commandments is foremost on the minds of all Israel God outpours his Holy Spirit in a large measure. This shows the close inseparable link between the Spirit of God and the law of God.

### ***Is Obedience to God adding to Salvation?***

***Matthew 4:4*** "But he answered, "It is written, 'Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" NET

The above words of Jesus are from the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 8:3. Jesus tells us that obedience to God is not legalism but is what God requires from all of us. Sometimes the false accusation is made that to obey God is to add to salvation. This is just another device of Satan to get Christians to think that they can disobey God and live. A deception that is designed to cause them to be lost and to be cast into the fiery furnace.

### ***The Two Great Commandments***

***Matthew 22:35-40*** "And one of them, an expert in religious law, asked him a question to test him: 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 Jesus said to him, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 The second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." NET

The law and the prophets here refers to the Old Testament. Jesus is quoting these two commandments from the writings of Moses. The command to love God is from [Deuteronomy 6:5](#). The command to love man is from [Leviticus 19:18](#). The two great commandments are the basis of the Ten Commandments. The first four of the Ten Commandments describe how to love God while the remaining six commandments describe how to love our fellow man. These two commandments do not supersede or replace the Ten Commandments because God commanded the Israelites to keep these two commandments at the same time that He commanded them to obey the Ten Commandments.

The question is, are Christians under the new covenant required to obey the Ten Commandments? When we consider that the gospel is all about how God deals with the reality of sin and how we are to be saved from sin by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And that sin is the violation of God's law. It stands to reason that salvation is all about redeeming us from the violation of God's law and its consequences.

***1 John 3:4*** "Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; indeed, sin is lawlessness." NET

***Romans 7:7*** "...I would not have known sin except through the law. For indeed I would not have known what it means to desire something belonging to someone else if the law had not said, "***Do not covet.***" NET

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According to the great missionary to the non Jews, the Apostle Paul, the Ten Commandments reveal what sin is. He says that the Tenth Commandment, which forbids coveting, showed him what sin was. Therefore 'Sin', the opposite of obedience, is the transgression of the law.

### ***The New Covenant is made by Christ***

***Luke 22:14-20** "Now when the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table and the apostles joined him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 Then he took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And in the same way he took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." NET*

The day before His crucifixion Christ institutes the ordinance of the Lords supper. He declared that His blood is the blood of the new covenant. According to the Apostle Paul, who took the gospel to the gentiles, this new covenant applies to non Jews as well as Jews. Paul writes :-

***1 Corinthians 11:23-26** "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, 24 and after he had given thanks he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For every time you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." NET*

Writing to the Corinthian Greek church Paul tells them that he was taught the new covenant from Christ himself. No doubt revealed to him in a vision or a dream from the Lord. The same new covenant that Christ gave to his apostles Paul gives to the Gentiles ie non-Jews. So all people are under the same new covenant.

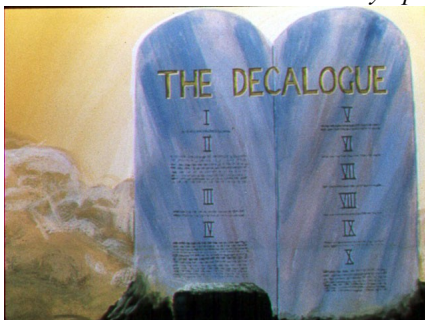
### ***What is the New Covenant?***

***Hebrews 8:8** ...**"Look, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will complete a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."** NET*

***Galatians 3:29** "And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise." NET*

God makes a new covenant with the house of Israel. As we read before this covenant applies to all people. Who is Israel? Abraham's seed is Israel. If you are a follower of Christ then you are an Israelite and a partaker of the new covenant promises.

***Hebrews 10:15-17** "And the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us, for after saying, 16 **"This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws on their hearts and I will inscribe them on their minds,"** 17 then he says, **"Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no longer."** NET*



The Holy Spirit says that the New Covenant is made up of promises. The first new covenant promise is for the Holy Spirit to write the law on our hearts and minds so that the law of God becomes the basis of our character. A person who is led by the Spirit of God will not willfully disobey the law. The second promise is that God will not remember our



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sins or our lawless deeds. Any person who willfully disobeys the law of God is showing by his actions that he has rejected the new covenant and rejected the Spirit of God as well.

### WHAT LAW IS BEING REFERRED TO?

**2 Corinthians 3:2-3** *“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone, 3 revealing that you are a letter of Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on tablets of human hearts.” NET*

Addressing the Corinthian church Paul tells them that they are a letter to the world as if written by Christ himself. Here he is saying that the law that was written on tablets of stone (The Ten Commandments) is the law that is written on the mind and hearts of God's people by the Spirit..

**Romans 2:12-16** *“For all who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous before God, but those who do the law will be declared righteous. 14 For whenever the Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things required by the law, these who do not have the law are a law to themselves. 15 They show that the work of the law is written in their hearts, as their conscience bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or else defend them, 16 on the day when God will judge the secrets of human hearts, according to my gospel through Christ Jesus.” NET*

Only those who are doers of the law are declared righteous in Gods sight. According to verse 15 this law is the one that is written on the heart. ie, The Ten Commandments. But these people are not justified by the law, they are justified by faith only if they choose to obey the Ten Commandments.

If everyone on earth obeyed them what a pleasant and safe world we would live in. There would be no false religions, no atheists, no murderers, no stealing of property or of countries, no wars, no liars, no false dealings in business, no contract breakers, etc. God has promised to make these commandments the basis of our characters if we consent to accept the New Covenant.

**Ephesians 6:1-3** *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 **“Honor your father and mother,”** which is the first commandment accompanied by a promise, namely, 3 **“that it will go well with you and that you will live a long time on the earth.”** NET*

Paul tells the Ephesian Christians to obey the fifth commandment which is the first one containing a promise. If this commandment is to be obeyed then the others must be as well. All the ten are mentioned in the New Testament as still being in force. Speaking of Jesus as our High Priest and the difference between the old and new covenants the writer of Hebrews says.

**Hebrews 8:1-5** *“Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We have such a high priest, one who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 a minister in the sanctuary and the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up. 3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. So this one too had to have something to offer. 4 Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest, since there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. 5 The place where they serve is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, just as Moses was warned by God as he was about to complete the tabernacle. For he says, **“See that you make everything according to the design shown to you on the mountain.”** NET*



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Christ the great High Priest is in heaven and is a minister of the heavenly sanctuary, which the Lord built, and not man. The Hebrew priests served at a sanctuary that is a shadow and copy of the sanctuary that is in heaven. To understand the work of Christ our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary we need to study the work of the Hebrew High Priest in the earthly Hebrew sanctuary.

*Hebrews 9:24* “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. NASB

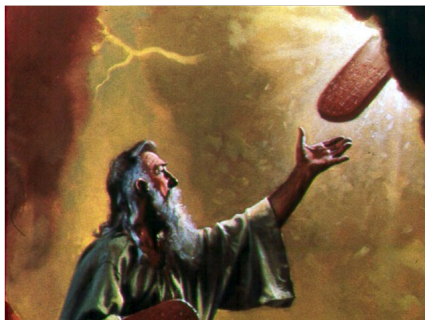
The holy places means the entire earthly sanctuary made by the hands of man. This sanctuary is a copy of the true one in heaven itself. The Ark of the Covenant containing the Ten Commandments written on stone was kept in this old covenant Hebrew sanctuary.

*Hebrews 9:1-5* “Now the first covenant, in fact, had regulations for worship and its earthly sanctuary. 2 For a tent was prepared, the outer one, which contained the lampstand, the table, and the presentation of the loaves; this is called the Holy Place. 3 And after the second curtain there was a tent called the holy of holies. 4 It contained the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered entirely with gold. In this ark were the golden urn containing the manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 And above the ark were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Now is not the time to speak of these things in detail.” NET

The author of Hebrews gives us a description of the old covenant sanctuary. Inside this sanctuary among other things is the Ark of the Covenant containing the tablets of the covenant - the ten commandments. This sanctuary called the earthly sanctuary is a small man made representation and copy of the new covenant sanctuary that is in heaven. God himself gives Moses the Ten Commandments while Moses was with God on Mt Sinai.

*Exodus 31:18* “He gave Moses two tablets of testimony when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, tablets of stone written by the finger of God.” NET

*Exodus 32:15-20* “Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands. The tablets were written on both sides—they were written on the front and on the back. 16 Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. 17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “It is the sound of war in the camp!” 18 Moses said, “It is not the sound of those who shout for victory, nor is it the sound of those who cry because they are overcome, but the sound of singing I hear.” 19 When he approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses became extremely angry. He threw the tablets from his hands and broke them to pieces at the bottom of the mountain. 20 He took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire, ground it to powder, poured it out on the water, and made the Israelites drink it”. NET



The Ten Commandments are called the Tablets of Testimony and are inscribed front and back with the writing of God himself. Moses broke these tablets because the children of Israel had rebelled against God by worshiping an idol - a golden calf. Forty years after the event Moses is telling the history of the event to a new generation of Israelites just before they entered the land of Canaan as their inheritance.

*Deuteronomy 10:1-5* “At that same time the Lord said to me, “Carve out for yourself two stone tablets like the first ones and come up the mountain to me; also make for yourself a wooden ark. 2 I will write on the tablets the same words that were on the first tablets you broke, and you must put them into the ark.” 3 So I made an ark of acacia wood and carved out two stone tablets just like the first ones. Then

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*I went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hands. 4 The Lord then wrote on the tablets the same words, the Ten Commandments, which he had spoken to you at the mountain from the middle of the fire at the time of that assembly, and he gave them to me. 5 Then I turned, went down the mountain, and placed the tablets into the ark I had made—they are still there, just as the Lord commanded me.” NET*

A second set of the Ten Commandments was made and written with the finger of God to replace the first ones that Moses had broken when the Israelites rebelled against God by worshiping the golden calf. God considered the wording of the Ten Commandments to be so important that he did not trust any one to write them down. God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone Himself. These two stone tablets were placed inside a small wooden chest known as the Ark of the Covenant. The Ten Commandments are specifically mentioned as being those that were spoken to Israel on the day of the assembly when God appeared in fire on Mt Sinai. This event and the commandments themselves are recorded in Exodus 19 and 20.

*Exodus 19:16-19 “On the third day in the morning there was thunder and lightning and a dense cloud on the mountain, and the sound of a very loud horn; all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their place at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was completely covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire, and its smoke went up like the smoke of a great furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. 19 When the sound of the horn grew louder and louder, Moses was speaking and God was answering him with a voice” NET*

Here we see God talking to the congregation of Israel on the day of the assembly from the Mountain out of the fire. It is here that God spoke to the people the Ten Commandments. The text of the Ten Commandments is recorded in Exodus 20. The first four commandments are explaining our duty to God. The last six explain our duty to our fellow man.

### ***The Ten Commandments***

**(You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind)**

*Exodus 20:1-17* God spoke all these words:

**(1)** “I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery. 3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

**(2)** <sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children to the third and fourth generations of those who reject me, 6 and showing covenant faithfulness to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**(3)** <sup>7</sup>“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold guiltless anyone who takes his name in vain.

**(4)** <sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day to set it apart as holy. 9 For six days you may 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, you, or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your cattle, or the resident foreigner who is in your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, and he rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

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**(You shall love your neighbor as yourself)**

- (5)<sup>12</sup>"Honor your father and your mother, that you may live a long time in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.  
(6)<sup>13</sup>"You shall not murder.  
(7)<sup>14</sup>"You shall not commit adultery.  
(8)<sup>15</sup>"You shall not steal.  
(9)<sup>16</sup>"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.  
(10)<sup>17</sup>"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor." NET

*Exodus 34:1-4* "The Lord said to Moses, "Cut out two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you smashed. 2 Be prepared in the morning, and go up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and station yourself for me there on the top of the mountain. 3 No one is to come up with you; do not let anyone be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks or the herds may graze in front of that mountain." 4 So Moses cut out two tablets of stone like the first; early in the morning he went up to Mount Sinai, just as the Lord had commanded him, and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone." NET

Moses commanded to make two stone tablets like the first ones. God said that He Himself would rewrite the Ten Commandments on the new stone tablets. "the Lord said...I will write on these tablets." The Ten Commandments are not the words of Moses they are the words of God.

*Exodus 34:28* "So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread, and he did not drink water. He [GOD] wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments." NET

"He [God] wrote the words of the covenant the Ten Commandments. The law was to be placed in a gold covered wooden chest known as the Ark of the Covenant. The making of this ark and a detailed description of it are described in Exodus 25.

### **The Ark of the Testimony**

*Exodus 25:10-22* "They are to make an ark of acacia wood—its length is to be 45 inches, its width 27 inches, and its height 27 inches. 11 You are to overlay it with pure gold—both inside and outside you must overlay it, and you are to make a surrounding border of gold over it. 12 You are to cast four gold rings for it and put them on its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other side. 13 You are to make poles of acacia wood, overlay them with gold, 14 and put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark in order to carry the ark with them. 15 The poles must remain in the rings of the ark; they must not be removed from it. 16 You are to put into the ark the testimony that I will give to you.

17 "You are to make an atonement lid of pure gold; its length is to be 45 inches, and its width is to be 27 inches. 18 You are to make two cherubim of gold; you are to make them of hammered metal on the two ends of the atonement lid. 19 Make one cherub on one end and one cherub on the other end; from the atonement lid you are to make the cherubim on the two ends. 20 The cherubim are to be spreading their wings upward, overshadowing the atonement lid with their wings, and the cherubim are to face each other; looking toward the atonement lid. 21 You are to put the atonement lid on top of the ark, and in the ark you are to put the testimony I am giving you. 22 I will meet with you there, and from above the atonement lid, from between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will command you for the Israelites." NET



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The Ark of the Covenant is described in detail. The ark was made as a container for the Ten Commandments (ie, the testimony) and as a place of meeting where God would meet with Moses to talk with him. That is the old covenant temple. But what about the new covenant temple in heaven where Jesus is the high priest? The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ contains some important information on this.

**Revelation 1:1-4** *“The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must happen very soon. He made it clear by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who then testified to everything that he saw concerning the word of God and the testimony about Jesus Christ. 3*



*4 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy aloud, and blessed are those who hear and obey the things written in it, because the time is near! 4 From John, to the seven churches that are in the province of Asia: NET*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ written by the apostle John, distributed to the seven Christian churches of Asia, is now in modern day Turkey. Because this book is written to the Christian church Christians must read and understand it. It contains a lot of imagery of the heavenly sanctuary, the new covenant temple of God.

**Revelation 11:19** *“Then the temple of God in heaven was opened and the ark of his covenant was visible within his temple. And there were flashes of lightning, roaring, crashes of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.” NET*

The Ark of the Covenant is seen in heaven in the new covenant heavenly sanctuary in the Christian era where Jesus is the High Priest. This ark contains God’s mercy seat and the Ten Commandments that are the new covenant.

**Revelation 15:5** *“After these things I looked, and the temple (the tent of the testimony) was opened in heaven” NET*

The heavenly sanctuary is called the tent of the testimony, this is the New Covenant temple in heaven containing the Ten Commandments. The “testimony” is the Ten Commandments.

**Exodus 31:18** *“He gave Moses two tablets of testimony when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, tablets of stone written by the finger of God.” NET*

These verses prove that the Ten Commandments are in heaven in the temple of God where Jesus is the High Priest. Therefore the ten commandments have not been abolished but are a part of the new covenant. God’s new covenant people are required to observe these commandments.

**Revelation 14:12** *“This requires the steadfast endurance of the saints—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to their faith in Jesus.” NET*



God’s saints are those people who obey the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus. The commandments of God are the Ten Commandments and the faith of Jesus is the teachings of Christ. The fact that John sees the ark of the Covenant in the New Covenant heavenly sanctuary proves that the Ten Commandments are being referred to. Spirit led Christians who are not under the laws condemnation but who are under grace willfully obey God’s law. This will enrage the devil who wants us all to disobey God and die.

**Revelation 12:17** *“So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep God’s commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus.” NET*

## ***We're Not Under The Law***

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The dragon (Satan) makes war on Gods people who obey the commandments of God.

***Acts 5:32** “And we are witnesses of these events, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.” NET*

God only gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. God’s Holy Spirit does not control people who willfully disobey God’s Ten Commandments.

***John 13:34** “I give you a new commandment—to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 Everyone will know by this that you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” NET*

Jesus tells His disciples to love one another. The Greek word translated ‘love’ is ‘Agape’. It is not an emotion but a principle of showing favor and goodwill. To do to others what you would have them do to you. This is a new commandment for the disciples to understand but not a new command in the Bible. In the writings of Moses from which Christ often quoted we are told to love our neighbor as ourselves. Far from being abolished, Paul says that these commandments are what we owe God and man.

***Romans 13: 8-9** “Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, “**Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet,**” (and if there is any other commandment) are summed up in this, “**Love your neighbor as yourself.**” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” NET*

We can clearly see that the Ten Commandments are a part of the new covenant that is given to all human beings. The temple in heaven, containing the ark of the covenant, with the ten commandments inside of it shows that they are still in affect. The Lord Jesus Christ himself is the High Priest of that heavenly temple who ministers in front of the ark containing the ten commandments.

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