

"THE TEN SUGGESTIONS" ----- ELLIOTT #1941

In a clergy group yesterday, so a pastor denominated the Decalog, saying "That's what I'm calling them because that's how my people treat them."....This thinksheet "treats" them for group Bible study (the translations being somewhat mine).*9Mar85.*

Exodus 20:2-17

"I am the LORD your God. I brought you 1
out of Egypt, where you had been slaves.
Worship no god but me.

Don't make any idol in the form of any- 2
thing in heaven or on earth or in the
waters below. (Add all of the Deut.
parallel, which begin with what's here:
the two passages are identical in this
translation.)

You shall not try to control me by using 3
my Name, the Name of the LORD your God,
for your own purposes: I won't let any-
body get away with that. I punish the
guilty for this desecration.

Observe the sabbath by keeping it holy. 4
You have six days to do your work; the
seventh is a day of rest dedicated to me,
when no work is to be done--by you, your
son or daughter, your slaves, your ani-
mals, foreigners among you. I made every-
thing in six days and rested on the seventh
--that is why I blessed it, setting it a-
part as holy.

Treat your parents with deference, so you 5
may live long in the land I'm giving you.

Do not commit murder. 6

Do not commit adultery. 7

Do not steal. 8

Do not falsely accuse or give false tes- 9
timony against your neighbor.

Don't feed any desire you have for any- 10
thing that belongs to another man--his
house, wife, slaves, cattle, donkeys, or
anything else he owns."

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

"I am the LORD your God. I rescued you
from Egypt, where you had been slaves.
Worship no god but me.

Bow down to, worship, no idol: I the
LORD your God tolerate no rivals: those
who hate me I punish down to their fourth
generation--which is the other side of my
showing love to the thousands who love me
and obey my commandments.

You shall not try to control me by using
my Name, the Name of the LORD your God,
for your own purposes: I won't let any-
body get away with that. I punish the
guilty for this desecration.

Observe the sabbath by keeping it holy
as I the LORD your God have commanded you.
Do all your work in six days: the seventh
is a sabbath to the LORD your God: no
work that day--not you, your children,
your slaves, your animals, foreigners
among you. Your slaves must rest as you
do. Remember you were slaves in Egypt
and that I the LORD your God rescued you
by my strong hand and outstretched arm;
so the LORD your God has commanded you to
observe the sabbath day.

Treat your parents with deference, as I
the LORD your God command you, so you may
live long and well in the land I'm giving
you.

Do not commit murder. 6

Do not commit adultery. 7

Do not steal. 8

Do not falsey accuse or give false testi-
mony against your neighbor.

Don't feed any desire you have for any-
thing that belongs to another man--his
wife, house, land, slaves, cattle, donkeys,
or anything else he owns."

NOTES: (1) Sinai's order: liberation, theophany, theocracy. (2) Sinai's refusals: force, and the worship of the state. (3) Sinai's prohibitions: false worship, forgetting God, and behavior disruptive of stable social life. (4) Sinai's inference: our God-given rights rest on and derive from our God-given obligations. (5) Only God is in control, and asks for "the voluntary subjection of all members of the community to those policies of the sovereign stipulated in the Decalogue-Covenant. This was the constitution of the 'Kingdom of God'; that it existed at all is a historical miracle."--Geo.E. Mendenhall, THE TENTH GENERATION: THE ORIGINS OF THE BIBLICAL TRADITION (Jns.Hopkins/73/74).