



[Luke 16:16-17](#)

(16) The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. (17) And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

King James Version

It is helpful to realize that at its establishment on earth the [Kingdom of God](#) will be ruling over unconverted people who have just passed through the most horrific period of tribulation in the history of mankind. These people will need guidance from absolutely trustworthy standards.

No nation, not even the Kingdom of [God](#), can govern human beings without laws. There must be standards of conduct for citizens to follow, or chaos and anarchy will result as each person does what seems right in his own eyes ([Judges 21:25](#)). But "God is not the author of confusion but of [peace](#)" ([I Corinthians 14:33](#)). His Kingdom will be peaceful and orderly because people will be led to submit themselves voluntarily to His rule of law - His commandments.

Unfortunately, many believe that the commandments are done away, having been replaced by [love](#). This can easily lead a person to believe the opposite of what is true regarding the commandments. People have a strong tendency to think of them in terms of restrictive bondage, whereas love is perceived as liberating. The apostle John says, however, that the commandments of God are love and not grievous ([I John 5:3](#)).

What does [Jesus](#) teach? In [Matthew 22:36](#), He was asked, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" His reply is instructive:

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the [Prophets](#)." (

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[Matthew 22:37-40](#))

Notice that both of the two Great Commandments encompass love. The first four of the [Ten Commandments](#) show man how to love God, and the second group of six shows man how to love fellow man. The commandments remove love from being merely an emotion and reveal how to apply love practically. As one commentator stated, "Love is what you do."

It was Jesus, as God of the Old Testament, who gave to ancient Israel God's laws in their codified form from Mount Sinai. When He became a man, what did He teach in reference to these very commandments?

» "If you love Me, keep My commandments." ([John 14:15](#))

» "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." ([John 14:21](#))

» "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me." ([John 14:23-24](#))

The apostle James calls the Ten Commandments "the royal law," meaning it came from a King and is worthy of His Kingdom ([James 2:8-12](#)).

God has never done away with His Ten Commandments, and they never shall be done away. They will be lived by all those given [eternal life](#) forever. They will also be the basic law of those possessing mortal life when Jesus returns. From God's commandments, all laws governing every aspect of a moral life will be drawn and applied in their spirit. Their standards will be the rule of law against which people's lives will be guided and judged.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Is the Christian Required To Do Works? \(Part Five\)](#)

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