



The 10 Commandments In Exodus 20 In The Leningrad Codex

These are the words written by the Finger of Yehovah on both sides of the two tablets of stone, which He commanded Moses to place into the Ark of the Testimony (אָרוֹן הָעֵדוּת), also known as the Ark of the Covenant (אָרוֹן בְּרִית־יְהוָה)!

א וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
לְאֹמֹר: ב אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ
מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים:

1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 I am Yehovah thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

א וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים
אֶת כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה לְאֹמֹר:
ב אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
אֲשֶׁר הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ
מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים:

ג לֹא יִהְיֶה-לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל-פָּנָי לֹא
תַעֲשֶׂה-לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל-תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּ
בַמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת וְאֲשֶׁר בַּמַּיִם וְ
מִתַּחַת לָאָרֶץ לֹא-תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא
תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל קַנָּא פֹקֵד
עוֹן אָבֹת עַל-בָּנִים עַל-שְׁלִשִׁים וְעַל-רִבְעִים
לְשָׁנָאִי: ד וְעָשֵׂה חֶסֶד לְאֲלֹפִים לְאֹהֲבֵי
וְלִשְׁמֵרֵי מִצְוֹתַי:

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any manner of likeness, of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down unto them, nor serve them; for I Yehovah thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; 4 and showing mercy unto the thousandth generation of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

ג לֹא יִהְיֶה-לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל-פָּנָי
לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה-לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל-תְּמוּנָה
אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּבַמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ
מִתַּחַת וְאֲשֶׁר בַּמַּיִם וּמִתַּחַת
לָאָרֶץ לֹא תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא
תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנִכִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
אֵל קַנָּא פֹקֵד עוֹן אָבֹת עַל-בָּנִים
עַל-שְׁלִשִׁים וְעַל-רִבְעִים לְשָׁנָאִי:
ד וְעָשֵׂה חֶסֶד לְאֲלֹפִים וְלִשְׁמֵרֵי
מִצְוֹתַי:

ה לא תשא את-שם-יהוה אלהיך לשוא כי
לא ינקת יהוה את אשר-ישא את-שמו לשוא:

5 Thou shalt not lift up the Name of Yehovah thy God as to declare Him worthless; for Yehovah will not hold him guiltless who takes His Name falsely.

לֹא תִשָּׂא
אֶת־שֵׁם־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוֹא
כִּי לֹא יִנָּקֶה יְהוָה אֶת־אִשְׁרֵי
יִשָּׂא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ לְשׁוֹא

ו זָכוֹר אֶת־יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקֹדֶשׁ
שִׁשִּׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וַעֲשִׂית
כָּל־מְלָאכָתְךָ וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי
שַׁבָּת ו לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא־
תַעֲשֶׂה כָל־מְלָאכָה אַתָּה ו
וּבִנְךָ וּבִתֶּךָ עַבְדְּךָ וַאֲמָתְךָ
וּבַהֲמָתְךָ וּגְרֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ
כִּי שִׁשִּׁת־יָמִים עָשָׂה יְהוָה
אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ
אֶת־הַיָּם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּם
וַיָּנַח בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל־כֵּן
בֵּרַךְ יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת
וַיְקַדְּשֵׁהוּ:

6 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is a sabbath unto Yehovah thy God, in it thou shalt not do any manner of work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days Yehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day; wherefore Yehovah blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

זָכוֹר אֶת־יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקֹדֶשׁ
שִׁשִּׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וַעֲשִׂית
כָּל־מְלָאכָתְךָ וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי
שַׁבָּת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא־
תַעֲשֶׂה כָל־מְלָאכָה אַתָּה
וּבִנְךָ וּבִתֶּךָ עַבְדְּךָ וַאֲמָתְךָ
וּבַהֲמָתְךָ וּגְרֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ
כִּי שִׁשִּׁת־יָמִים עָשָׂה יְהוָה
אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ
אֶת־הַיָּם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּם
וַיָּנַח בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל־כֵּן
בֵּרַךְ יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת
וַיְקַדְּשֵׁהוּ

ז כָּבֵד אֶת־אָבִיךָ וְאֶת־אִמְךָ לְמַעַן יָאָרְכוּ
יָמֶיךָ עַל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן
לָךְ:

7 Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which Yehovah thy God giveth thee.

זָכֹר אֶת־אָבִיךָ
וְאֶת־אִמְךָ לְמַעַן יָאָרְכוּ
יָמֶיךָ עַל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ

ח לא תרצח:

לא

8 Thou shalt not murder.

תרצח:

ט לא תנאף:

לא

9 Thou shalt commit adultery.

תנאף:

י לא תגנב:

לא

10 Thou shalt not steal.

תגנב:

יא לא תענה ברעך עד שקר:

11 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Literally: 'Thou shalt not answer a person to whom you are associated with a witness/testimony that is a lie, deceitful, false.'

לא

תענה ברעך עד שקר:

יב לא תחמד בית רעך לא תחמד אשת
רעך ועבדו ואמתו ושורו וחמרו וכל אשר
לרעך:

12 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

לא תחמד בית
רעך לא תחמד אשת
רעך ועבדו ואמתו ושורו
וחמרו וכל אשר לרעך:

Notes, Leningrad Codex, Exodus, Chapter 20:1–12

In the original **Leningrad Codex, the Masoretes** marked the end of most verses with a **Sof Pasuq**, a Cantillation mark which looks like a colon (:). Another mark, **Silluq**, a small vertical line to the left of the vowel with the word's main accent, **is found in the last word of every verse in the Hebrew Scriptures!**

In Exodus 20, above, where, to the side of each Hebrew font-based verse I show the image from the corresponding verse in the photo-facsimile* **Leningrad Codex**, I believe that I have correctly captured those verses just as they appear in the actual **Leningrad Codex** itself (*the "pdf" is referred to as a "**photo-facsimile**" since it is a "**photographic copy**" of the original Leningrad Codex).

For some images of verses, which actually break over different columns in the three columns of the original, I have placed the image parts next to each other in an effort to make them appear more natural.

עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים — "The Ten Declarations"

In the Torah, only three verses mention the term for what is commonly known as **The Ten Commandments**. Those verses are Exodus 34:28, Deuteronomy 4:13, 10:4. However, the word most often translated as "Commandments" is **NOT** from the Hebrew root צָוָה, צו (tzav, tz'vah = command, order)! Rather, in the phrase עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים (aseret ha-devarim), עֲשֶׂרֶת (aseret) means the number ten (10), while דְּבָרִים (devarim) often translated as "words" or "things," is better translated as "statements" or "declarations!" Thus, עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים (= **The Ten Statements/Declarations**).

In the **Masoretic text**, aka **The Leningrad Codex**, there are **12 verses** for the complete "**Ten Commandments!**" Verses 1 and 2 go together for the 1st "commandment" and verses 3 and 4 go together for the 2nd "commandment." **The rest of the verses are all standalone, to complete the whole, for a total of 10 commandments (statements/declarations).**

Other Jewish Hebrew-English publications use **14 verses** for the Ten Commandments. They break up the 2nd and 4th commandments (verses 3 and 6 respectively, herein) into multiple verses and combine the three verses, **'Thou Shalt Not Kill, Commit Adultery and Steal'** into **one single verse!**

Christian Bibles use **17 verses** for the Ten Commandments, adding even more breaks to the text! **No other publications, that I am aware of, honor the sublime rendering of The Ten Commandments found in the Leningrad Codex!** Please, be advised that these are the same verses written on stone tablets "by the finger of Yehovah," which He commanded Moses to place into the Ark of the Covenant!

Moreover, in **The-Iconoclast.org online Leningrad Codex Hebrew-English Tanakh**, I have likewise set **the Hebrew and the English texts** to correspond to the **unique Masoretic verse separations** of the Leningrad Codex for Exodus 20.

Since September, 2019, I know of no other published representation of Exodus, Chapter 20, where the verses are set to follow the actual order written in the **Leningrad Codex** (except for mine: <https://www.the-iconoclast.org/resources/tanakh/tanakh.php>; and, in September of 2022, I published my three volume book, **"The Pill Tanakh: Hebrew–English Jewish Scriptures,"** which also honors the Leningrad Codex)!

It is my hope that all who view this presentation of the 10 Commandments of Exodus 20 will be able to discern that the **Masoretes** fully intended each hand-written verse to be separated at the **Silluq/Sof-Pasuq**, while so many "**moderns**" have chosen to represent the Hebrew and English texts **incorrectly!** This includes Jewish and Christian publications as well as the Westminster Leningrad Codex (WLC - www.tanach.us), which is the electronic source of which I had used my copyrighted C++ Library to write C++ code to convert from a Multi-wide UTF-16 Unicode format (uneditable) to my copyrighted Ascii based UTF-8 web-font format (editable).

Further, it is my sincere desire that יְהוָה* [Yehovah] is honored, glorified and exalted in this present work, including the whole of **The-Iconoclast's online Westminster Leningrad Codex based Hebrew, JPS 1917 based English Scriptures and my book, The Pill Tanakh: Hebrew–English Jewish Scriptures.** Moreover, I hope that all are blessed who visit <https://www.The-Iconoclast.org>!

*יְהוָה [Yehovah] is the Name of God in Hebrew.

יְהוָה [Yehovah] means: (הָיָה) He who was, (הוּיָה) He who is, (יִהְיֶה) He who will be.