

# 7 Noahide Commandments

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# Outline

- **What are the 7 Noahide Commandments?**
- **Who are these for?**
- **7 Steps for Peace on Earth**
- **Bibliography**

# What are the 7 Laws of Noah?



# 1. Prohibition of Idolatry

- **Literally:** Strange worship - serving a false deity
- **Prohibition against:** Idolatry (the deification or worship of any object, creature, human being, or power other than the One True G-d.)
- **Commandment requires:** Believe and trust in G-d as the Creator and the unlimited, only G-d
- This commandment includes the belief in G-d - that He is the Creator of everything physical and spiritual. He constantly creates everything anew, He judges our deeds, and guides everything by His Providence. The very essence of human spiritual life is to recognize and believe in the Supreme Being, the Creator of the universe, accepting His commandments with awe and love.

# Compare to Exodus 20:3-4

- **v3.** You shall not have the gods of others in My Presence.
- **v4.** You shall not make for yourself a graven image or any likeness which is in the heavens above, on the earth below, or in the water beneath the earth.
- Any idolatry forbidden to Jews as a capital sin is forbidden in the Noahide commandment.

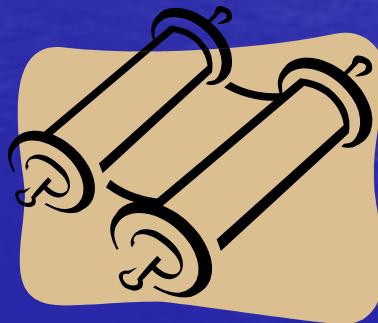


## 2. Prohibition of Cursing G-d

- **Euphemism:** “Blessing” the Divine Name - a severe curse against G-d
- **Prohibition against:** Blaspheming the Tetragrammaton (G-d’s special Name)
- **Commandment requires:** Respect and praise for G-d and His holy Names.
- This commandment forbids cursing G-d’s Name. Trust and loyalty are crucial in life. G-d is just, but humans can’t comprehend our Creator, Who is infinite. One shouldn’t extend his “freedom of speech” to the extreme of blasphemy. Don’t speak against the One Who gave you speech!

# Source: Leviticus 24:15

- ANY person (Jew or Gentile) who blasphemes G-d's Name shall bear his sin.

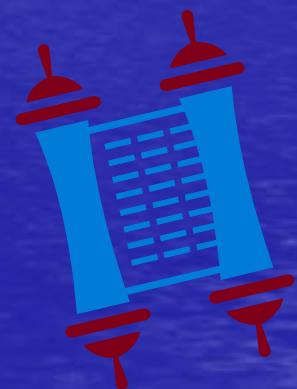


### **3. Prohibition of Murder**

- **Prohibition against: Murder**
- **Commandment requires: Respect the sanctity of human life.**
- This commandment includes prohibitions of murder, abortion (except to save the mother's life), and suicide. This edict protects us from the extremes of selfishness and the violent tendencies that may lie within. (Genesis 9:6)

# Source: Genesis 9:6

- "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of G-d has G-d made man."

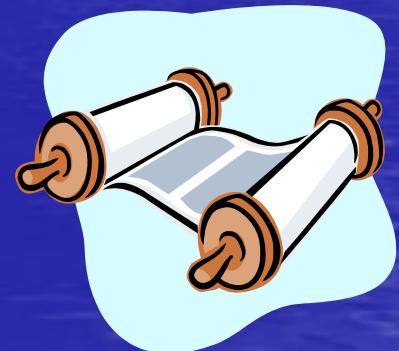


# 4. The 6 Forbidden Relations

- Literally: [Forbidden] exposures of nakedness - i.e. forbidden sexual relations
- Prohibition against: Sexual transgressions (six degrees of capital sins) - relations between a man and his father's wife, his mother, his maternal sister, another man, another man's wife, and between a person and an animal
- Commandment requires: Respect the traditional institution of marriage and family, because G-d defined marriage.
- This commandment also encompasses other degrees of sexual immorality. Wholesome families are a basis of healthy communities, nations and societies. Sexual transgressions lead to inner spiritual decay. (Gen. 2:24)

# Source: Genesis 2:24

- “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and cling to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”  
[includes all six forbidden relations]

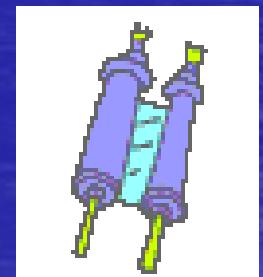


# 5. Prohibition of Theft

- Literally: To rob, steal or embezzle.
- Prohibition against: Theft (includes rape and kidnapping)
- Commandment requires: respect the rights and property of others.
- This commandment prohibits stealing money or goods (including from an employer) and kidnapping. Our sustenance comes from G-d, and we should seek to earn it with honesty and dignity, not through deceit.

# Compare to Genesis 2:17

- “But of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil - you shall not eat from it, for on the day that you eat thereof, you shall surely die.”
- People are not to take from the property of others when they don’t have permission.



# **6. Prohibition of Eating Meat Taken from a Living Animal**

- **Literally:** flesh ("a limb") that was separated from a living creature
- **Prohibition against:** eating any meat that was severed/torn from a live land-mammal or bird
- **Commandment requires:** respect all creatures and avoid cruelty.
- The Torah also prohibits cruelty to animals. Humans have dominion over the Earth, but we are also its caretakers. Although we may make use of animals, we must not cause them undue suffering without an overriding human need. The basic commandment prohibits eating meat taken from an animal while its heart was still beating. (Genesis 9:3-4)

# Source: Genesis 9:4

- v4. “But, flesh with its soul, its blood, you shall not eat.”

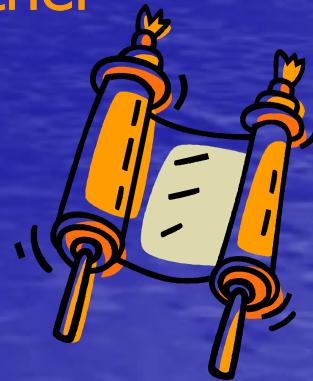


# 7. Establish Courts of Law

- Literally: judgment / justice / laws, etc.
- Prohibits: societies with no legal system, or breaching proper rules of legal process
- Commandment requires: establish a just legal system, and pursue justice
- A Gentile society is obligated to create a system of just laws and courts, encompassing all the 7 laws. A fair and effective legal system creates a society worthy of G-d's blessings. It brings G-d's ideals for our personal life into a formal order for society, and completes the other six laws. **True justice is the foundation of world peace.**

# Source: Genesis 9:6

- G-d commanded Noah regarding the trial and punishment of a murderer, as it says: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, among man, his blood shall be shed..." This refers to the command to judge and penalize a murderer.
- The Sages explained: "Whoever sheds the blood of man" (referring to the murderer), "among man" (he is to be prosecuted in court by a man who is qualified to testify), "his blood shall be shed" (he is given capital punishment by the court). Gentiles are also obligated to bring to justice those who transgress the other Noahide commandments.



# Who are the 7 Noahide Commandments for?

- For all non-Jews!
- Over 7 Billion people, and growing!



# *Seven steps to peace on Earth*

## **1. BE TRUE TO YOUR IMAGE**

- G-d created mankind in His image, and not the other way around. Darkness begins when we confuse His light with an artificial image or force.

## **2. WE ARE WHAT WE SPEAK**

- Be mindful of words; they represent who we are. That's why we must not curse G-d's Name. Our words can incite hatred or inspire peace.

### **3. DON'T TAKE LIFE FOR GRANTED**

- “Whoever sheds the blood of man ... for in the image of G-d He made man” is the beacon that illuminates the sanctity of human life. Without this conviction, human lives become disposable.

## **4. RESPECT THE PROPERTY OF OTHERS**

- The prohibition of theft teaches that we should honor other people's rights to property, privacy and peace. Evil takes root when a person or nation denies others their rights.

## **5. VALUE THE BOND OF FAMILY**

- Honor the divinity of marriage. The seeds of loyalty, love and respect that are planted in the traditional home translate into loyalty, love and respect in society.

## **6. SHOW COMPASSION**

- Be kind to all of G-d's creatures. Do not cause animals unnecessary suffering. Every creature has a soul of life, and was created for a Divine purpose.

## **7. PURSUE JUSTICE**

- Acknowledge and uphold a system of justice that is righteous and not arbitrary, based on these seven principles. Justice is the cornerstone of civilization and the foundation for a world of peace.

# Bibliography

- [www.AskNoah.org](http://www.AskNoah.org) (and .com)
- “Go(o)d For You: The Divine Code of 7 Noahide Commandments,” pub. by Ask Noah International



The background of the image is a wide-angle photograph of a calm sea under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The horizon line is visible in the distance.

**Thank you!**