

The Seven Noahide Laws Revealed in Genesis

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The Seven Noahide Laws are found in the book of Genesis, but they are found in their transgression, not as specific commandments. In other words when one of these laws was transgressed, a comment is made in Genesis that a sin had been committed. (All references are from the Jewish text.)

1. **Idolatry**

Gen. 31:19-36 Rachel stole the **images** (idols) of her father, Laban.

Gen. 31:19 reads, “Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole the *teraphim* that belonged to her father.”

The Commentary in the Stone Edition Chumash says about Gen. 31:19,

“**And Rachel stole the teraphim that belonged to her father**”. The **Teraphim were idols**, and Rachel took them to keep Laban from idol worship (Rashi). The Torah records this episode because her intentions were noble. (Midrash) Ramban derives the word from the root rapha, weak [see *Exodus* 5.17], alluding to the "weakness" of their prognostications. The *Zohar* relates the word to 'trph' and 'tvrph', denoting obscenity. Many consider them to have been household gods, supposed to be the protectors of the home, similar to the later Roman Penates, which were consulted as oracle (*R' Hirsch*).

2. **Blasphemy**

Gen. 3:1-4 The Serpent falsely accused GOD.

Gen. 3:1-4 reads, “Now the Serpent was cunning beyond any beast of the field that the LORD GOD had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did, perhaps, God say: "You shall not eat of **any tree** of the garden?’”

The Serpent lied, and misrepresented what God really said. The serpent was falsely attributing to GOD that He had denied man access to “any tree,” when, in fact, only a single specific tree was forbidden. In fact, man was permitted to eat of every tree except one.

16 And GOD commanded man saying, "Of **every tree** of the garden **you may freely eat:** 17 but

the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad, you must not eat thereof; for on the day you eat of it, you shall surely die." (*Gen. 2:16*)

"The prohibition against blasphemy comes to teach us not to speak evilly against GOD, nor to detract from His exaltedness in any way by intentionally using words to lessen the reverence and faith befitting Him." (*Path of the Righteous Gentile* by Clorfene and Rogalsky)

3. **Murder**

Gen. 4:8-10-16, Gen. 6, Gen. 9:6 "Cain spoke with his brother Abel, and it happened when they were in the field, that **Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.**"

One of the reasons that the flood was sent was because of theft, violence, murder and idolatry was common to all mankind (*Gen. 6:11-12*).

The Commentary in the Stone Edition Chumash says,

Such is the progression of sin. It begins in private, when people still have a sense of right and wrong. But once people develop the habit of sinning, they gradually lose their shame, and immoral behaviour becomes the accepted - even required - norm. In Noah's time, the immoral sexual conduct of the people extended to animals, as well, until they too cohabited with other species.

Gen. 9:5-6 reads, "but of man, of every man for that of his brother I will demand the soul of man. 6) Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God He made man."

4. **Theft**

Gen. 2:16 "And GOD commanded man saying, 'Of **every tree** of the garden **you may freely eat:** 17 but **the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad, you must not eat thereof;** for on the day you eat of it, you shall surely die.'"

Gen. 3:6 "And the woman perceived that the tree was good for eating and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable as a means to wisdom, and she **took** of its fruit and ate."

This was in direct disobedience of the command of GOD to not eat the fruit of that particular tree.

Gen. 31:19 "Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel **stole** the teraphim that belonged to her father."

5. Forbidden Sexual Relationships

Adultery

Gen. 20: 3 Abimelech knew **adultery** was a sin.

“And GOD came to Abimilech in a dream by night and said to him, ‘**Behold you are to die because of the woman you have taken; moreover she is a married woman.**’”

Homosexuality

Gen. 19:5-7 “And they called to Lot and said to him, ‘Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us **that we may 'know' them.**’ 6) Lot went out to them to the entrance, and shut the door behind him. 7) And he said, ‘I beg you, my brothers, do not act wickedly.’”

The context here clearly shows that the men of Sodom wished to have sexual relations with the two men (angels). And Lot indicated that he understood their intentions, because he then showed how Sodom had rubbed off on him, by offering the men his own virgin daughters.

6. Eating the Limb of a Living Animal

Gen.9:4-5 “**But flesh; with its soul its blood you shall not eat.** 5) However, your blood which belongs to your souls I will demand, of every beast will I demand it.”

7. Establishing Courts of Justice

Gen.19:1-9. (The Gates of a city were where Judges sat to convene Courts of Justice.) Ruth 4: 1-11.

Gen. 19:1, 9 “The Two angels came to Sodom in the evening and Lot was sitting **at the gate of Sodom.** 9) And they said, ‘Stand back!’ Then they said, ‘**This fellow came to sojourn and would act as a Judge? Now we will treat you worse than them!**’ ”

Personal Notes
