CHAPTER 5
The Ten Commandments
Exodus 19-20, 24-25, 32-34, 40

THE STORY

Introduction
The Story of the Bible begins in a garden – the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve disobeyed and were banished from the garden. So God took another approach to doing life with his people. He would create a nation and reveal himself to them.

The Story

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Through this nation God would reveal his presence, his power and his plan for all people to come into a relationship with him.

God’s desire is to live among his people.

God tells Moses, for me to live with you three things must be worked out.

I. God gives rules to live by – the Ten Commandments.
Exodus 19:1-9 and 20:1-19

God’s desire is to create a community that reflects the love and character of the Trinity.

God wanted to create a nation that was different – set apart from the world as a witness to the nations. The problem is we don’t like rules.

There is a rebellious streak in our heart too.

THE STORY

The Ten Commandments were given to help us love God and love people.

- Commandments 1-4 guide how we should treat God.
- Commandments 5-10 guide how we are to treat people.
The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-19
1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony.
10. You shall not covet.

II. God desires a residence, a place, to dwell among us.
Exodus 25

God instructed Moses to build a Tabernacle – a portable structure that could be moved as they traveled to the Promised Land.

God was very specific in the instructions he gave for the Tabernacle and for the furniture that would go inside the Tabernacle. Exodus 25:40

“They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”
Hebrews 8:5

III. God requires righteousness in his people.

God would dwell among his people and they would see his glory in a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

But there would be limitations.
• God would dwell in the Holy of Holies, but no one, not even Moses could see his face.
• Only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place once a year on behalf of his people.
God is holy and we are not. Therefore there must be a way to restore fellowship between a holy God and a sinful people. The Bible makes it clear that sin can only be atoned for (or covered) by the shedding of blood. “We will do everything the Lord has said.” Exodus 19:8

But when Moses is not seen for 40 days, the people very quickly turn away. Exodus 32:1–6
How could they fall away so quickly? How can we think we would be any better? It is only by grace we stand. The new nation needed their sins covered by God so he could dwell among them. God would establish a sacrificial system for Israel where sin could be atoned for – in the book of Leviticus.

Conclusion
What can we learn from this chapter of the story?
• Sin separates us from God and can only be atoned for by the shedding of blood. Hebrews 9:22
• Jesus is our Great High Priest and his blood once and for all atones for (covers) our sin. Hebrews 10:1–18
• Just as God dwelt among his people in the OT, Jesus dwelt among us. John 1:14

• Even more amazing, today he dwells among his people, in the church (I Cor. 3:16-17) and in the heart of every believer (I Cor. 6:19)
• Jesus summarized the whole law of God in two commands – love God and love people. Matthew 22:37-40