

# Three Different Version of Ten Commandments

In an earlier email, [Exploring Facts About Our Bibles](#), I introduced the following information. “*The Bible, in the singular, does not exist. Different communities have different Bibles. They have Bibles comprised of different books, in different orders, in different languages. They interpret the same verses in different ways.*”

My previous email, [Three Different Stories About the Ten Commandments in the Bible](#), discussed *the three stories in the Torah about the Ten Commandments*. Today I am going to focus on the three different interpretations of the same verses in the Exodus 20 story – Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Protestant interpretations.

Wording may vary depending on the translation one uses. Also have an awareness of where the institutions making the interpretations appear on a timeline. Judaism existed first, followed by the Roman Catholic Church, and over a thousand years later, Protestantism appears. Now let's compare the three interpretations.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

- **Jewish** – *I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage.*
- **Catholic** – *I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.*
- **Protestant** - *You shall have no other gods before me.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment

- **Jewish** – *You shall have no other gods besides Me. You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth.*
- **Catholic** – *You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.*
- **Protestant** -- *You shall not make unto you any graven image.*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment

- **Jewish** – *You shall not swear falsely by the name of the Lord your God.*
- **Catholic** – *Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.*
- **Protestant** - *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

- **Jewish** – *Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.*
- **Catholic** – *Honor your father and mother.*
- **Protestant** – *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

- **Jewish** – *Honor your father and your mother.*
- **Catholic** – *You shall not kill.*
- **Protestant** – *Honor your father and your mother.*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

- **Jewish** – *You shall not murder.*
- **Catholic** – *You shall not commit adultery.*
- **Protestant** – *You shall not kill.*

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

- **Jewish** – *You shall not commit adultery.*
- **Catholic** – *You shall not steal.*
- **Protestant** – *You shall not commit adultery.*

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

- **Jewish** – *You shall not steal.*
- **Catholic** – *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
- **Protestant** – *You shall not steal.*

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Commandment**

- **Jewish** – *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
- **Catholic** – *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.*
- **Protestant** – *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

- **Jewish** – *You shall not covet your neighbor's house (anything that belongs to your neighbor).*
- **Catholic** – *You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.*
- **Protestant** – *You shall not covet your neighbor's house (or anything that belongs to your neighbor).*

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Shalom,  
Jim Myers

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