

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS; THE TWO
COVENANTS & SOME
MISUNDERSTOOD PASSAGES
EXAMINED!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

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PART 1 - THE TWO MINISTRATIONS OF 2ND CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 3

EXAMINED: -

2 Corinthians 3:3, 7 - 16: - "Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshy tables of the heart. ... But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away; How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: and not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: but their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away."

NOTE: - In VS. 7, 11, 13 & 14, we have repeated the teaching, that the "MINISTRATION OF DEATH AND CONDEMNATION", which were associated with Moses and the first Testament "written and engraven on stones" - VS. 7, has been abolished or taken away by Christ; and has now been replaced by the "MINISTRATION OF THE SPIRIT AND RIGHTEOUSNESS", under the New Testament.

There is an essential difference between a "Law", and the "Ministration" of that Law. The "Law" is the constitution necessary to govern or rule the people. The "Ministration" of the Law, is the administration or the ordained powers to carry the law into effect.

MINISTRATION: - "Administration of the sacrements, justice, law, an estate or revenue." - THE OXFORD UNIVERSAL DICTIONARY, ILLUSTRATED; VOLUME 1, p. 1255; 1970 EDITION.

The Living God spoke and wrote the 10 Commandments himself.

Deuteronomy 5:22 & 26: - "These words the Lord spake unto all your assembly in the mount **out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more.** And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me. ... **For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?"**

NOTE: - The Lord - the Living God added more to his 10 Commandment Law. This indicates that the 10 Commandments are a complete Law in themselves. The Living God is the Saviour of mankind, who we know is Jesus Christ

1 Timothy 4:10: - "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in **the living God, who is the Saviour of all men**, specially of those that believe"

2 Peter 3:18: - "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge **of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

NOTE: - Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, is the Living God, who spoke and wrote the 10 Commandment Law

The 10 Commandments are the "royal law" (See James 2:8) of Jesus Christ, who is "King of kings", and "Lord of lords" (See Revelation 17:14 & 19:11 - 16). They are the great constitution of Moral and Righteous principles, given by the Creator, by which all mankind are to live for all time. In the time of the first Covenant, this Law was engraved in stones, by the finger of the Living God - Jesus Christ. But in the New Covenant, this Law is to be put into the mind and heart, by the Spirit of the Living God - Jesus Christ. So the Spirit of Jesus Christ, will write his Law, in our hearts and minds. This is what Paul teaches in VS. 3.

Jeremiah 31:33: - "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; ...** "

And who is making the above promise of the New Covenant? The Lord who delivered Israel, from the land of Egypt.

Jeremiah 31:31 & 32: - "Behold, the days come, **saith the Lord**, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers **in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt**; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord."

The great "I AM", delivered Israel from Egypt. And the "I AM" **IS** Jesus Christ.

Exodus 3:7, 8 & 14: - "And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; **and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land** unto a good land and a large,

unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ... And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM hath sent me unto you.**”

John 8:58: - “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am.**”

NOTE: - Therefore, Jesus Christ - the great “I AM”, is the Lord who brought Israel out of Egyptian bondage, and who is making the New Covenant promises in Jeremiah 31:31 - 34.

This promise is fulfilled under the ministration of the Holy Spirit, to those who are abiding in Christ.

Romans 8:1 & 4: - “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ... **That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**”

1 John 3:24: - “**And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.**”

And those who have Christ abiding in them, by the indwelling Holy Spirit, will **not** commit sin (i. e. they will **not** transgress the law).

1 John 3:4 & 6: - “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.** ... **Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not:** ... “

The Law of God, in the first Covenant, was administered by the “MINISTRATION OF DEATH AND CONDEMNATION”, under the ordinances of the Law of Moses, which could **not** take away sins (See Hebrews 10:1 - 4). The veil mentioned in VS. 13 - 16, that “is done away in Christ”, which was on the heart of the unbelieving Jews, was the ministration of Moses; for as long as they “read”, and continued in the services of Moses' law, they could not see that Christ was the end of those typical services (See VS. 15). But when they look to the blood of Christ for atonement, then they can see that the “veil (i. e. the ministration of Moses) is done away in Christ.” As the Living God - our Saviour wrote the 10 Commandment Law himself and it was **not** written by Moses, so VS. 13 - 16 of 2 Corinthians 3 cannot be applying to the 10 Commandment Law, being “done away in Christ”. This point is further established, as Moses' Law, is called “the book of the covenant”. (i. e. The First Covenant.)

2 Chronicles 34:14 & 30: - “And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest **found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses.** ... And the king went up into the house

of the Lord, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of **the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord.**"

2 Kings 23:21: - "And the king commanded all the people, saying, **Keep the passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.**"

The death penalty forms **NO** part of the 10 Commandment Law, as given by Jesus Christ. But the death penalty came into being for wilful transgression of the 10 Commandments, in the first Covenant, under the Law of Moses. Ezekiel 20:24 & 25: - "Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. **Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live.**"

Hebrews 10:28: - "**He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.**"

Christ, in the New Covenant, has suspended the death penalty for wilful transgression of God's Law, until the Day of Judgment, when the penalty of sin - eternal death will be carried out.

Romans 6:23: - "**For the wages of sin is death;** but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Hebrews 10:26 & 27: - "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, **but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.**"

2 Peter 2:9: - "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, **and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.**"

2 Peter 3:7: - "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**"

PART 2: - GALATIANS 4:22 - 26 AND THE TWO COVENANTS: -

Galatians 4:22 - 26: - "For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

NOTE: - Many Christians believe that this passage "proves" beyond any doubt, that the 10 Commandment Law, which the Lord Jesus proclaimed from Mount Sinai, when he made the first Covenant with Israel, is bondage; and that the New Covenant has freed us from this "law of bondage". This common belief concerning this passage, is a gross wresting of Paul's writings, which Peter has warned us against (See 2 Peter 3:15 & 16), and which we shall now expose, for what it is - false doctrine!

Paul in the book of Hebrews, consistently calls the Covenant made at Mount Sinai, the FIRST COVENANT OR TESTAMENT.

Hebrews 8:7: - "For if that **first covenant** had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."

Hebrews 9:1: - "Then verily the **first covenant** had also ordinances of divine service, and a wordly sanctuary."

Hebrews 9:15 & 18: - "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the **first testament**, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. ... Whereupon neither the **first testament** was dedicated without blood."

NOTE: - We shall use this Biblical term to describe the Covenant made at Mount Sinai.

Firstly, the misconception concerning this passage arises because most Christians fail to take any account of the clear Biblical distinction, between the 10 Commandments and the first Covenant. The following material, will Biblically establish this distinction for the reader: -

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE FIRST COVENANT AND THE 10 COMMANDMENTS: -

1. This whole objection concerning the 10 Commandments & the First Covenant has arisen because Christians do **not** have a correct understanding of what the word "COVENANT" means. The word "COVENANT" is defined as: -"A mutual agreement between two or more persons to do or refrain from doing certain acts." - THE OXFORD UNIVERSAL DICTIONARY ILLUSTRATED; VOLUME 1, p. 411; 1970 EDITION.

"COVENANT" – "A mutual and solemn agreement; a contract; a compact; a written agreement; to agree to by covenant; to enter into an agreement." - THE NEW WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DICTIONARIES; p. 90; 1990 EDITION.

Such was the nature of the first Covenant that the Lord made with Israel at Mount Sinai - See Exodus 19:3 - 8 & 24:3 - 8. It was an agreement concerning the keeping of the 10 Commandments. The first Covenant was designed to secure obedience to the 10 Commandments. Therefore, the first Covenant could **NOT** have been the 10 Commandments themselves. Two people make a bargain, or covenant, concerning a piece of property. Surely their bargain or covenant is **NOT** the piece of property itself. This point can be further illustrated in the following incident concerning the Jewish priests, when they covenanted or entered into an agreement with Judas, to betray Jesus into their hands, for the agreed price of thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 26:14 & 15: - "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? **And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.**"

The apostle Paul himself, has established beyond any doubt, the distinction between the Covenants - plural (i. e. the First and New Covenants) and the giving of the law (which took place at Mount Sinai.)

Romans 9:4: - "Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, **AND THE COVENANTS, and the GIVING OF THE LAW,** and the service of God, and the promises."

NOTE: - While the "giving of the law" pertains to Israel, Paul also teaches that the "covenants" - plural also pertain to Israel.

2. The Lord Jesus made the first Covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai - See Deuteronomy 5:1 & 2. The first Covenant then came into existence. Yet, the Lord Jesus Christ's 10 Commandments were in existence **before** Mount Sinai as is established from the following Biblical facts: -
- A.) Romans 5:12 - 14 teaches us that death is caused by sin; and sin is **not** imputed where there is no law; and that death reigned from Adam to Moses. Therefore, the Law existed from the time of Adam to Moses.

B.) Genesis 26:4 & 5 informs us that Abraham kept God's Commandments and Laws.

C.) Exodus 16:4, 5 & 28 - 30 tells us that Israel knew of God's Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath, even **before** they came to Mount Sinai.

NOTE: - Therefore, the existence of such a law does **NOT** depend upon its public proclamation and being put into writing at Mount Sinai, when the Lord made the first Covenant with Israel.

3. The fact that the 10 Commandments are called “the words of the covenant” in Exodus 34:28; and they are called “his (i. e. the Lord's - compilers) covenant” in Deuteronomy 4:13, does **not** prove that they are the first Covenant. In fact, after searching the entire Bible, tracing the word “COVENANT” throughout the Scriptures, nowhere are the 10 Commandments directly called the “first” or “old covenant”. **NOWHERE!** We must remember that God made several “COVENANTS” with different people, before he made the first Covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai, and in fact, the word “COVENANT” does **not** always apply to one and the same thing, even in the Old Testament Scriptures. Again we stress, a Covenant is an Agreement between two parties to do or refrain from doing certain actions.
- God established his covenant with Noah and his seed, and even with the animals, concerning the world not being destroyed again by a flood, in Genesis 9:8 - 17.
 - God made a covenant with Abraham concerning the land of Canaan, which Paul in Galatians 3:17 & 18, calls interchangeably “the covenant” or “the promise” relating to Abraham's promised inheritance in Genesis 15:7 - 21.
 - God made a covenant with Abraham and his seed, concerning circumcision, which is called by the Lord, “my covenant”, in Genesis 17:9 - 14 & Acts 7:8.
 - God also made a covenant with Israel at Moab in Deuteronomy 29:1, which was **beside** the covenant he made with Israel at Horeb or Mount Sinai.

Are these Covenants or Agreements, the 10 Commandments? Obviously not!

4. The New Covenant is an agreement that the Lord Jesus has made with the house of Israel See Jeremiah 31:31 - 34. No one will say that the New Covenant is the law itself. Jesus makes an agreement or promise concerning his Law. For we can plainly see that the New Covenant promised by the Lord, entails the Law being written in the hearts and minds of his people, and the forgiveness of their sins. So also, the first Covenant was an agreement between God and Israel concerning his Law.

☞ Having Biblically established the distinction between the first Covenant and the 10 Commandments, and showing that the 10 Commandment Law is **NOT** the same as the first Covenant, the common misconception concerning Galatians 4:22 - 26, has **NO** Biblical validity at all. Then what is the true teaching of this passage?

We shall summarize this passage below: -

- Abraham's two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, represent the two Covenants or Agreements.
- Ishmael, who was born of the bondwoman Hagar, was born after the flesh, and represents the Covenant (i. e. the first Covenant) from Mount Sinai, and is in bondage with the earthly Jerusalem.
- Isaac, who was the son of the free woman Sarah, was the son of God's promise to Abraham, and represents the New Covenant, and is free, with the Heavenly Jerusalem, which is the mother of all those of the New Covenant.
- As Abraham and Hagar tried by their own efforts, to fulfil God's promise to Abraham, that he would have an heir, their efforts failed; so in the first Covenant, made at Mount Sinai, the children of Israel promised of themselves that "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do."

Exodus 19:7 & 8: - "And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, **All that the Lord hath spoken we will do.**"

Exodus 24:3, 4 & 7: - "And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, **All the words which the Lord hath said will we do.** And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, ... And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, **All that the Lord hath said, will we do, and be obedient.**"

NOTE: - In VS. 4 we find that MOSES wrote all the words of the Lord, which formed the basis of the first Covenant or Agreement; and in VS. 7 we find that Moses had written the terms and conditions of this Covenant or Agreement, in a book, which is called "the book of the covenant". (See 2 Chronicles 34:14 & 30 where Moses' book of the Law, is called "the book of the covenant".)

- We know that the Lord Jesus - the Living God, wrote the 10 Commandments himself and **NOT** Moses (See Deuteronomy 5:22 & 26 compared with 1 Timothy 4:10). This point, again establishes the Biblical truth that the 10 Commandments were **NOT** the first Covenant or Agreement.

▪ Jesus taught a vital truth, when he said, “Without me ye can do nothing.” - John 15:5. Without the grace of Christ, Israel's promise to obey the first Covenant was bound to fail. And this was the case, when several weeks later, Israel went into open apostasy, by making and worshipping the Golden Calf, and thus they broke the Covenant or Agreement to be obedient, and were left in the bondage of sin.

▪ The Bible plainly teaches that sin (which is defined as the transgression of the law - See 1 John 3:4), **IS** bondage.

Proverbs 5:22: - “His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, **and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.**”

John 8:34: - “Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**”

Acts 8:23: - “For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, **and in the bond of iniquity.**”

Romans 6:16: - “**Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey**; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness”

2 Peter 2:19: - “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: **for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.**”

The problem of the first Covenant was **not** with the 10 Commandments, as most Christians assume. The fault was with the people of Israel because they broke the Covenant or Agreement to be obedient to the Lord

Hebrews 8:7 - 9: - “For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. **For finding fault with them**, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.”

NOTE: - VS. 7 proves that the first Covenant was **NOT** the 10 Commandments. How so? Paul states that if the first Covenant had been faultless, then there would have been no place or need of the second

Covenant. Clearly, the first Covenant became faulty when the children of Israel broke their agreement with the Lord. And yet, the Bible teaches, that the Law of God is **PERFECT**, and HOLY, JUST AND GOOD!

Psalm 19:7: - **“THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT**, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

Romans 7:12: - “Wherefore **THE LAW IS HOLY, AND THE COMMANDMENT HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD.**”

NOTE: - In the context of VS. 7, the Law referred to, is the 10 Commandments, because Paul is quoting the 10th Commandment – “THOU SHALT NOT COVET” - See Exodus 20:17.

James 1:25: - “But whoso looketh into **THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY**, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

NOTE: - “The perfect law of liberty” is the 10 Commandment Law, as it is plainly referred to in James 2:8 - 12.

☞ Therefore, the 10 Commandments are **PERFECT AND WITHOUT FAULT - FAULTLESS**; and they could **NOT** have been the first Covenant which became **FAULTY** through the failure of the people of Israel to keep the Covenant or Agreement, according to Hebrews 8:7,8.

The Bible teaches that if we obey the Law of God, we walk at liberty.

Psalm 119:44 & 45: - “So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. **And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.**”

When we have been justified, we have been set free from.

Romans 6:7 & 18: - “For he that is dead is ***freed (* the margin has “justified”)** from sin. ... **Being then made free** from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

The 10 Commandment Law is the “law of liberty”. And as such, this is another Biblical proof, that the 10 Commandments were **NOT** the first Covenant which tended to Bondage, being discussed in Galatians 4:22 - 26.

James 2:8 - 12: - “If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For

he that said, **DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY**, said also, **DO NOT KILL**. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by **THE LAW OF LIBERTY.**”

✎ In summary, the difference between the First and New Covenants is **NOT** between two different Laws. The difference is between two different sets of promises, and most importantly, **WHO** makes the promises in the two Covenants. As the Lord promised to give Abraham an heir through Sarah, and God fulfilled this promise, through the birth of Isaac - the son of promise; so in the New Covenant, the Lord Jesus has promised that he will fulfil all the promises of the New Covenant, which has been “established upon better promises” - Hebrews 8:6. The New Covenant contains promises of the Living God, and not the promises of sinful, fallible mortals.

PART 3 - EXODUS 34:28 EXAMINED: -

Exodus 34:28: - “And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.”

NOTE: - This verse from Exodus is assumed by some Christians to “prove” beyond any doubt, that the 10 Commandments were the first or old covenant, which passed or vanished away, at the death of Jesus. But reading this verse in Exodus 34 carefully, the words "First" or "Old" do **NOT** appear as applying to the Covenant, in this verse at all. And those Christians who teach this doctrine, based on an incorrect reading of this verse, are guilty of **ADDING** to God's Word.

Proverbs 30:5 & 6: - “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. **Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**”

Moses wrote out the words (i. e. the terms and conditions) of the First Covenant in a book, which was called “the book of the covenant.”

Exodus 24:3, 4 & 7: - “And Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the Lord hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, ... And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people; and they said, All that the Lord hath said, will we do, and be obedient.”

And Moses' Law that he wrote in a book was called “the book of the covenant.”

2 Chronicles 34:14 & 30: - “And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses. ... And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord.”

NOTE: - Clearly, “the book of the covenant” written by Moses, which contained all the terms and conditions of the First Covenant, is **NOT** what Exodus 34:28 is referring to.

Then what is the covenant which Exodus 34:28 is describing? Comparing Scripture with Scripture, the answer is, that it is applying to the Lord's Covenant, which he has commanded to be performed.

Deuteronomy 4:12 & 13: - "And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. **And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.**"

The 10 Commandments are the Covenant, as being distinct from the First covenant that he made with the people of Israel. And thus, the Two Tables of Stone upon which the Lord wrote his 10 Commandments were called the "tables of the covenant". (i. e. The "tables of the Lord's covenant".)

Deuteronomy 9:11: - "And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, **that the Lord gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant.**"

The 10 Commandments were then placed by Moses into the "Ark", which then was called "the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord", because it contained the Lord's Covenant.

Deuteronomy 10:4, 5 & 8: - "**And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments**, which the Lord spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the Lord gave them unto me. And I turned myself and came down from the mount, **and put the tables in the ark which I had made**; and there they be, as the Lord commanded me. ... At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi, to bear **the ark of the covenant of the Lord**, to stand before the Lord to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day."

The following verses leave no doubt, that the 10 Commandments contained in the "Ark of the Covenant", are the Lord's Covenant.

1 Kings 8:9 & 21: - "There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. ... And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the Lord, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt."

The Ark of the Covenant, belongs to "the Lord of all the earth" - the "Lord of hosts."

Joshua 3:11: - "Behold, **the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth** passeth over before you into Jordan."

1 Samuel 4:4: - "So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence **the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts**, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.'

And "the Lord of all the earth" – "the Lord of hosts", is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 54:5: - "For thy Maker is thine husband; **the Lord of hosts is his name**; and thy Redeemer **the Holy One of Israel**; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."

And Jesus Christ is the Holy One.

Acts 3:13 & 14: - "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified **his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate**, when he was determined to let him go. **But ye denied the Holy One and the Just**, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you."

NOTE: - Therefore, Jesus Christ - the Holy One, "the Lord of the whole earth", "the Lord of hosts", whose COVENANT is the 10 Commandments, contained in the "Ark of the Covenant of the Lord", as stated in Joshua 3:11 & 1 Samuel 4:4.

And Jesus Christ, "the Lord of hosts", does **NOT** change.

Malachi 3:5 & 6: - "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, **saith the Lord of hosts. For I am the Lord, I change not** therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

NOTE: - As we already know from Isaiah 54:5 & Acts 3:13 & 14, "the Lord of hosts" – "the Holy One", is Christ. Therefore, this passage in Malachi 3, is applying to the Lord Jesus Christ, as being the One WHO changes not.

Hebrews 13:8: - "**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.**"

And the Lord Jesus' Covenant - his 10 Commandments, **all** of them, are eternal, and stand fast for ever and ever.

Psalms 111:7 - 9: - "The works of his hands are verity and judgment; **all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.** He sent redemption unto his people: **he hath commanded his covenant for ever**: holy and reverend is his name."

This is why in the last book of the New Testament Scriptures, "the ark of his testament" (i. e. covenant) is seen by the apostle John, in God's Temple in Heaven.

Revelation 11:19: - “**And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament:** and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”

NOTE: - Christ's eternal and steadfast Covenant of 10 Commandments, is the foundation of both the First and New Covenants. It can **NEVER** be changed or abolished.

