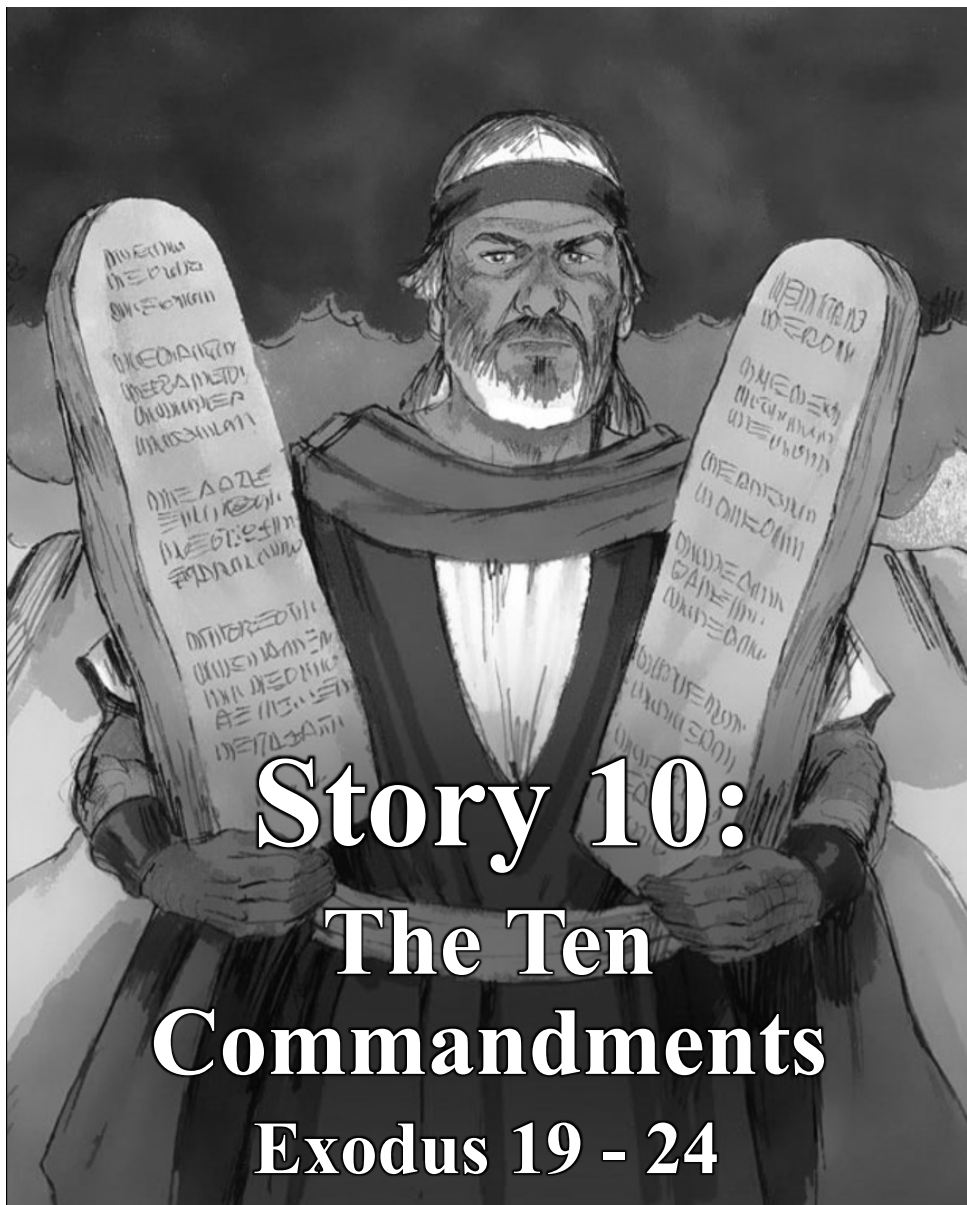


A colorful illustration of Moses, an older man with a white beard and a red headband, wearing a red robe with a green shawl. He is holding two large, yellow stone tablets with Hebrew text. The background is a dark blue sky with yellow clouds.

Story 10: The Ten Commandments Exodus 19 - 24



Story 10:

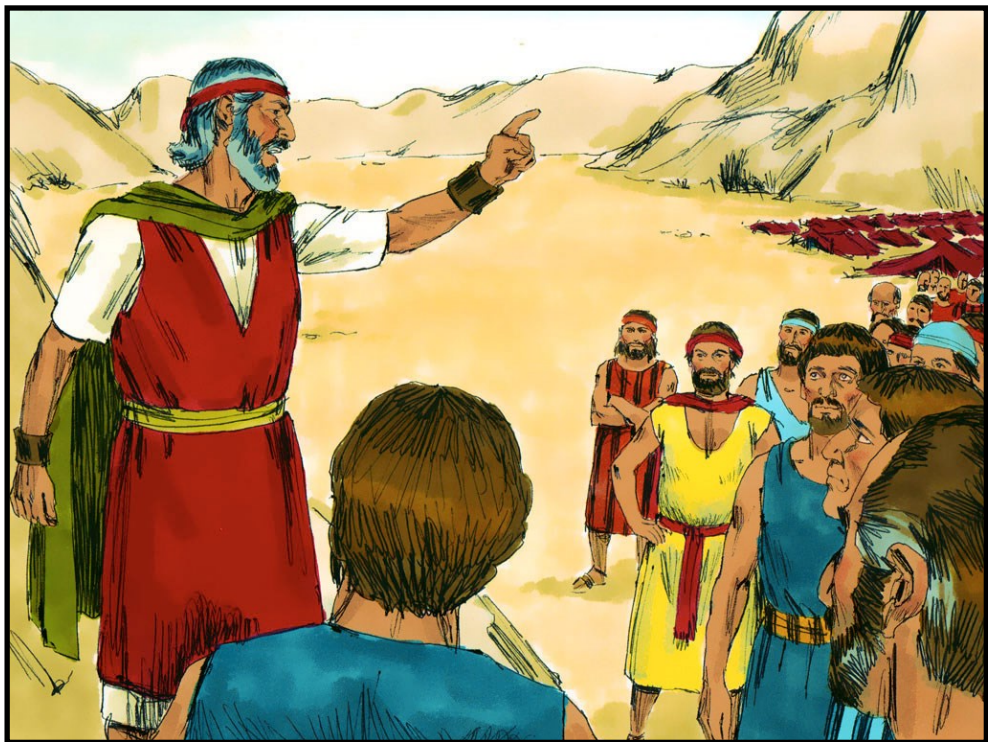
The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19 - 24



Three months after leaving the land of Egypt, the Israelites finally arrived in the Sinai Wilderness where they camped at the foot of the mountain.

Moses climbed to the top of the mountain and God spoke to him saying, “Tell this to the people: You saw for yourself what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles wings. If you will obey me with all your heart, then out of all the nations on earth you will be my special treasure.”



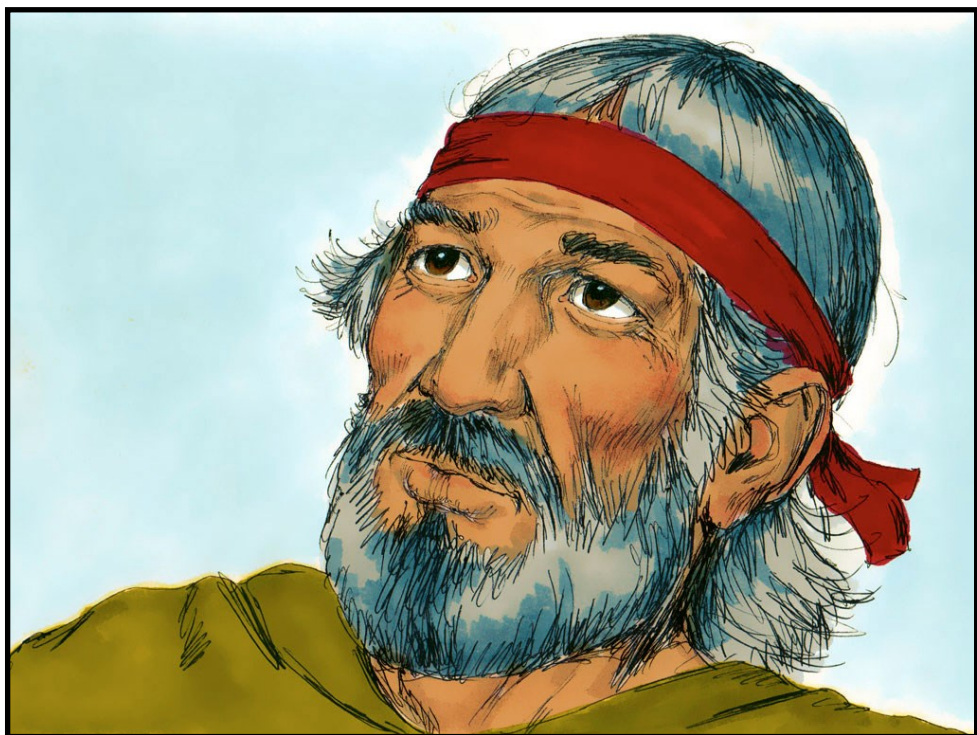
When Moses came down from the mountain, he sent for the elders of the people and told them what the LORD had said.

Together, they responded by saying, “We will do everything that the LORD has commanded.” So Moses left the people and brought their answer back up to the LORD.

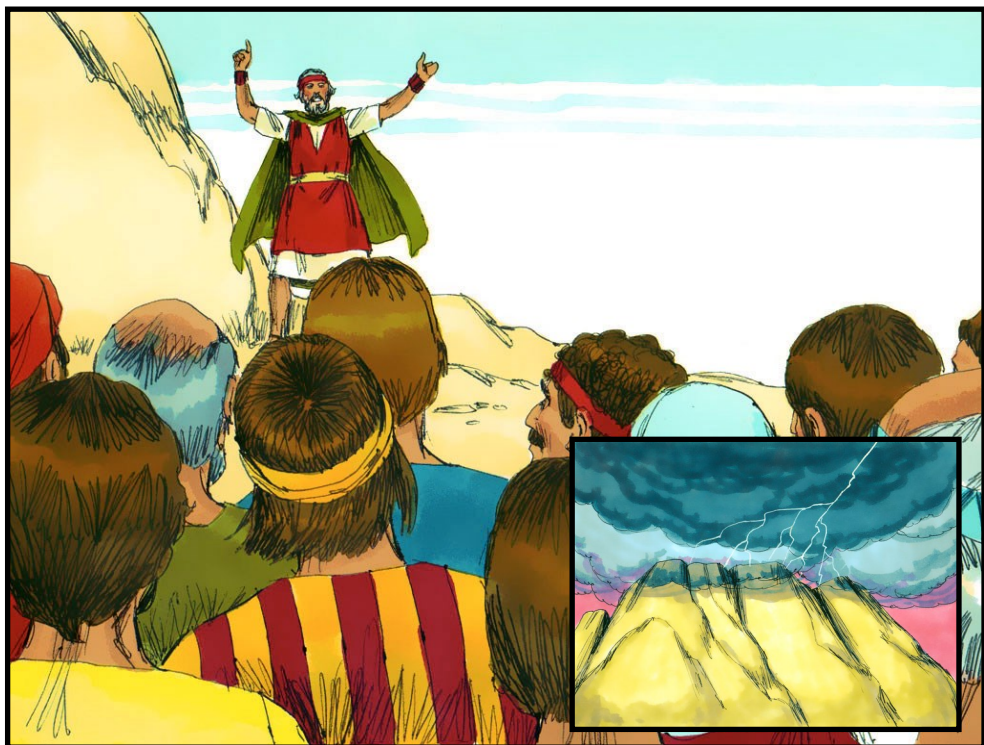


When Moses arrived again at the top of the mountain, God spoke to him saying, “I am going to come down in a thick cloud. All the people will hear me speaking to you and put their trust in you as their leader.”

Then, Moses told the LORD all that the Israelite elders had said—that they were ready to obey all of His commands.



Again, the LORD spoke to Moses. He said, “I want you to prepare the people for my arrival. On the third day, I am going to come down upon the mountain. Make sure that none of the people go near the mountain or touch it. If they do, they must be put to death. They may only go near the mountain when they hear a loud trumpet blast from the ram’s horn.”

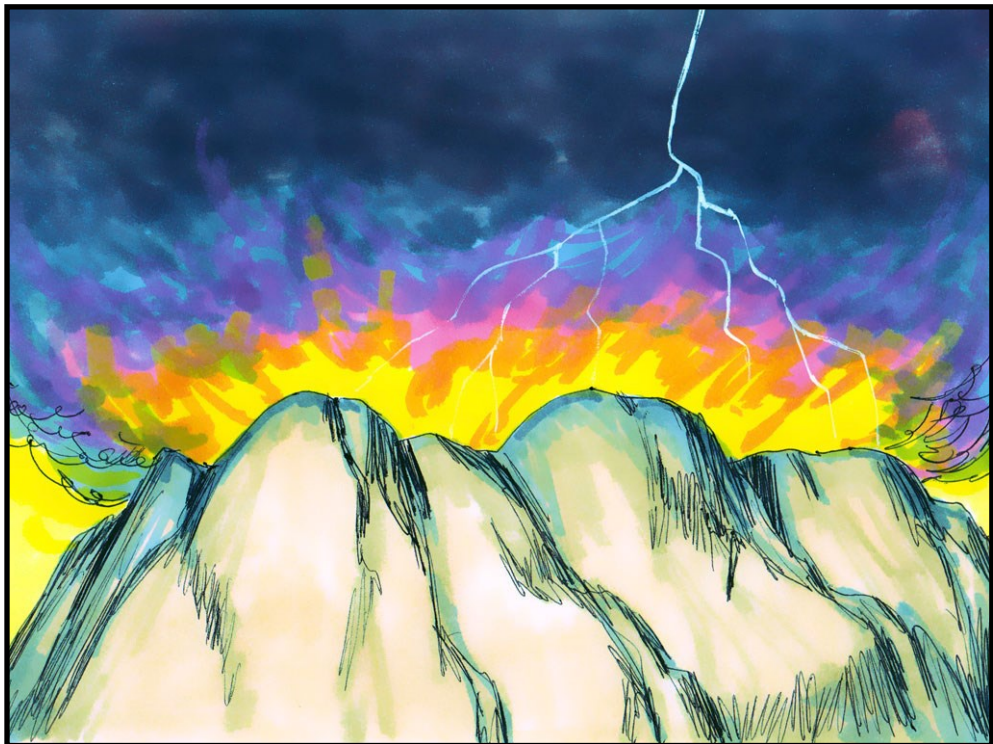


So Moses came down from the mountain and instructed the people to prepare themselves for the LORD's arrival.

On the morning of the third day, lightning flashed, thunder roared, and a thick cloud came down.



Then, there was a loud blast from the ram's horn. Moses brought the people out of the camp in order to meet with God. When they saw God's display of power, they began to tremble with fear.



All of Mount Sinai was covered in smoke as the LORD came down upon the mountain in the form of fire. The smoke coming off the mountain looked like a giant furnace and the whole mountain trembled. As the Israelites were standing there, the sound of the ram's horn got louder and louder.



Again, the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain to meet with Him. The LORD said, “Make sure to tell the people not to get too close or they will die. Even the priests must purify themselves so that I don’t become angry and break out against them. After you tell this to the people, return to me. This time, bring your brother Aaron with you.”



So Moses went down to the people and told them what the LORD had said. He warned them that the mountain was holy and that they must not come any closer. Then, he and Aaron climbed to the top of the mountain.



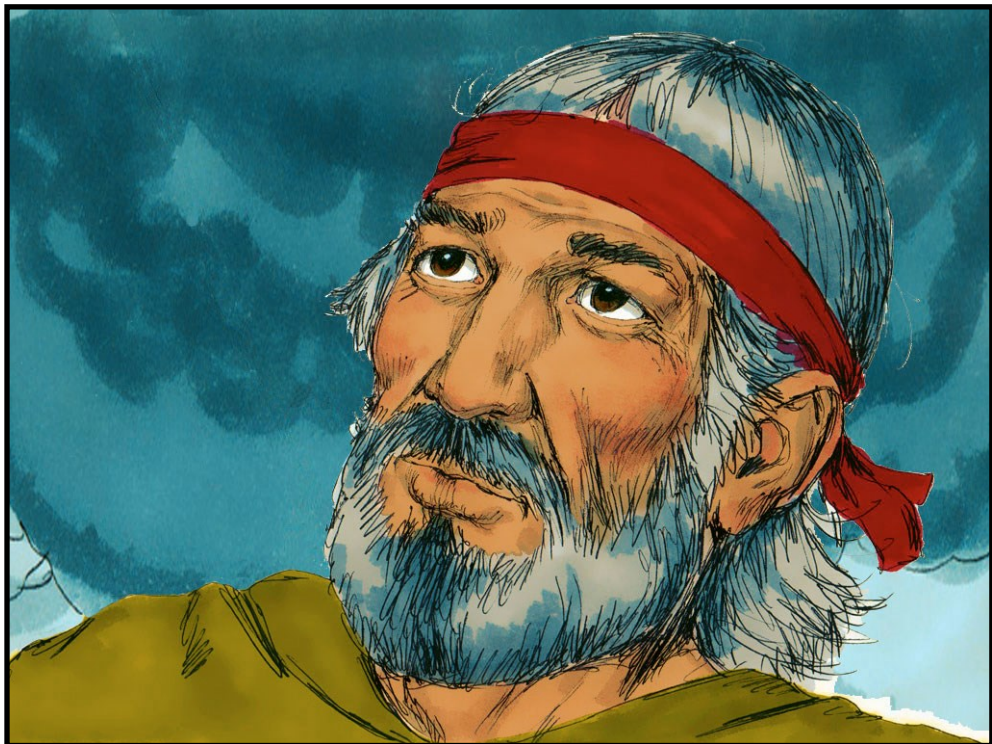
When they arrived, the LORD said to them, “I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt—the land of slavery. These are my commandments for all the people to follow:

- 1. You shall have no other gods before me.**
- 2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.**
- 3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.**



4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. For six days you will work, but on the seventh day, you, your family, and your animals must rest.

5. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.



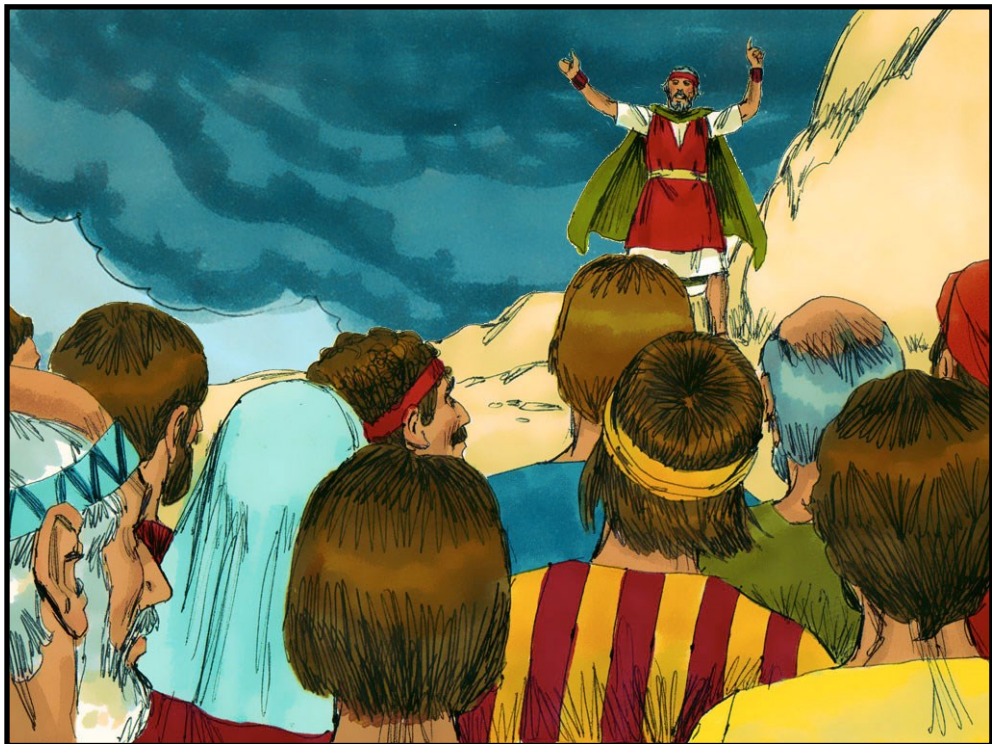
6. You shall not murder.

7. You shall not commit adultery.

8. You shall not steal.

9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.



Moses returned to the people, but they continued to tremble with fear and keep their distance.

They said to Moses, “If you speak to us, we will listen. But please don’t let God speak to us or we might die!”

Moses responded, “Don’t be afraid. God has shown up like this so that you’ll respect Him and not sin.”



After these events, the LORD gave Moses further instructions to help the people live at peace with one another. The people responded by saying that they would keep all of the LORD's commands.

The next morning, Moses got up and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. Moses made sacrifices and put half of the blood into bowls. The other half he splashed against the altar. Then, he read the Book of the Covenant to all the people.



Moses took the remaining blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that God has made with us.”

Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the 70 elders of Israel climbed up the mountain. There they saw God. Under His feet there seemed to be beautiful blue jewels. They stopped and ate together in God’s presence. Nevertheless, God did not harm the elders even though they saw Him.



The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the top of the mountain and I will give you tablets of stone with my commandments written on them.”

As he was leaving, Moses told the elders of Israel to wait for his return. He said, “If any of the people have a problem while I am gone, they can go to Aaron and Hur.”

Moses summoned Joshua, who had led the Israelites into battle, and took him a little further.



Later, Moses left Joshua and went the rest of the way up the mountain by himself. A cloud covered the mountain for six days. On the seventh day, the LORD called out to Moses from inside the cloud. Moses entered the cloud and stayed on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights receiving the Ten Commandments and learning about the Tabernacle—a place of worship that God wanted the Israelites to build.

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