

## God's Law ALWAYS HAS and ALWAYS WILL Be in Effect

Most people think that God's law was not in existence *prior* to the time of Moses at Mount Sinai. The fact is, however, that God's law was in existence (and in effect) long *before* that time!

As this article will prove, it has been in effect since the time of *Adam*---and even prior to Adam. The truth is that God's law always has---and always will---be in effect!

Now, the law being referred to is God's **spiritual** law, as summarized by the Ten Commandments. It's the law which tells us *how* to live. So this is the law which we will be examining today. *Not* the Old Testament laws of rituals and animal sacrifice---*nor* the hundreds of detailed and burdensome laws made by *humans* (under the name of Judaism) which were *added to* God's spiritual law. Instead, we're discussing today God's spiritual law, summarized by the Ten Commandments.

Before we look at the Biblical proof that God's law was in effect prior to Moses (prior to Mount Sinai), let's first consider the *nature* of God's law. Once we understand the nature of God's spiritual law, then it makes perfect *sense* that the law has *always* been in effect.

The Bible states that "God **is** love" (I John 4:8). "Love" is the way which God lives...and it's the way He commands *us* to live. Yet, "love" is not left to the *interpretation* of each human being. *Only God*, in His supreme wisdom, knows the *way* of life which **leads** to peace, happiness, and prosperity (Isa. 55:8-9; Prov. 3:5; 14:12).

The Bible is God's *revelation* of the way of life which **He** lives---which is the way He commands **us** to live. And in telling us how to live, God gives us **laws** which He commands us to live by. Rom. 13:10 says that love *fulfills* God's law. Why does love fulfill the law? Because God's spiritual law is a law **OF** love. It's a law which reveals **how** to express true, Godly love. Christ said that "**All** the law" hangs on the two great commandments to *love* God and to *love* fellowman (Matt. 22:36-40). The first four of the Ten Commandments show the basics of how to love God, and the last six show the basics of how to love fellowman. The Ten Commandments are further magnified throughout the Bible, especially in the New Testament.

God's *love* runs down the channel or riverbed of God's Ten Commandments. "For this **is** the *love* of God, that we keep His commandments" (I John 5:3). Likewise, in II John 6, John explained that "This **is** love, that we walk according to His commandments." God's law is the very reflection of God's character! So it only makes *sense* that God's spiritual law---His law of love, summarized by the Ten Commandments---would have **always** been in effect!

Let's now look at the *Biblical evidence* that God's law was in existence **prior** to Mt. Sinai.

Hundreds of years **prior** to the Ten Commandments being given at Mt. Sinai, God said this about His servant Abraham: "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My **commandments**, My statutes, and My **laws**"! (Gen. 26:5).

Furthermore, the Ten Commandments were given in Exodus 20. So let's look *prior* to that time, in Exodus 16. Here, weeks *before* the Ten Commandments were given at Mt. Sinai, we read where God said this in verse 28: "How long do you refuse to keep **My commandments and My laws**?"

Likewise, in Exodus 18, Moses said that when the people came to him with a problem, he made known to them “the statutes of God and His **laws**” (verse 16). That was *prior* to the giving of the Ten Commandments at Sinai!

So, since God’s spiritual law was *already* in effect, why did He give it at Sinai? (1) The Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years and had gotten far *away* from God, and had even *forgotten* God’s law—especially under the heavy hand of the Egyptians, who enforced worship of *pagan* gods. (2) Ancient Israel was entering a covenant or agreement with God, whereby they agreed to obey God’s law, and God would, in turn, bless them with physical blessings.

We will now see that God’s spiritual law was in effect all the way back to the time of the first man, Adam. But, first, let’s answer the question “what exactly *is* sin?” In I John 3:4 we’re clearly told the *definition* of sin: “...sin **is** the transgression of the law” (KJV). That is, “sin” is the transgression of God’s *spiritual law*. So, whenever the Bible says that someone “sinned,” it is saying that the person transgressed God’s spiritual law.

Now, did *Adam* sin? Rom. 5:12 says that “through one man **sin** entered the world.” So, Adam *did* sin, which means he transgressed God’s law. Therefore, God’s law was **in effect** at the time of Adam!

In Gen. 4:6-9, we see that Cain likewise sinned (transgressed God’s law), and that two of his “sins” (verses 8-9) were murder and lying--- which are two of the Ten Commandments.

“Adultery,” another of the Ten Commandments, is shown to have been a “sin” long *before* the time of Mt. Sinai. When tempted to commit adultery, Joseph said, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and **sin** against God?” (Gen. 39:7-9).

Many other such examples can be found in the Bible where various points of the Ten Commandments were considered “sin” *prior* to the time of Sinai.

Furthermore, God’s word tells us that “where there is *no* law, there is *no* transgression” (Rom. 4:15). Yet, the Bible tells of *many* transgressions **prior** to the time of Sinai. We’ve just examined several such instances. In fact, God sent the flood in Noah’s time, due to the earthy being full of transgressions! (Gen. 6:5-7). Likewise, notice I Tim. 2:14—“And, Adam was not deceived, but the woman [Eve] being deceived, fell into **transgression** [the same Greek word as in Rom 4:15]”

Yes, “where there is *no* law, there is *no* transgression.” So since there *were* transgressions prior to Sinai, there was a law *in effect* prior to Sinai! “Sin” **is** the transgression of the law!

Finally, consider these two scriptures. In Ezek. 28:16, God tells Satan, “You became filled with violence within, and you **sinned**; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God.” “For if God did not spare the angels who **sinned**...” (II Peter 2:4).

These two scriptures speak of “sin” [transgression of the law] by Satan and his angels **prior** to the time of Adam. So here we see that God’s spiritual law existed even prior to the time of Adam!

King David, who was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22), said this: “all his [God’s] commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever...” (Ps. 111: 7-8, KJV). Yes, God’s law *always has*, and *always will*, be in effect! It is the very reflection of God’s character!

And what about after Christ returns? “Now it shall come to pass *in the latter days* that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; And **all** nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in

His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the **law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isa. 2: 2-3). This scripture plainly shows that God’s spiritual law is **not just for** the Jews!

Also speaking of tomorrow’s world, notice Ezekiel chapter 11: “Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may **walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them**; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God ” (verses 19-20).

Yes, God’s spiritual law will still be in effect *after* Christ’s return, when God’s Kingdom is set up over all the earth. At that time, the glorified saints will **rule**---*by God’s spiritual law*---with and under Christ (Rev.2:26-27; 3:21; 5:9-10; 20:4, 6).

Furthermore, God’s Sabbath and annual holy days are a *part of* God’s spiritual law. For proof that these days are to be kept both now **and** after Christ’s return, see the section of articles on this website regarding the Sabbath and annual holy days.