

# Did the TEN COMMANDMENTS *Precede* Moses?

Greek word *ergon* means “works,” as in Most suppose that the Ten Commandments “ended with Christ” and “started with Moses.” Is this correct? Were the Ten Commandments in force before Moses? If so, is there biblical proof that they were?

M

already in force long before they were officially given to Israel at Mount Sinai. In fact, they have existed since the creation of man. The Ten Commandments were never part of the law of Moses or the Levitical sacrificial system. The civil laws and sacrifices were *based on* God’s commandments, which constitute the core of God’s laws. Thus, the Ten Commandments precede and transcend any and every lesser law or practice based upon them—statutes, judgments, precepts, and ordinances.

The Ten Commandments are God’s spiritual laws (Rom. 7:12, 14). They are just as active as the physical laws of gravity and inertia. Just as breaking physical laws results in physical consequences, breaking spiritual laws results in spiritual consequences.

*for that all have sinned:* (For until the law sin was in the world: but *sin is not imputed when there is no law.* Nevertheless *death reigned from Adam to Moses*, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of Him that was to come)” (Rom. 5:12-14).

In other words, Adam sinned. Sin is not imputed—does not apply—where there is no *law* (Rom. 4:15). Death reigned from Adam to Moses. (Remember, death is the penalty for sin, which is defined as the transgression of the law.) The only way Adam and his descendants could sin—break God’s spiritual law—is if God’s law *already* existed!

Instead of rejecting sin, modern religionists reject the law. They view the law as a burden—they want to be free from keeping it. But notice the key lessons found in Romans 7:7: “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. No, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, You shall not covet.” It is not the law that is at fault, but sin. God reveals to us what sin is. He does this by His perfect law. On his own, man cannot discover God’s perfect law. God has to reveal and teach it to us.

## Man’s First Sin

In the Garden of Eden, God talked to Adam and gave him clear, understandable instructions. Adam needed this. He was an adult with an adult mind, but God had to reveal to him the spiritual boundaries that Adam could not discover on his own, without breaking God’s laws. Genesis 2:15 states, “And the

## Law of Moses or God’s Law?

that were added later, summarized in Hebrews 9:10. They were ordinances regulating the job of the tribe of Levi in temple service and sacrifices (Leviticus 1-7) and associated functions. The

## Sin Defined

Before proving that the Ten Commandments have existed since the creation of man, we need to understand the Bible definition of sin: “Whoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4).

Romans 6:23 defines the penalty—the end result—of sin: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Notice: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men,