

## 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 were experts on **the law**. These men were testing Jesus on His knowledge of the foundations of governance in God's law. Jesus's words became part of "the new covenant" found in the New Testament (see [Luke 10:25-28](#) and [Mark 12:28-33](#)). Yeshua also taught these things earlier in the Old Testament as Jehovah – as **the original law-giver** (Isa. 33:22). Moses then gave them to the Israelites, and thus he too came to be called a "law giver". Our LORD Jesus came to *fulfill* the Law He gave earlier as Jehovah, not *replace* it. Too many of the Saints believe all of the Old Testament has been fulfilled, and thus they don't need to be kept today. This is false doctrine. The commandments still need to be lived, as do the Holy Days and other divine laws. It is the law of animal sacrifice that was fulfilled in the LORD's atonement, and the law of an "eye for an eye", added to in the greater love presented us in the LORD's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. There he gave us 12 total Beatitudes (see JST Matt. 5) as He also did in the Book of Mormon (3 Ne. 12). They lead to a more "**Blessed**" state for those who apply them in their lives (see endnote 2).

God's two simplest and most important directives summarize all the others. They are the "**2 Great Commandments**" given in both the Old *and* the New Testaments. The first 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. They detail what "**not to do**". They were written by God Himself on **2 tables of stone** atop fiery Sinai and then given Moses there. This division of God's law into 2 groups is purposeful, as 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**.

### 1. **Love God** with all your heart, strength, mind & soul

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy
5. Honour thy father and thy mother

### 2. **Love others** as yourself

6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's things

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*

Latter Moses addressed **12 blessings** accompanying these **12 commandments**, along with **12 cursings**, all part of the "older covenant" with the house of Israel in the Old Testament. The **12 curses** are tied to rejecting these **12 governing laws** and are found in Deuteronomy 27:15-26, whereas the **12 blessings** are found in Deuteronomy 28:3-14. God **governs** His creation here - His kingdom on earth via His law as the great Judge and King. The number **12** symbolically points to His "**governance**" via His law, example, and love.<sup>1</sup>

The collection of books we now know 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" might become "**Blessed**" or "in the state of the gods".<sup>2</sup> These are now known as "The Beatitudes" (see Val's paper *Passover 2020* for all 12 Beatitudes, not the 9 of Matthew 5, [www.7witnesses.com](#)). There are 12 of them in JST Matthew 5 and 3 Nephi chapter 12. One simple example of the lesser law or commandments and the greater (the Beatitudes) is the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" in Exodus 20. The *higher* New Testament *principle* tied to this same Old Testament law is illustrated well in what the LORD said in the Sermon on the Mount (where the Beatitudes were originally given). "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 are tied to **the heart**, the seat of desire, those that lead to actions, good or bad.

## End Notes

<sup>1</sup> **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 provided **12** commandments in the law to govern His kingdom on earth via the 2 great commandments (to love God, Deut. 6:5, 10:12 and to love one another, Lev. 19:18, 34), which summarize the additional 10 commandments given 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. They represent His higher law for those who desire to become “**blessed**”. He **governs** all things by light and love.

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 harmonic*” (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 primary *healing* tones in David’s worship music was that of 444 hz (the numbers adding up to 12, see *Wholetones*). As the great healer, God also inspired “the **12**-Step program” that provides healing

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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)

In the book of Exodus, God gave Moses and Aaron **12** signs for Pharaoh and the Egyptians in connection with their false gods. The first two were tied to opposing serpents, and the last ten were judgments upon the false gods of Egypt. The last or **12th** sign was given in Exodus **12**, when the firstborn of large animals and all the people in Egypt were taken, including Pharaoh’s firstborn son (it was also in Exodus **12** where the first two of **12** holy days was given to the Israelites). This last, 12th sign was a symbol of God as the Firstborn, given to take away the sins of the world. He rescued the Israelites from physical and spiritual captivity in His precious blood, removing them from the sins, darkness, and idolatry in Egypt. They were then invited to receive Him later at Mt. Sinai. See Val’s paper on Passover at [www.7witnesses.com](http://www.7witnesses.com)

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 (or about 3.5 years, also known as “time, times, and a half”, each “time” is **12** months – or 1 year). 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**.

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 the worship 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 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 all things 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.