



# Carnegie Shul Chatter

## February 13, 2020



Light Candles 5:35pm

Shabbat Services 9:20 am

## If You Were There?

Imagine this.

You are a slave unto Pharaoh. You wake up every morning living in a desert, knowing that your day will consist of hard labor cutting stone, making mortar, and building pyramids. You have little time to enjoy life. You have little hope for the future.

But then Moses comes along and suddenly there is hope. Moses tells Pharaoh to let his people go. Surely, Pharaoh will listen and you will be free.

## The Big Ten

The Ten Commandments shouldn't be that hard to obey, should they?

But how many of them have you broken to some degree or another?

Have you ever worked on the Sabbath? Have you ever been less than respectful to your parents? Have you ever stolen something, perhaps something as simple as taking a pen home from work with no intent to replace it?

Did you ever bear false witness by lying to a teacher to get yourself out of trouble.

Did you ever covet something like that new Corvette that your next door neighbor just got, while you are still driving your six-year-old Ford.

Yes, obeying the Big Ten isn't always so simple, is it? And then there are 613 mitzvot to worry about, too.

We will never obey all ten, let alone all 613. We are, after all, only human. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try.

There is reward in making the effort.

Give it a try. You will see.

But Pharaoh does not listen. He makes your tasks even harder. Can life get any worse?

And now you see things happen that are beyond almost anyone's comprehension. God inflicts the plagues upon Egypt. You see the Nile flow red with blood. You see locusts. You see hail. And finally, you see the death of the first born of Egypt.



You are amazed, and you are probably very frightened, because who has ever seen such things before.

And then you are set free. Free from slavery, you set out on a journey to a promised land, a land that is said to be flowing with milk and honey.

But Pharaoh's army pursues you, and soon you are trapped. Pharaoh's army behind you, the waters of the Red Sea in front of you.

And now you witness perhaps the most amazing thing ever. The waters of the Red Sea part, and you and your fellow Hebrews safely pass through while Pharaoh's army is swallowed up by the waters as they try to cross behind you.

And now, less than two months after leaving Egypt, as we are told at [chabad.org](http://chabad.org): *The Children of Israel camp opposite Mount Sinai, where they are told that G-d has chosen them to be His "kingdom of priests" and "holy nation."* The people respond by proclaiming, "All that G-d has spoken, we shall do."

*On the sixth day of the third month (Sivan), seven weeks after the Exodus, the entire nation of Israel assembles at the foot of Mount Sinai. G-d descends on the mountain amidst thunder, lightning, billows of smoke and the blast of the shofar, and summons Moses to ascend.*

*G-d proclaims the Ten Commandments, commanding the people of Israel to believe in G-d, not to worship idols or take G-d's name in vain, to keep the Shabbat, honor their parents, and not to murder, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness or covet another's property. The people cry out to Moses that the revelation is too intense for them to bear, begging him to receive the Torah from G-d and convey it to them.*

Can you imagine that? Have you ever had some comparatively trivial thing overwhelm you, like having to shovel snow after a big snowstorm, and you said, "That's too much for me to handle. I'm going to just call off sick and go back to bed for a while?" What would you have done if God proclaimed the Ten Commandments to you? How would you have handled it?

This week's parshah, Yitro, includes the giving of the Ten Commandments. Here they are:

# The Ten Commandments

## 1. I am the Lord your God.

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.” (Exodus 20:2)

## 2. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol.

“You shall not recognize other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.” (Exodus 20:3–4)

## 3. You shall not take the name of God in vain.

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7)

## 4. Remember and observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant, your animal or your stranger within your gates.” (Exodus 20:8–10)

## 5. Honor your father and mother.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.” (Exodus 20:12)

## 6. You shall not murder.

“You shall not murder.” (Exodus 20:13)

## 7. You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:13)

## 8. You shall not steal.

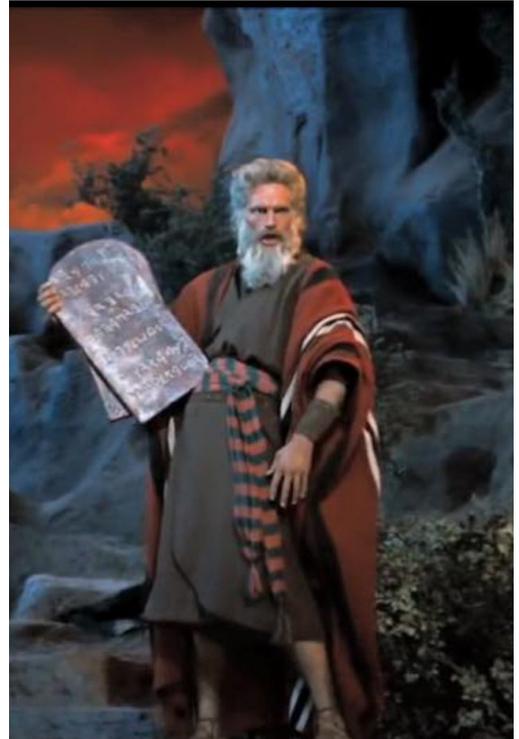
“You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:13)

## 9. You shall not bear false witness.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:13)

## 10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or house.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:14)



Ten Commandments. That shouldn't be too hard to obey, should it? And if we all obeyed them, what a wonderful world we might have. No crime, no hate, no war. Just follow Ten Commandments.

But do we? Do you?

"All that God has spoken, we shall do."

If only.

## Yahrzeit Plaques

Commemorate a loved one by dedicating a yahrzeit plaque in his or her memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, mounted on the sanctuary walls, are lit on the loved one's yahrzeit, Yom Kippur, and days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).



## Sponsor a Kiddush



Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush in honor or in memory of a loved one, for only \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, email [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).