

# Keeping God First in the New Year

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**Text:** Exodus 20:1-3

*"And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:1-3)*

## INTRODUCTION

- Ten Commandments start out with  
"I AM the Lord your God..."  
(Lev 20:2-17, Deut 5:6-21)
- Ps 104:24-27 God the Creator... God is the same... & His years have no end
- Ps 41:13 the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting
- Is 40:28 the everlasting God the Lord
- Is 44:6 God "I AM the First & the last... Besides Me there is no god"

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)*

*"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" (Philippians 3:10)*

*"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Colossians 1:18) - Jesus Christ the Lord*

*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)*

10  
Commandments  
*"And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." (Deuteronomy 4:13)*

**Quote:** "The God you worship will shape the values you hold."

# 1. REMEMBER HIS character (v. 2)

## A. The name of God

*in the name of Jesus*  
(Acts 2:38, 4:10, 9:27, Philp 2:10)  
"And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." (Exodus 3:14) YHVH

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58)

"The LORD is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)

"I am the good Shepherd." (John 10:11) Jesus

**Quote:** "God is who He is - He is not whoever you want him to be!"

## B. The nature of God trustworthy God

### HE IS SELF-EXISTENT

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." (Isaiah 43:10)

### HE IS ETERNAL AND HAD NO BEGINNING

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Psalm 90:2)

### HE IS SOVEREIGN King of Kings & Lord of lords

"Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?" (Isaiah 43:13)

### HE IS ALWAYS THE SAME

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." (Malachi 3:6)

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8)

### HE IS ALL POWERFUL (omnipotent)

"Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." (Revelation 19:6)

- God is omnipresent (everywhere at once)
- God is omniscient (all knowing)

## 2. RESPOND TO HIS Call

### A. An Intervention of deliverance

#### GOD SAW THE NEED OF HIS PEOPLE

Israel's  
need

"And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; 8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites." (Exodus 3:7-8)

human  
need

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

#### GOD MET THE NEED OF HIS PEOPLE

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God. 13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host." (Exodus 16:11-13)

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

### B. An Intervention of grace

#### GOD REDEEMED THEM BY HIS GRACE

God's free  
gift

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

#### GOD REDEEMED THEM IN LOVE

**Quote:** "You will never obey God until you are convinced He loves you."

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:" (1 John 3:16)

**Quote:** "If we want proof of God's love for us, then we must look first at the Cross where God offered up His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Calvary is the one objective, absolute, irrefutable proof of God's love for us." — **Jerry Bridge**



"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."  
(1 John 4:9-10)

"We love him, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

### 3. REVERENCE HIS Purpose (v. 3-6)

#### A. To Loyal adoration

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." (Isaiah 42:8)

**Quote:** "It must be felt that there is no national security but in the nation's humble acknowledged dependence upon God and His overruling providence."—**John Adams**

**Quote:** "If we ever forget that we are One Nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."—**Ronald Reagan**

**Quote:** "For the child of God, the primary meaning of the fear of God is veneration and honor, reverence and awe. It is the attitude that elicits from our hearts adoration and love, reverence and honor. It focuses not upon the wrath of God but upon the majesty, holiness, and transcendent glory of God."

—**Andrew Murray**

#### B. To Loving affection

WE MUST TURN FROM ALL OTHERS

WE MUST TRUST ONLY IN HIM

"The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you,"  
(Deuteronomy 7:7-8a)

Israel  
smallest  
family

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10)

- Israel had no reason for pride in being God's chosen people (Deut 7:7)
  - \* because they smallest family
  - \* only God's grace & love gave them status of chosen people
- Gentile church grafted into God's olive tree
  - \* Gentile church (Rom 11:13)
  - \* no place for boasting (Rom 11:17-18)
  - \* be humble, remember your place (Rom 11:20-21)