

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19:1 – 24:8

by Don Falkos

copyright 2016 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Moses went up onto Mount Sinai and God said to him, "Tell the Israelites, 'If you obey me, you will be my people, a kingdom of priests blessing all the people of the earth.'"

When Moses delivered God's message, the people responded, "We will do everything the Lord says."

Thunder roared, lightning flashed. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke because the Lord had descended on it in the form of fire. The whole mountain shook, and there was a long blast from a ram's horn that kept getting louder and louder.

Then God spoke to the people, "I am the Lord your God who rescued you from slavery in Egypt!

Do not worship other gods.

Do not make idols of any kind.

Do not misuse my name.

The seventh day of the week is to be a day of rest, dedicated to me.

Honor your parents and you will live a long, full life.

Do not murder.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not lie.

Do not be greedy, craving what others have."

The people were afraid and said to Moses, "You tell us what God says, and we will listen. But if God keeps talking to us, we are going to die."

Moses replied, "Let your fear of God keep you from sinning." Then he went back up onto the mountain. God gave Moses instructions on how the people were to live their lives: worshiping God, being socially responsible, seeking justice.

When Moses delivered God's instructions, the people responded, "We will do everything the Lord says." And so a covenant was established.