



NO OTHER GOD

Introduction:

I. WHAT IS TORAH?

A. The Basic Definition

torah (from verb *arah*)

B. The Key Terms that are Used for “Law”

Genesis 26:5

- charge (*mishmeret*, 78x)
- commandments (*mitzvot*, 181x)
- statutes (*huqot*, *huqim*, 229x)
- laws (*torot*, 219x)

- judgments (*mishpatim*, 425x)
- statutes (*edut*, 46x)
- words (*devarim*)

VERTICAL RELATIONSHIP		OBJECTIVE	HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIP	
Ex. 20:2-3 Dt. 5:6,7 1 Dt. 6:11 Mat. 6:19-34	God ought to be our priority and final authority. We owe him preference and obedience.	AUTHORITY	Established human authorities ought to be obeyed (in as much as they obey God).	Ex. 20:12 Dt. 5:16 5 Dt. 16:18--18:22 Mat. 5:43-48
Ex. 20:4-6 Dt. 5:8-10 2 Dt. 12 Mat. 6:16-18	Our worship ought to reflect a proper view of God. It should not be manipulative or self-centered.	DIGNITY	We ought to do everything within our means to preserve the dignity of man (his life, family, and status).	Ex. 20:13-15 Dt. 5:17-19 6,7,8 Dt. 19:1-- 24:7 Mat. 5:21-32
Ex. 20:7 Dt. 5:11 3 Dt. 13:1--14:21 Mat. 6:5-15	We ought to take seriously our commitment to God and not permit anything to deflect our focus on Him.	COMMITMENT	We ought to take seriously our commitments to others.	Ex. 20:16 Dt. 5:20 9 Dt. 24:8-16 Mat. 5:33-37
Ex. 20:8-11 Dt. 5:12-15 4 Dt. 14:22-16:17 Mat. 6:1-4	God has every right to expect and receive our gratitude in the form of obedience, dedication, and compassion.	RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES	We ought to limit our own rights wherever necessary so as to not violate the rights of others.	Ex 20:17 Dt. 5:21 10 Dt. 24:17--26:15 Mat. 5:38-42

adapted from a chart by Dr. John Walton

C. The Content and Make-Up of the Law

- moral law
- civil law
- ceremonial law

- OR
- apodictic law
 - casuistic law

II. WHAT ARE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

A. The Ten Commandments form the preamble of the Mosaic Covenant.

- B. The content of the Ten Commandments is not new.
- C. The Ten Commandments form a concise statement of God's holy character.
- D. The Ten Commandments stand out in all of Scripture with a distinct purpose and nature.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

- E. Each of the Ten Commandments, though stated negatively, serve as a command to perform the opposite positive virtues.

The Ten Commandments before Exodus 20

- #1 - Gen. 35:2 - 'Get rid of the foreign gods.'
- #2 - Gen. 31:39 - Laban to Jacob: 'But why did you steal my gods?'
- #3 - Gen. 24:3 - 'I want you to swear by the Lord.'
- #4 - Gen. 2:3 - 'God blessed the seventh day and made it holy.'
- #5 - Gen. 27:41 - 'The days of mourning my father are near.'
- #6 - Gen. 4:9 - 'Where is your brother Abel?'
- #7 - Gen. 39:9 - 'How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?'
- #8 - Gen. 44:4-7 - 'Why have you stolen my silver cup?'
- #9 - Gen. 39:17 - '[Joseph] came to me to make sport of me ... but ... he ran. ...'
- #10 - Gen. 12:18; 20:3 - 'You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.'

III. HOW DOES THE FIRST COMMANDMENT APPLY TODAY?

- A. It is the absolute beginning point - the basis of all true morality.
- B. It is predicated on what God has done for me.
- C. It precludes ***all*** competition.
- D. It establishes biblical religion as an either-or, not a both-and, faith.
- E. It has been transformed by the Incarnation of Christ.

Food for Thought:

- 1) The first commandment could not be simpler but humanity has found a million ways to break it. What gods are the most popular today?
- 2) What does it mean to put God in first place - above all others and above all else - in your life?
- 3) What false gods compete most for your loyalty to the one true God?
- 4) Who do you know that is caught up with following false gods? What can you do to help them?