**Genesis 11:27-12:3**

New International Version (NIV)

**Abram’s Family**

27This is the account of Terah’s family line.

Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. 28While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. 29Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milkah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milkah and Iskah. 30Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive.

31Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.

32Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

**The Call of Abram**

12 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

2“I will make you into a great nation,   
    and I will bless you;   
I will make your name great,  
    and you will be a blessing.[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2011:27-12:3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-301a)]   
3I will bless those who bless you,  
    and whoever curses you I will curse;   
and all peoples on earth  
    will be blessed through you. ”

### Genesis 15:1-6

New International Version (NIV)

### The Lord’s Covenant With Abram

15 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
    I am your shield,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2015:%201-6&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-362a" \o "See footnote a)]   
    your very great reward.[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2015:%201-6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-362b)] ”

2But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2015:%201-6&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-363c" \o "See footnote c)] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus? ” 3And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir. ” 5He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars —if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2015:%201-6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-366d)] be.”

6Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### Leviticus 19:18 – The Command to “Love Your Neighbour as Yourself”

#### Summary

Part of a list of laws concerning ethical relationships, Leviticus 19:18 states, "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

#### Analysis

Leviticus 19 begins with the commandment, "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy" (19:2). The rest of the chapter, then, instructs the Israelites how to "be holy." The list of laws includes many having to do with relationships, from honoring parents (19:3) to loving the aliens who live among the Israelites (19:33-34). To "be holy" has to do with treating other people with justice and mercy, caring for the poor (19:9-10), being honest (19:11-13, 35-36), having respect for elders (19:32), and, in general, acting with moral and ethical integrity.

At the heart of these laws is the well-known commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (19:18). It is part of a unit of two verses (19:17-18) that instruct the Israelites not to hate one another, not to take revenge or bear a grudge against one another, but to love one another. This verse and fourteen other verses in this chapter end with the refrain of the Holiness Code: "I am the LORD." The point of the chapter seems to be something like this: Because the Lord is holy, and because human beings are made in the image of God, those who are called to emulate God's holiness are to do so by acting with mercy and love toward their fellow human beings.

It is interesting to note a very similar commandment at the end of the chapter, in 19:34: "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." The commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" is not to be understood, then, as applying only to one's peers or family. One is also commanded to love the "alien," that is, the foreigner or outsider in one's community. The parable of the Good Samaritan--which begins with the quoting of Leviticus 19:18 and the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?"--makes much the same point (Luke 10:25-37).

Leviticus 19:18 is, of course, most well-known because Jesus cites it as the second part of the greatest commandment. Asked by the religious authorities which commandment is the greatest, Jesus responds by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40; see also Mark 12:28-34). Given its prominence in this Gospel account, Leviticus 19:18 is arguably the most well-known commandment in the book of Leviticus, though it is likely many Christians do not know the origin of the verse.

<http://www.enterthebible.org/resourcelink.aspx?rid=379>

### Deuteronomy 6

New International Version (NIV)

### Love the Lord Your God

6 These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

4Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=deut%206&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-5091a" \o "See footnote a)] 5Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

10When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, 12be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

13Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. 14Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; 15for the Lord your God , who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. 16Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. 17Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. 18Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, 19thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the Lord said.

20In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?” 21tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22Before our eyes the Lord sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. 23But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. 24The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. 25And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness. ”

**Deuteronomy 5**

New International Version (NIV)

**The Ten Commandments**

5 Moses summoned all Israel and said:

Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. 2The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. 3It was not with our ancestors[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-5057a)] that the Lord made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today. 4The Lord spoke to you face to face out of the fire on the mountain. 5(At that time I stood between the Lord and you to declare to you the word of the Lord, because you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said:

6“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

7“You shall have no other gods before[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%205&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-5061b" \o "See footnote b)] me.

8“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 9You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 10but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

11“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

12“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. 13Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. 15Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

16“Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

17“You shall not murder.

18“You shall not commit adultery.

19“You shall not steal.

20“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

21“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor’s house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

22These are the commandments the Lord proclaimed in a loud voice to your whole assembly there on the mountain from out of the fire, the cloud and the deep darkness; and he added nothing more. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

23When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders came to me. 24And you said, “The Lord our God has shown us his glory and his majesty, and we have heard his voice from the fire. Today we have seen that a person can live even if God speaks with them. 25But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us, and we will die if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any longer. 26For what mortal has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived? 27Go near and listen to all that the Lord our God says. Then tell us whatever the Lord our God tells you. We will listen and obey.”

28The Lord heard you when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me, “I have heard what this people said to you. Everything they said was good. 29Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

30“Go, tell them to return to their tents. 31But you stay here with me so that I may give you all the commands, decrees and laws you are to teach them to follow in the land I am giving them to possess.”

### 32So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. 33Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

### Exodus 20

New International Version (NIV)

### The Ten Commandments

20 And God spoke all these words:

2“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3“You shall have no other gods before[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ex%2020&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-2055a" \o "See footnote a)] me.

4“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

13“You shall not murder.

14“You shall not commit adultery.

15“You shall not steal.

16“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

18When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

20Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

21The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

### Idols and Altars

22Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: 23Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.

24“‘Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. 25If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. 26And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.’

### Leviticus 19

New International Version (NIV)

### Various Laws

19 The Lord said to Moses, 2“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

3“‘Each of you must respect your mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God.

4“‘Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.

5“‘When you sacrifice a fellowship offering to the Lord, sacrifice it in such a way that it will be accepted on your behalf. 6It shall be eaten on the day you sacrifice it or on the next day; anything left over until the third day must be burned up. 7If any of it is eaten on the third day, it is impure and will not be accepted. 8Whoever eats it will be held responsible because they have desecrated what is holy to the Lord; they must be cut off from their people.

9“‘When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.

11“‘Do not steal.

“‘Do not lie.

“‘Do not deceive one another.

12“‘Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

13“‘Do not defraud or rob your neighbor.

“‘Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight.

14“‘Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the Lord.

15“‘Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

16“‘Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

“‘Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the Lord.

17“‘Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

18“‘Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

19“‘Keep my decrees.

“‘Do not mate different kinds of animals.

“‘Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed.

“‘Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.

20“‘If a man sleeps with a female slave who is promised to another man but who has not been ransomed or given her freedom, there must be due punishment.[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=leviticus%2019&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3302a)] Yet they are not to be put to death, because she had not been freed. 21The man, however, must bring a ram to the entrance to the tent of meeting for a guilt offering to the Lord. 22With the ram of the guilt offering the priest is to make atonement for him before the Lord for the sin he has committed, and his sin will be forgiven.

23“‘When you enter the land and plant any kind of fruit tree, regard its fruit as forbidden.[[b](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=leviticus%2019&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-3305b" \o "See footnote b)] For three years you are to consider it forbidden[[c](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=leviticus%2019&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3305c)]; it must not be eaten. 24In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, an offering of praise to the Lord. 25But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit. In this way your harvest will be increased. I am the Lord your God.

26“‘Do not eat any meat with the blood still in it.

“‘Do not practice divination or seek omens.

27“‘Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard.

28“‘Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord.

29“‘Do not degrade your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will turn to prostitution and be filled with wickedness.

30“‘Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord.

31“‘Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.

32“‘Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.

33“‘When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

35“‘Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. 36Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah[[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=leviticus%2019&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-3318d" \o "See footnote d)] and an honest hin.[[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=leviticus%2019&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3318e)] I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt.

37“‘Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the Lord.’”

### Exodus 35

New International Version (NIV)

### Sabbath Regulations

35 Moses assembled the whole Israelite community and said to them, “These are the things the Lord has commanded you to do: 2For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a day of sabbath rest to the Lord. Whoever does any work on it is to be put to death. 3Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day. ”

### Materials for the Tabernacle

4Moses said to the whole Israelite community, “This is what the Lord has commanded: 5From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering of gold, silver and bronze; 6blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 7ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ex%2035&version=NIV#fen-NIV-2539a)]; acacia wood; 8olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 9and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

10“All who are skilled among you are to come and make everything the Lord has commanded: 11the tabernacle with its tent and its covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; 12the ark with its poles and the atonement cover and the curtain that shields it; 13the table with its poles and all its articles and the bread of the Presence; 14the lampstand that is for light with its accessories, lamps and oil for the light; 15the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; the curtain for the doorway at the entrance to the tabernacle; 16the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles and all its utensils; the bronze basin with its stand; 17the curtains of the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard; 18the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard, and their ropes; 19the woven garments worn for ministering in the sanctuary—both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests.”

20Then the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence, 21and everyone who was willing and whose heart moved them came and brought an offering to the Lord for the work on the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the sacred garments. 22All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the Lord. 23Everyone who had blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen, or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or the other durable leather brought them. 24Those presenting an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the Lord, and everyone who had acacia wood for any part of the work brought it. 25Every skilled woman spun with her hands and brought what she had spun—blue, purple or scarlet yarn or fine linen. 26And all the women who were willing and had the skill spun the goat hair. 27The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece. 28They also brought spices and olive oil for the light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense. 29All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the Lord freewill offerings for all the work the Lord through Moses had commanded them to do.