

law often states only general rules; that, in fact, many positive points that lie in its intention are not expressly enjoined, but that only the facts, patterns, and institutions are set forth which serve to guide a free development of positive virtues. . . . 3. Finally, -- and this is the main point, -- we have to look at the motives for fulfilling the law which the law presents. All righteousness required by the law presupposes faith in the divine election, gracious guidance, and promise.

2. The Ten Commandments as a standard of moral conduct

In the article "Decalogue" in Encyclopedia Judaica we read the following:

DECALOGUE (The Ten Commandments). The statements of God quoted by Moses in Deuteronomy 5:6-18 are entitled "the ten words, or utterances" . . . The same title in Exodus 34:28 has traditionally been referred to the "original" version of these statements in Exodus 20:2-14 . . . Mishnaic Hebrew . . . reflects the specialized use of דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה for divine speech . . . The Decalogue comprised the stipulations of the covenant between God and Israel (Deut. 4:13). It was engraved on both sides of two stone "tablets of the covenant."

a. Versions of the Decalogue

Exodus 20:2-17

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. {3} "You shall have no other gods before me. {4} "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. {5} You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, {6} but showing love to a thousand <generations> of those who love me and keep my commandments. {7} "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. {8} "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. {9} Six days you shall labor and do all your work, {10} but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. {11} For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. {12} "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. {13} "You shall not murder. {14} "You shall not commit adultery. {15} "You shall not steal. {16} "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. {17} "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. {7} "You shall have no other gods before me. {8} "You shall not