

This chapter is essentially a reminder and restatement of the Ten Commandments, with some minor additions and alterations in wording. Verse 22 says *“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more”*

We know, of course, that the Lord did indeed add more to the law. The Ten Commandments first appear in Exodus 20. Just a few verses after the tenth commandment we find further warnings against idolatry and instructions for building altars. So how do we read verse 22?

The key is in Exodus 20:18-21, the interlude between the commandments and the full law. *“Now when all the Questions:*

1. What are the terms of covenant mentioned in verse 2?
2. According to verse 3, with whom did the Lord make the covenant?
3. Which of the commandments speak of our responsibilities toward God? Which are in relation to our fellow men?

*people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, ‘You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.’ Moses said to the people, ‘Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.’ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.”*

The Lord’s additional message was given to Moses alone because the people begged to not hear it. But Moses tells them in verse 5:1 that he will restate the entire law “in their hearing.” There will be no escaping their accountability to it.

4. See verse 16. How would honoring their fathers and mothers help the children of Israel have long days and prosper in the land?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What exactly does it mean to take the name of the Lord in vain?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Read Hebrews 12:18-24. What is the contrast between the scene at Mount Sinai and what we have as Christians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What is the longing of the Lord in verse 29? How can this apply to us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Extra credit: Find the differences between the statements of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy. Is there any difference in emphasis?