



## The Journey from Slavery to Sinai

- Leaving the Nile River Delta (Land of Goshen), the Israelites find themselves in front a large body of water known in Hebrew as “Yam Suf”, which when translated into English means “Sea of Reeds.” The Lord parts the water and the journey through the wilderness begins.
- The distance from the Nile River Delta to Mount Sinai is roughly 200 miles and took them three months to complete.
- Moses was 80 years old at the time.

*The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.”*

Exodus 19:3–6 (NLT)

Why did God rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and take them on a journey to the middle of nowhere in a barren wilderness?

- To enter into a \_\_\_\_\_ with them and to give them a \_\_\_\_\_.

What was the mission God had in store for the Israelites?

*And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.*  
Exodus 19:6 (NLT)

Moses comes down from the mountain, prepares the people for a great movement of God, and three days later this happens:

*On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people trembled. Moses led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. All of Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in the form of fire. The smoke billowed into the sky like smoke from a brick kiln, and the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the ram’s horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God thundered his reply. The LORD came down on the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses climbed the mountain.*

Exodus 19:16–20 (NLT)

## The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are often seen as restrictive, stifling and limiting. I suggest that they are a gracious act of love from God to us.

They reveal to us the \_\_\_\_\_, and God's hope for how we will \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.

1. ***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.*** Exodus 20:2–3 (NIV)

It wasn't the false, Egyptian gods who rescued them, but the one, true God.

2. ***You shall not make for yourself an idol...*** Exodus 20:4 (NIV)

No statue, no pendant, no idol of any kind could ever capture the essence of God. God is saying, "I love you, accept no imitations."

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

Exodus 20:7 (NIV)

This refers to using God's name in a trivial way, as if it were of no significance. God is saying, "I love you. Don't misuse my name."

4. ***Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*** Exodus 20:8 (NIV)

The temptation to fill our schedules to capacity results in a life where God is ignored. God says, "I love you. Set aside time for me."

The next statements shift from the character of God to God's will for how His people are to live, love and relate to each other.

5. ***Honor your father and your mother...*** Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

God starts with the most basic of all our relationships: our parents. Here God is saying, "I love you. Honor your parents."

6. ***You shall not murder.*** Exodus 20:13 (NIV)

This statement is aimed at the indiscriminate taking of life due to vengeance, anger and retaliation. Although the Old Testament allows for the taking of life in acts of war and self-defense, Jesus said, "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*" Here God is saying, "I love you. Life belongs to me."

7. ***You shall not commit adultery.*** Exodus 20:14 (NIV)

Relationships are complicated. Some relationships last while others do not. Adultery, however, is a betrayal. The wounds inflicted are serious and deep. Here God is saying, “I love you. Stay faithful.”

8. ***You shall not steal.***

Exodus 20:15 (NIV)

If it doesn't belong to you, leave it alone. God is saying, “I love you. Don't take what's not yours.”

9. ***You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.***

Exodus 20:16 (NIV)

Lying about someone can cost them their reputation, their family and even their life. God says, “I love you. Don't lie.”

10. ***You shall not covet...***

Exodus 20:17 (NIV)

When you covet what others have, it destroys your relationships. It blinds you to what is important, and it robs you of peace and joy. God says, “I love you. Appreciate what you have.”