

# The Real Ten Commandments

## by Chuck Weiss

The correct translation of the original Hebrew is “The Ten Words,” or Statements, not Commandments. In fact, not all the words are actual commandments. For example the first listed. Is “I am the Lord thou God,” a statement.

Statements 6, 8 and 10 are actual Commandments, but they are also mistranslated.

**6: “Thou shall not Kill”** is now being translated to read “Thou shall not murder,” thereby exempting state sanctioned killings (executions). The actual translation is “Thou shall not commit an “unethical killing.” (Quite a bit of room for interpretation, there, I would think.) It’s interesting to note that in biblical times, there was no legal concept such as manslaughter, the unintentional killing of another person. The motive, or lack of one, wasn’t considered. The punishment was the same.

**8: “Thou shall not steal”** is a mistranslation, intentional or not. The original Hebrew reads, “Thou shall not kidnap.” It was to meant to prevent harm to a person (human trafficking), but later changed in the King James version to protect personal property.

**10: “Thou shall not covet thou neighbor’s wife.”** Today’s dictionaries define covet as, “yearn to possess or to have something.” But in biblical times it meant to actively try to obtain that which you coveted. Just to have lustful thoughts for your neighbor’s wife, didn’t mean you “coveted” her. You had to actually try to seduce her.

The two stone tables of “The Ten Words” were in fact identical, with five statements chiseled on each side. This was the norm for all legal records at the time. Two copies were always made, one to be held in the State Archive, while the other was given to the individual concerned. So in this instance, one tablet was given to Moses for safekeeping, while the other was to be circulated among the people for all to see.

Legend has it that God wrote The Ten Words with his finger. He didn’t write on one side and then turn the tablet over to write on the other. Instead His finger went through the stone, and as it moved it wrote on both sides simultaneously. As He wrote the First Word on the front, He was (at the same time) writing the Sixth Word on the back. Hebrew scholars have interpreted this to mean that a Word written on the front of the tablet has a corresponding meaning to the Word connected on the reverse side, and visa versa. Religious scholars have been trying ever since to figure out what those “corresponding meanings” are.

Researched from Wikipedia.org, and various YouTube videos.

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