GOD'S RESCUE PLAN

A Journey Through Exodus

The Punchline

Obedience isn't a requirement to get God's love, it's a response to already having it

Recap

- ★ Israelites held captive by Pharaoh
- ★ Moses called to lead the people out
- ★ God sends the plagues
- ★ God parts the Red Sea for the Israelites escape
- ★ Israelites had struggles

Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.

So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. The people all responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord.

The Mountain

- ★ God has His people to Himself
- ★ God CONTINUES the story
- **★** He wants obedience
- **★** His people are set apart

The Mountain

- ★ 3 layers come into focus
 - Remember God's redemptive work
 - Respond in obedience
 - Take on their role

<u>Trilogies</u>







10 Commandments

- **★** Don't worship other gods
- **★** Don't make images to worship
- **★** Don't misuse God's name
- * Keep the Sabbath holy
- **★** Honor your father and mother

10 Commandments

- **★** Don't murder
- **★ Don't commit adultery**
- **★** Don't steal
- **★** Don't be a false witness
- ★ Don't covet your neighbor's stuff

HR Policies



What Do We Do With These?

- **★** They still matter in our context
- ★ Our redemption
- **★** Our response
- ★ Our role

Our Redemption

* "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on **US.**" (Ephesians 1:7-8a)

Our Redemption

- ★ Have to look at what we're redeemed from
- ★ Look back with your eyes and heart to God, knowing that you've been wiped clean

Get the stain Out

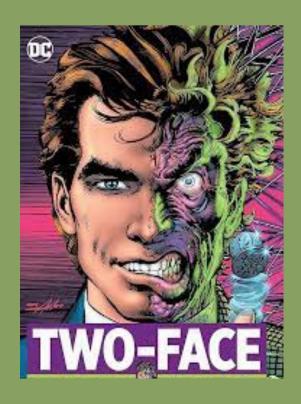


Our Redemption

- ★ God is our instant washing machine of grace and forgiveness
- ★ Our story starts with being forgiven and saved by God's grace

- ★ Obedience is the <u>RESPONSE</u> to our salvation not the <u>MEANS</u> by which we have it
- ★ Live a God honoring life in every aspect of our lives
- **★** Not a dualistic life

Two Face





- **★** Honor and respect others
 - Family
 - Forgiveness, mending bridges
 - Prioritize time with them

- **★** Honor and respect others
 - Others
 - They're made in God's image
 - Don't pick fights or tear others down

- * Remain content
 - Not wanting what others have
 - "I have all I NEED from God"

Our Role

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Matthew 28: 16-20)

Our Role

- ★ Go An action point
 - Show our obedience to God
 - Make people curious about you
 - Share your story and experience

<u>Get Gotti</u>

FBI

Informants

Police

HIS STORY

Prosecutors

His Crew

Our Role

- ★ Listen to others
 - Hear and see like God does
- **★** Pray for others

Wrap Up

- ★ God saved us
- * Respond in obedience
- **★** Embrace our role
- **★** We already have God's love

Audio file 10 Commandments Audio.mp3

Transcript

We all feel different things about rules. We have varying degrees. Some seem more important. Some seem maybe less important, right? Like we put stock in certain rules. But in, like, oh, I don't know that little thing like the speeding limit. That's technically a rule, but very few. People maybe follow that. Right. If I had to pick #1 or #2, I would say always follow them. I'm a rule follower as well. That's kind of my thing. They're there for a reason. They're put in place by somebody that knows something. But today we're going. To hear about. A set of rules given by God. People are people, really feel like they're just this big set of rules. It's the 10 commandments, right? These are the famous thou shalt not statements, right. There have been a movie. Old school movie? Charlton Heston and he's holding up the the tablets and everything made. So these are pretty well known. But we kind of sometimes hard to figure out. What do we do with it? Right. These are they're. Bagnell Testament do we to follow him to get to heaven? Do they still apply? What would we? So to answer the question, do we need to follow death to heaven? No would be the yes or no. Like we don't. We're we're saved by the fact that we have faith in God and by God's grace. However, I do think we should follow these rules or these guidelines. In response to the fact that God has saved us, that God loves us, that we're going to the heaven. The fact that God really loves us for what he did, we should obey these rules in response to that. So here's what I want us to think about and on the punchline today, that obedience isn't a requirement to get God's love. It's a response to already having. Right. So we don't have to obey and follow anything God says to get his love, he. Loves us, but. We should obey in response to the fact that he does love us, and today we'll talk about the 10 Commandments. If you haven't been with us, let's recap real quick exodus up to this point, we're kind of just hitting the highlights. It is a big, long book. I encourage you to read through it. It's pretty great. On the resources page of our website, there's a reading plan from the Bible project that will walk you through it. I've done it. It's really good. So to dive into more of the. But it starts. The Israelites are held captive by Pharaoh and Egypt. God calls Moses through the famous burning Bush story says, hey Moses, you're going to lead my people out of captivity. God sends the plagues to show Pharaoh. Hey, I'm strong. I mean business. He's also showing. Hey, Israelites, I got your back here with the plagues. Then they escape. They actually go on the escape and we have the parting of the Red Sea right. The Israelites seem like they're trapped Pharaohs, armies closing in and the sea parts. The Israelites go across water, comes back, drowns. Pharaohs best of his best, his great army. And then last. Week they're on a journey. They're going through the desert, and as we so often do, sometimes we can't be content. We grumble and complain about things, but we learned that God is always continually with them, that his presence was always there, no matter what they were struggling with different parts of their escape. But God was with them, so that will bring us to today. To the 10 Commandments, we're going to start an Exodus 19, verse 3. It's marked in your Bibles there on the. Table it also. Be right up here. Behind me. This is Moses and God on the mountain. So Moses is going to go talk to God and we'll see kind of how we we set up the 10 Commandments before we actually get to them here. Exodus 19 verses 3 through 8 says this. Then Moses went up to God. The Lord called him from the mountain and said this is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of. Israel,

you yourselves have seen what I did in Egypt and how I carried you on Eagles wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully. To keep my covenant, then out of all the nations, you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine. You will be. You will be for me a Kingdom of priests and a holy. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites. So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. The people responded. Together. We will do everything the Lord has said. So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord. We're going to stop there. Alright, so we've come to this time now. Where the Israelites are finally kind of out of immediate danger, they're out of captivity and slavery. They're not being chased down. They got food. So God finally has his people all to himself, right? So just them and. And he needs to kind of clarify what it means to be his people. He helped them escape to him. We talked about that during the escape. They weren't just escaping from Egypt. They were escaping to God. So Moses goes to talk together, talk on the mountain and God says you have seen what I did in Egypt. So now this is a continuation of this story. This is not a separate event. And that's important. This is all one story continuing. So God save them. And now we're to this point. And what he wants is obedience from his people to keep the covenant. He's referring back to the covenant that he made with Abraham and his family in the Book of Genesis. But now it's expanding to all the people of Israel to be known as the Mosaic Covenant. And he's saying you're my people. We have this special relationship. There's a special value to God with the people. The whole earth is God, but God brought them to himself. And he's saying they will be priests, a holy nation, priests in this time means they're set apart for God's service for God's mission. And if we look at this kind of everything God is saying on the mountain, I see in kind of like a three layer type of deal he's saying, remember my work, remember God's redemptive work that he saved them. And then what he wants is now respond in obedience. And then they also have a role as to be priests, right. So the first thing they remember, God's redemptive work. Now they need to respond in obedience. And they have a role in God's. Work in God's mission. So Moses goes and tells all the people this and their response. Actually. Yeah, we can do it. Yay. God, we'll we'll listen. We'll do it all. We got this next week. We're going to check back on how that's going teaser. It doesn't go super well. All right, but we'll get there next week. But God wants the people to remember the covenant that he made with them. He's got them all to himself. This covenant, it's past, present, future. It's a whole big story put together. Many of us have seen movies that are part of series or trilogies. If we want to use three parts, I have a few up here. Some of these are known as some of the more famous ones. Star Wars. You know, if you look at the first three episodes, 4/5. And six the. Lord of the Rings, I like the Bourne movies personally. But they're all individual films and stories of themselves. They're all pretty good by themselves, but they're meant to be seen as one big story. They come together and continue. That's what God is getting at with the Israelites, right? Think of it. Movie 1 Getting out of Egypt. Movie 2 responding to these Commandments, movie 3 their role as priests. But it's meant to be taken all together. God's already rescued them from Egypt. Right. We saw that part. We've had that happen now. He wants response. In obedience to these commandments. So let's look at said commandments. They're found in Exodus 20 verses one through 18. They're sometimes referred to as the 10 words, not just the 10 commandments they start with. I am the Lord who brought you out. So God's redemption and past work is the foundation for these commandments that the people need to respond in obedience to. So he sets up what are really these moral principles that they need that needs to be preserved. And I'm just going to summarize them. I won't read the text of itself, but we'll summarize all 10 and just kind of get at what God was talking about. Some of these may be familiar if. Not like I said, we'll walk. Through it, so commandment one has to do with don't worship other gods,

basically protect the exclusive covenant with God. Nobody and nothing can be like God or be equal to him. Nothing should get that level of devotion or attention. Covenant Commandment 2 similar don't make images to worship. Basically no human made image should be worshipped. Like this if you're crafting something that you're making, it's lifeless, like even if it's something awesome out of wood or or something you made, it's lifeless that can never measure up to a living, breathing God. Commandment 3 don't misuse God's name, or famously don't don't take the Lord's name in vain. God's name is that of blessing and of salvation. It's a good thing. Anything derogatory or careless takes away from that commitment. 4 Keep the Sabbath holy, the Sabbath be celebrating God's work and how God rested when he finished creating. It's a remembrance that God completed what he started. He set out to make this great world in this beautiful world and put the people in it, and then he rested. He's reminding us to remember that. Commandment 5 Honor your father and Mother family structure was huge in this society at the time. So he's saying honor those that are older than you that have come before you and then you will also be honored as you grow older. This didn't just apply to young children. This is not just like people my age telling my kids. Hey, I know your father and mother. This would apply to me also honoring. And my parents, so adults need to honor their parents and the. Elder as well. Commandment 6 don't murder. This one seems fairly self-explanatory. But it's based on like an intentional or planned killing of someone else. This kind of if you were to take someone else's life, it flies in the face of the fact that all people are made in God's image and we. Are to honor that if. God created life. God gave life to his gift. We're not the ones to take it away. So that's where this one comes from. Commandment 7 do not commit adultery in this context. This is really about protecting that family structure. Again, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jews expands this. One quite a. Bit this is about harming your family or harming another family structure by committing. Country with them. Commitment 8 don't steal. Protecting the Community of God God has provided for this family here. If you steal from that, you're taking what God has given, taking away what God has already provided. So he's like, don't steal from somebody. Commandment 9 don't be a false witness. This would apply to courtroom type of situations. In this day. These were very huge again in society. If you were found guilty in a court type of scenario. In this day, many times the penalty was death. So God saying that is the time. If you are a witnessing something like that. That is the time to be 100% honest. Finally, Commandment 10 don't covet your neighbors stuff basically desire. If you covet what your neighbor has, and you want that one, you may be tempted to steal it, which breaks another commandment. Also, when you want what somebody else has, you are losing your contentment with what God has already given you. What God has provided. So that's all 10. There are a lot of dots here. But I don't want us to see it as like God trying to be a buzzkill or not, letting you have any fun. But he is saying, hey, you're my people. I saved you. There is a way. I want you to live. We should want to respond in obedience, right? So he comes up these commandments that are almost like a policy written in stone. Who here, when you started a job or have looked at a job as at some HR policies everybody know about these? Everybody loves day. One of the job where you sit in front of a big massive thing with HR and they tell you all the stuff you can and can't do. Right. Here's the time you have to be to work. Here's how you can. Dress. Here's how to accrue and use your time off. Don't talk about this or don't talk like this. All this kind of stuff. If you drink the last cup of coffee in the break room, brew another pot. Right, all this good. Stuff I did look. Up, excuse me? Some outrageous ones. So I think these are fun. There was a company in California that had a no smile policy. You weren't supposed to smile at work. This was going to create a more professional atmosphere around the office. A company in the Midwest that had a lunch break diet code, basically, they said what you could and couldn't eat much of at work to try to promote being healthy. So no, not a lot of sugar and bad foods for you. There

is a company on the East Coast that had no socializing policy. Basically, don't e-mail your coworkers or call them unless it's exactly about work like no, just go Kick It Out the water. Cooler. Let's not build company morale, and it was meant to increase productivity. Now I see a lot of faces out there as I would make too. Like these. Just don't make any sense. True, they went horribly wrong. There was backlash from all these policies because these. This seemed to be more about controlling dominating right. The 10 Commandments aren't supposed to be like that. God isn't trying to control us with the 10 commandments. OK. Well they seem kind of like a big deal, right? They're all over the place. So what is he trying to do? What's he trying to do with these? And like I said, much has been written about these. But I want us to look at what can we do because I do think they still apply to us in our context today, even though Jesus has already come, the Israelite context was very different. But Jesus is come and saved us. But they do still matter, so I want to look at it for our own use in terms of those 3 layers we mentioned earlier, how they're a continuation of God's story. So basically, we're going to look at our own redemption. Our response to the commandments and our role that comes out of that response, alright. So let's look at our redemption first. Israel saw God lead them out of slavery right and saved their lives. He saved them. That happened. So we need to remember how God saved us. Through the redemption of our sins, Ephesians one versus 7 and the first part of eight says in him, in Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. We have redemption through the blood of Jesus, forgiveness of our sins, all by God's grace. And kind of remember that we do need to look back. We need to look back at our struggles. What did God redeem us from? Now, this isn't always a super fun exercise. Yeah, like, let's cool. Let's look back at all the things we struggled with, all the things we screwed up, all the ways we've, like, got down. Yeah, this sounds great, Jeff, why wouldn't we do that on Sunday morning? Well, here's the thing. I don't want you to look back at them with your eyes and head down in shame. You know, like the dog tail tucked between the legs. But look back at them with your eyes and heart up to God, remembering that you've been wiped clean from them. Did what we do make God happy? No. Did he want us to do it? No. But he still loves you. He still loves us. He still stays right with us. And he does this because he's redeemed us. The blood of Jesus washed it all away. Right? Think about washing a stain away. I get up early in the morning. Most of the time, and I go sit out in my chair and not so different. What I'm doing right here. I have my coffee. It's nice and quiet in the morning. And it was a. Little Chilly 1 morning this week, so I'm sitting in my chair and. I grabbed one of our blankets from the living room as Stacy's. She got this big, fluffy white and pink blankets. I curled up in my chair with this nice fluffy white and pink blanket. Well, I reached over to grab my coffee, brought it back over, and naturally I spilled it on her blanket and I was like, oh, no, this is like one of her favorite blankets. I can't get a coffee stain. I don't want to smell. So I finished. I was reading and I ran downstairs to the washer and dryer. Around our house, I am very well versed and getting stains out of things. That's kind of what I do, so I got it in the water right away, got it in the wash, dried it. It's good. Because I know that if I let that stain sit and dry, it gets all into the fabric right now. Again, thankfully, it worked. She still got her nice fluffy white and pink blanket. Hopefully I get to use it again. I don't know, but it does have the coffee stain. Now we don't have a magic formula. For cleaning out a washing of our sins, we just have God's grace. That's it. God's grace. We have the instant washing machine. That is God's grace and forgiveness. It's already right in there. Our stain is treated right away. So we have to remember what we did, but we remember what God already did for us. That's how our story starts being forgiven, being saved by God's grace and our faith in him. Like that's our first. Layer of movie. One right the past our redemption of our sins. And of course this is ongoing cause we'll continue to sin. But we are saved from it. But Part 2, our response?

Our response to what God did is obedience, OK? Obedience is the response to our salvation, not the means by which we have it. God wants our obedience in response to his grace. I've heard this called whole life, holiness, right? Living a godly life and God honoring life in every aspect. Of our lives all the time, right? It's not just. OK, I'm going to be super buttoned up and be all godly for the hour here. I'm at hometown on Sunday mornings in the couple hours, maybe a small group, or when I go to the events or anything like that. It's at all times. And we're going to look at this in a little bit through the lens of some of the commandments, but what's important? Is that we don't obey sometimes and knowingly not obey other times, right? It's not a dualistic type of life. When I thought about this, I thought about the Batman villain 2 face for familiar with Batman movies at all. Right, here he is. Harvey dent. He was the new DA. If you know the Batman story at all. And there's a couple stories. One of them, that a criminal threw acid in his face. And that's how he ends up burned or. Anyway, what happens to him is like this. He's got two different faces. He's got how he was and then he's got the new kind of burned or boiled off face. What he does is he makes his decisions, whether he's going to do good or evil based on the flip of a coin. Then it's a 2 headed coin. But one's got, like, scratches and lines to the other side. So he's making a choice to be good or evil cause he can be both and we can have this type of tendency sometimes if we're not careful. To be one thing, to be a Christ follower one day and the next to do things that go against that. It's the I know I shouldn't do this thing. I know. It's wrong but. I'm gonna do it anyway. This is now what God wants. He wants us to be authentic and honest followers of him all the time. He wants us to always respond in obedience. This isn't easy. It's hard, and we will inevitably screw it up. But this is what he wants. Is to always respond in obedience. So let's look at some of the commandments and see what it is that he wants from. Us in relation to those. Now the first two. They talk about idols, we're actually going to hold idols till next week because next week when the focus will be on idols. So save that in the back of your mind will hit that one pretty hard. I'm again, teaser Israelites, they struggle with that one. But some of the commandments that, as we keep going have to do with honoring and respecting others, family being one right. Bad. They honor your father and mother. Type of the guy commandment. Now I had a great family dynamic growing up and I still do get along great with my parents, my brother and sister, my family at home. I fully recognize not everybody had that and I would never encourage you to put yourself back in any sort of abusive family relationship. And I don't think God would either. But I do want to offer a couple ways that maybe we can honor and respect family. So if your relationships are a little a little dicey, they aren't great. Respect might entail addressing what's happened, maybe offering some forgiveness or starting to mend a bridge by opening some lines of communication. Or if you have good relationships with your family, continue those. Prioritize the time with your family focused. Time value and honor time with your families and all the different levels your immediate family at home extended family as well. But to honor and value that time with them, so family respecting and honor family others. This is what about just other people, people we come into contact with, they start. It's pretty basic. Don't steal, don't murder, but it comes down to respecting the fact that everyone is made in the image of God, just like we are. So we're made in God's image. So are others. And we don't have to be everyone's best friend. But we don't need to tear other people down or talk bad about them or pick fights. With people right? And yes, this 100% includes on the joy that is social media and I reference social media a lot, but we live in a social media world. I'm kind of crazy when I see controversial stuff on social media. I love to read the comments. I shouldn't and many like it's a good place to stay up. I'm always curious, like how back and forth is it going to go? And I'll see somebody say a lot of terrible things and occasionally click the profile and you go to it and it's like. Christ follower I love Jesus, but like but you just completely tore somebody down here, right? And it's a dualistic thing. Right. They're one thing

on the world, then on Twitter, they're completely another thing we want to treat people well, like they're made in God's image with respect and honor all the time. There's also remaining faithful and content. This is the not covering other people's stuff. When we start start wanting what other people have, we forget that God provides every day. If we remember last week with the manna when God provided manna, he said, only gather enough for today and eat it all. Why? Because he's going to provide every morning. Because we can easily get into the concept of, I need what they have rather than I have all I need from God. So comparison and coveting takes us down a rabbit hole that God cautions against. God wants us to listen to these rules. These commandments, these guidelines, however we want to see them. And then he wants us to respond in gratitude and in obedience to what he's done for us. And that response then sets up. Our role as Christ followers kind of this third layer. So said in our passage, the Israelites were made to be priests. They were set apart for God's service and mission in the book of Matthew, we were given kind of our mission as Christians and what's known as the Great Commission. I'll read this here Matthew 28, verses 16 through 20 says then the 11 disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them, said all authority in heaven and Earth is given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the son of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of. The age. It says go and make. Disciples. This is an action point born of our response to. So we embrace this role to reach others and the 1st way we can do this is just that second piece, obedience to God, showing that we live in a way. That reflects him that honors God, that values God in our lives, that loves God, that's devoted to him. Make people curious about why you live that way. Like why do they act like that? Because sometimes that can lead to conversations. This is what I believe, because a conversation with somebody, you don't have to be a great theologian or have every answer to every question somebody has to do this. But you can Share your story and your experience. Because maybe people are skeptical about. God's people might have no trust in the Bible. This ancient old book that they don't believe in, but they might trust you and put value in your story. People like hearing stories about others. It helps things, maybe makes sense or get an idea about people. I've talked about docu series and documentaries before. I like them. I started watching one this week. My Netflix called get Gotti. Apparently I was into my mobster mode this week, I guess, but it's all about John Gotti who was. Mobster New York, back in the 80s and what they have with this is stories from all different. People. You got informants, the FBI, the prosecutors, people that were on his crew. And they had this story from all these different angles to kind of hear what was going on and and what people thought about him from both sides of the coin. And it gave some insight into who he really was, what made him tick, what he wanted. Now he wasn't a good dude, but it gave some insight into him. What made him tick? Our story about what Jesus has done in our lives can let people know what makes us tick. Why do we act the way we do? And maybe that leads to them being more curious about God. What you're you're like this? You believe in God. You have God in your life. What can I do with that God sets us apart to do? We can also be there for other. People to listen. To what other people are have going on in their lives, people have a lot going on and so many people just want to be listened to, want to be heard. We do as Christians, so hear and listen. Just like God hears and listens to us. Now we're not God, but we can try to have the eyes. And the ears of. God to see and hear people how he would. And then pray for them. If they'll let you pray at their with him, great. If not, pray on your own for them. Praying for someone is something we are set apart to be able to do. Prayer is part of our role. Prayer is part of making disciples for others. So we go, we move forward with our role. As followers of Christ. God did

something for us already. He saved us and we remember that. We remember what we're redeemed from and he wants us to remember that. And then he wants us to respond in obedience. And I know it's hard, but it shouldn't be a question for us if we think about what God did. To wanna respond in obedience. And it's not easy, but it's the right response and he wants us. To embrace our. Role we're set apart to go and make disciple. We can do that right where we are, right? It's not this big. I have to go off to some faraway country and sell everything I have and be a missionary. No, we can do it right here. By sharing who God is in our lives and praying for others. And we do all of this. All of these things not to obtain God's love or obtain our salvation, but we do it in response to the fact that we all already have it. Let's.

OK.

Got to thank you for today that we could come here into your presence, got it and take another dive into the 10 Commandments Scout and just see what we can do with them today. Right now. And I thank you for laying out these rules. These guidelines got that we can follow in response to the fact you already saved us that we have guidelines, got to know how you want. Us to live. So I pray for all of us that we would, we would take a look back and remember how we're. Redeemed how we're. Safe and that you would put it on our hearts, scout that responding and obedience would just be natural. Be something we'd want to do. Then we would embrace our role of, of making disciples, of reaching out. And that we wouldn't over complicate that, that we would just live our lives the way you would have us. And that would be. A way of reaching people and that when the time comes when the opportunity comes, you give us the words to say to others as well about this. So we thank you. For saving us. God, we thank you. For these commandments, God, for for what we can respond to, and for giving us this role, and mostly we. Thank you for your love, God and your name. Amen.