

What does the Old Testament say about right and wrong?

One of the themes of the Old Testament is that God promised to be in a relationship with the Israelites; and that the Israelites promised to honour God in their lives and worship. In the Bible, this is called a covenant. The rules that God provided for the Israelites to follow include the Ten Commandments, and many Christians believe that they can find in them a set of clear directions to follow and apply to this day.

Earlier on in the book of Exodus, it describes how the Israelites, led by Moses, escaped from slavery in Egypt.

An **idol** is a statue or image which is worshipped as a god.

In Christianity, the day of rest on the **Sabbath** takes place on Sundays.

God said to the people of Israel :

I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of **Egypt where you were slaves.**

Do not worship any god except me.

Do not make **idols** that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the sea under the earth. Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the LORD your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.

Do not misuse my name. I am the LORD your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.

Remember that the **Sabbath** Day belongs to me. You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day – not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns. In six days I made the sky, the earth, the seas and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.

Respect your father and mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.

Do not murder.

Be faithful in marriage.

Do not steal.

Do not tell lies about others.

Do not want to take anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want to take anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.

Exodus chapter 20 verses 1-17 (CEV)

