

**The Two Great Commandments**  
**given in the Old & the New Testaments**  
*Val Brinkerhoff 8/4/2020 – 3 pages*

In our LORD's mortal ministry in the meridian of time, He referenced the 2 Great Commandments given the Israelites earlier. He recited them to a *scribe* and then to a *lawyer*, both experts on **the law**. These men were testing Jesus on His knowledge of the foundations of *governance* in God's own law, as given by Him as Jehovah in the Old Testament (see [Deut. 6:5, 10:12](#) and [Lev. 19:18, 34](#)). Jesus's words later became part of "the new covenant" called the New Testament (see [Mark 12:28-33](#) and [Luke 10:25-28](#)). Yeshua or Jesus Christ was **the original law-giver** for Israel (Isa. 33:22). His humble servant Moses then gave the law to the Israelites. Moses later came to be called the "law giver" too. Our LORD came to earth to *fulfill* the Law He gave earlier, not *replace* it. Too many believe all of the Old Testament has been fulfilled, and thus they don't need to be kept. This is false doctrine. The 12 commandments (2 great "to do" commandments as a summary, along with 10 specific things "not to do") are to be lived today, as are the Holy Days (to be observed "forever", Ex. 12:14 KJV) and other divine laws. It was the law of animal sacrifice that was no longer necessary. It was *fulfilled* in the LORD's atonement. So too the law of an "eye for an eye", *added to* in the greater *governing* law of love presented us in the LORD's teachings given in the Sermon on the Mount. There He provided additional higher law in 12 total Beatitudes. They lead us to a "Blessed" state. In the Book of Mormon ([3 Ne. 12](#) and in [JST Matthew 5](#)), we find all 12 Beatitudes, not the 9 of Matthew 5 or the 4 of Luke 6. The *first*, additional 3 Beatitudes also serve as a type of summary for the rest (see endnotes 2 & 3).

The "**2 Great Commandments**" are given us in both the Old *and* the New Testaments. The "first and great commandment" is to love God with one's whole heart, strength, mind, and soul ([Deut. 6:5, 10:12](#)). The second is to love others as one's self ([Lev. 19:18, 34](#)). They represent a 2-part summary of what "**to do**". More detail is encapsulated within them as part of the 10 Commandments given Moses earlier in Exodus 20. The additional 10 detail what "**not to do**" and were written by God Himself on **2 tables of stone** atop fiery Sinai and then given to Moses for the Israelites. Note the division into 2 groups below. The first 5 commandments detail how to **love God** by eliminating **all idolatry** within us. The second 5 commandments detail how to **love one another**.

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| <p>1. <b>Love God</b> with all your heart, strength, mind &amp; soul</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me</li><li>2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image</li><li>3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain</li><li>4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy</li><li>5. Honour thy father and thy mother</li></ol> | <p>2. <b>Love others</b> as yourself</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Thou shalt not kill</li><li>7. Thou shalt not commit adultery</li><li>8. Thou shalt not steal</li><li>9. Thou shalt not bear false witness</li><li>10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's things</li></ol> |
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In clarifying the second of the two great commandments, our LORD said:

"A new commandment I give unto you, **that ye love one another as I have loved you . . .**" *John 13:34*

Later Moses addressed **12 blessings** and **12 cursings** accompanying these **12 commandments**. All are part of the "older covenant" with the house of Israel in the Old Testament. The **12 curses** are a result of rejecting these **12 governing laws** as found in Deuteronomy 27:15-26, whereas the **12 blessings** given when lived are found in Deuteronomy 28:3-14. God **governs** His creation here, His kingdom on earth via His law as the great Judge and Lawgiver, and the King of Kings. The number **12** symbolically points to "**governance**" here in His law via our love for Him and each other.<sup>1</sup>

The collection of books known as the New Testament wasn't compiled until 3 centuries after the LORD's crucifixion. In it He gave His "disciples" (followers) "*higher principles*" that were within and part of the same law given in the Old Testament, doing so "*with a promise*" – that "the wise virgins" among the people might become "**Blessed**" or "*in the state of the gods*".<sup>2</sup> They are called "the Beatitudes" (for all 12 Beatitudes see the paper *Passover 2020* at [www.7witnesses.com](http://www.7witnesses.com)). Note the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment in the first law and how it was added to in the *higher principle* of the same law in the Beatitudes, a "*principle with a promise*". The first law states, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (7<sup>th</sup> comm., Ex. 20). The *higher* New Testament *principle* stated later by the LORD adds, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already **in his heart**" (Matt. 5:28). The higher principles Christ gave his most trusted disciples in this sermon (and in 3 Nephi 12) are tied to **the heart**, the seat of desire. What we hold in our hearts leads to our actions, good or bad. Let us all be *wise virgins*.

## End Notes

**1 Governance in the Number 12** The principle of governance has consistent ties to the number **12**, like the **12** Knights of the Roundtable in the Middle Ages, the **12** jurors in court cases today, or the **12** Apostles of Christ in the New Testament. God provides **12** commandments in the law governing His kingdom (the 2 great commandments, to love God, Deut. 6:5, 10:12 and to love one another, Lev. 19:18, 34). They summarize the 10 additional commandments given Moses in Exodus 20; the first 5 commandments are about loving God, the second 5 about loving each other). God also gave the **12** Beatitudes in JST Matthew 5 and 3 Nephi 12. God **governs** all things by His great light and love. They represent His higher law given to those who desire to become “**blessed**”, as explained in endnote 3 below.

1. **Governing the Measure of Space** There are **12** inches to a foot in the English measure of *space* (the measure of the foot of King David of Scotland in 1150 AD). Ezekiel’s altar was **12** cubits square (Ezek. 43:16). Elijah’s altar was made of **12** stones, surrounded by a ditch having **12** barrels of water in it. John described New Jerusalem (God Tabernacle in heaven) as having **12** gates, **12** angels, **12** tribes, **12** foundations, **12** Apostles, **12** stones, and **12** pearls. He describes the measure of this city as a cube of **12,000** furlongs in 3 dimensions.

2. **Governing the Measure of Time** There are **12** hours of light and **12** hours of darkness at the 2 equinoxes, an equal measure of *time* in a day of 24 hours. There are **12** months in the year, and **12** zodiac signs rotating around the sun during “the Great Year,” also known as “the precession of the equinoxes.” It is 25,920 years, or **12** x 2160 years, the average time each of the **12** signs remains at the eastern horizon. Note also that 2160 is the diameter of the moon in miles. The Tabernacle of David featured 24/7 worship and praise of the LORD. In it there were **12** different singers for each of the 24 hours of the day ( 1 Chron. 25:9-31). Each solar “day” (24 hours or 1440 minutes) the moon cycle is separated by another **12** degrees from it on the 360 degree clock of time (50 minutes per day), resulting in the differing moon phases and the need for recalibration of the 2 time pieces in leap months or leap years.

3. **Governance via Light** God sends His light throughout creation to enliven and then govern it. God is the source of light. The number 144,000 (**12** x **12** x 1000) has scriptural ties to beings of light and is one of three ways to express the physical speed of light. There is (1) 186,000 miles per second; (2) 162,000 nautical miles in real-time per second; And (3) 144,000 minutes of arc per grid second or “*the speed of light harmoni*” (Bruce Cathie, *Bridge to Infinity*, p. 8).

**Special Servants of Light** Like Paul, there are **12** special *servants* or Apostles called to be “*special witnesses*” of THE Light of the world - Jesus Christ. John tells us that there are 24 Elders (**12** couples) surrounding God’s throne in heaven (Rev. 4:8, 5:7, 11:2, 19:3). They condescend into mortality for various purposes of the LORD and are close to the family of God. They are “the Noble and Great Ones” (Abraham 3:22-23), the “rulers in the church of God” (D&C 138:55), and the “Arc Angels” of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> estate. They oversee the **12** hierarchies of angels, which are; 1. Thrones, 2. Arc Angels, 3. Seraphim, 4. Cherubim, 5. Dominions, 6. Virtues, 7. Powers, 8. Principalities, 9. Guardians, 10. Comforters, 11. Holy Animals & Creatures, and **12** Planetary Guardians.” making **120** total in Acts 1:13-15. There are to be 144,000 special last-days servants, or 12,000 in each of the **12** Tribes of Israel. Their mission is to gather those of light, the “elect” or “house of Israel” back to God and His greater light. Moses set up 12 stones at the base of Sinai to represent the **12** Tribes. He also sent **12** spies (one from each Tribe) into the land of Canaan to investigate it and its current residents.

4. **Governance via God’s Law** John addressed God’s “throne” 12 times in Revelation 5, providing 12 Kingly titles for Him in the book of John (see #7 below). There are **12** total “commandments” given in God’s law (Deut. 6:4-5; Lev. 19:18; Ex. 20), along with **12** blessings and **12** cursings tied to living them or ignoring them (see Deut. 27 & 28). The LORD taught **12** higher versions of this same law in the **12** blessed Beatitudes of 2 extra-Biblical texts. Luke addresses only 4 of them in Luke 6, while Matthew lists 9 of them in Matthew 5. We read of God’s **12** “signs” or “wonders” in the Exodus account of the first Passover (Ex. 7-12). Ten of these **12** signs had “great judgments” tied them, the 10 plagues of Egypt. God gave Moses **12** holy days to govern time, the first 2 at Passover.

5. **Governing the Human Body** God created our bodies with **12** governing systems. They are the Circulatory, Digestive, Endocrine, Integumentary, Renal, Lymphatic, Muscular, Nervous, Reproductive, Respiratory, Skeletal, and Vestibular systems.

6. **Governing with Love, Healing & Deliverance** The LORD Jesus is the Great *Healer* and *Deliverer*, bringing forth the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt at Passover. He has delivered His wayward people over and over again. Throughout the Psalms, David proclaimed, “His mercy endureth forever.” The Tree of Life has 12 manner of fruits on it for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2). Michael Tyrrell believes one of the primay *healing* tones in David’s worship music was that of 444 hz (the numbers adding up to 12, see *Wboletones*). As the great healer, God also inspired “the **12**-Step program” that provides healing and deliverance for those held captive to drugs, alcohol, pornography, and other additions. The first of the 12 steps addresses the need to place *faith* and *trust* in the living God, stating, “We admitted we were *powerless* over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable. Came to believe that a *Power greater than ourselves* could *restore* us to sanity. Made a decision to turn our will and our *lives* over to the care of God...” The LORD taught Moroni that there were 12 characteristics of Charity (Moroni 7:45).

7. **God’s Governance of His Kingdom on the Earth** Matthew addressed Christ as “King” **12** times, and with 12 references to His “gospel”. Christ said He could command **12** legions of angels to help Him if necessary (Matt. 26:53). John also provided **12** different “divine” titles for Christ:

The Word (John 1:1)

The Bread of Life (John 6:35)

The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)

The Creator of all things (John 1:3)	The great I AM (John 8:58; 18:6, 8; Ex. 3:14)	The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
The Only Begotten of the Father (John 1:14)	The Light of the world (John 9:5)	The Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
The Lamb of God (John 1:29)	The Door of the sheep (John 10:7)	The true Vine (John 15:1)

The 12 chapters of the “sealed” book of Daniel addresses true and false worship, God’s control over earthly kingdoms, and the final establishment of an everlasting Kingdom of peace, love, and justice under Christ as King of kings in the last-days. In Daniel 6 we read of 120 jealous princes who tried to trap Daniel in false worship. Daniel 12:9-13 provides a limited timeline of last-days rule by the beast and false prophet of 1290 total days. Daniel calls those who make it to 1335 days “blessed.” They will be part of God’s kingdom on the earth. Note that both 1335 and 1290 have individual numbers in them that add up to 12 (or about 3.5 years, also known as “time, times, and a half”. Each “time” is 12 months – or 1 year.

Three scriptures prophetically address the return of the “Tabernacle of David” in which “true worship” will return to the earth in our day (Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16; Isa. 16:5), like that seen in heaven. King David implemented it first in the Holy City via 24/7 worship, praise, and thanksgiving in the special tent or tabernacle that he first set up near the Gihon Spring in Jerusalem. In it he employed 4,000 musicians, including 288 prophetic singers (24 courses of 12 Levite singers each). Many believe they used musical instruments tuned to 444 hz, providing healing qualities (these three numbers added together equals 12). See the connection the numbers 144 and 288 have to light in #3 above, “*Governance via Light*”. God governs by light

<sup>2</sup> **The Blessed** Old Testament scholar W. F. Albright and New Testament scholar C. S. Mann translated the word “blessed” in Matthew 5 as “fortunate”. The footnote to their change adds that to be “blessed” is to be “of the State of the Gods”. It reads, *Fortunate*. The word in Greek was used in classical times [to mean] *of the state of the gods* in contrast to men. The usual English “blessed” has more and more come to have liturgical or ecclesiastical overtones, and we have chosen “fortunate” as the being the best translation available to us” (W. F. Albright and C. S. Mann, *The Anchor Bible, Matthew*, Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1971, p. 45). The prophetic, apocalyptic, or “sealed” books of Daniel and Revelation address the “blessed”. John does so in the first 3 verses of Revelation chapter 1, speaking specifically to last-days “servants” of the Living God, whereas Daniel does so in the last 3 verses of Daniel 12.

<sup>3</sup> **The 12 Blessed Beatitudes** are found in Joseph Smith’s “inspired translation” of Matthew 5 (JST Matt. 5) and in 3 Nephi 12, where the LORD Himself taught them again to the people gathered to the House of the LORD at Bountiful (Book of Mormon). Note especially the first 3 Beatitudes replaced in the JST Matthew account *and* in the Book of Mormon (as a second witness). I believe they represent a summary of the gospel of Christ (1. Repent and come unto me; 2. Be baptized by my servants in water; And 3. Then “I [Christ Jesus] will baptize you with fire and the Holy Ghost”. Too many have not *experienced* this saving “born again” experience, a greater spiritual baptism by the LORD Himself (see Val’s paper, *Clear Born Again Scriptures*, www.7witnesses.com). Note the comparison chart below. God’s additions via Joseph Smith are in blue.

“In the mouth of two  
or three witnesses  
shall every word be established.”

1 Corinthians 13:1, KJV

Luke 6 - 4 Beatitudes  
Matthew 5 - 9 Beatitudes

The Matthew 5 Account - KJV

1. And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
- 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- 3 **Blessed** are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 **Blessed** are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- 5 **Blessed** are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 **Blessed** are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- 7 **Blessed** are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 **Blessed** are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- 9 **Blessed** are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- 10 **Blessed** are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 **Blessed** are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 12 **Rejoice**, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

### 12 Beattitudes rather than 9 or 4

JST Matthew 5 - KJV

1. And Jessus, seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain; and when he was set down, his disciples came unto him;
- 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- 3 **Blessed** are they who shall believe on me; and again,
- more **blessed** are they who shall believe on your words, when ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that I am.
- 4 **Yea, blessed** are they who shall believe on your words, and come down into the depth of humility, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.
- 5 **Blessed** are the poor in spirit, who come unto me; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 6 And again, **blessed** are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
- 7 And **blessed** are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
- 8 And **blessed** are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.
- 9 And **blessed** are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
- 10 And **blessed** are all the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
- 11 And **blessed** are all the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
- 12 **Blessed** are all they that are persecuted for my name's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 13 And **blessed** are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 14 **For ye shall have great joy**, and be exceedingly glad; for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

3 Nephi 12 (BM)

1 And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those who had been called, (now the number of them who had been called, and received power and authority to baptize, was twelve) and behold, he stretched forth his hand unto the multitude, and cried unto them, saying:

**Blessed** are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants; and unto them I have given power that they may baptize you with water; and after that ye are baptized with water, behold, I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost; therefore **blessed** are ye if ye shall believe in me and be baptized, after that ye have seen me and know that I am.

2 And again, **more blessed** are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am.

Yea, **blessed** are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

3 Yea, **blessed** are the poor in spirit who come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 And again, **blessed** are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 And **blessed** are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 And **blessed** are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.

7 And **blessed** are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8 And **blessed** are all the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 And **blessed** are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

10 And **blessed** are all they who are persecuted for my name's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 And **blessed** are ye when men shall revile you and persecute, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake;

12 For ye shall have great joy and be exceedingly glad, for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.