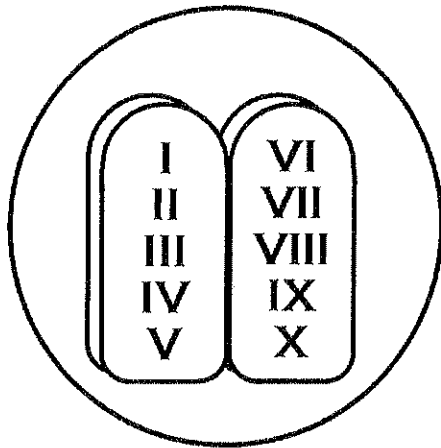


December 9: Moses and the Ten Commandments



After the 10th plague, Moses was able to lead his people out of Egypt. This is called "The Exodus". After they left Pharaoh changed his mind about letting the Israelites go and took his army to try to recapture them. When Moses and the people came to the Red Sea, God worked a miracle; God parted the sea so that the Israelites could walk through and escape the Egyptians. When the Egyptians followed them, the sea fell back on them. The Israelites escaped Pharaoh and wandered in the desert for 40 years. During that time Moses went up Mt. Sinai where God gave him the 10 commandments inscribed on two stone tablets. The first three commandments are about how to love God above all things, and the last seven commandments are about how to love other people.



"Moses Receiving the Law"
William Blake, 1780



Exodus 14:13-16. ¹³ Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which he will work for you today; for you will never again see the Egyptians whom you have seen today. ¹⁴ Yahweh will fight for you, and you shall be still."

¹⁵ Yahweh said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Speak to the children of Israel, that they go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. Then the children of Israel shall go into the middle of the sea on dry ground."

Exodus 20:1-17. ¹ God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor any image of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵ you shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ You shall labor six days, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yahweh your God. You shall not do any work in it, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your livestock, nor your stranger who is within your gates; ¹¹ for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which Yahweh your God gives 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, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."