

Have You Been Lied To?

Judge Roy Moore has twice served as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. He first served from Jan. 14, 2001, through Nov. 13, 2003, after which he was removed by the Alabama Court of the Judiciary for refusing a federal court order to remove a giant granite monument of the *Ten Commandments*, which he had installed in the rotunda of the judicial building in Montgomery. Moore earned extensive notoriety for his *conservative stances* and was associated with *The Constitution Restoration Act*, which was designed to strip federal courts of their jurisdiction over matters involving certain religious liberty matters (Fitzgerald, 2017, p. 512). Moore was a featured speaker at a conference in Washington, D.C. in 2005 on *Confronting the Judicial War on Faith*.

I found an article entitled: *The Catholic Ten Commandments*. Odd title, right? In the fall 2003 the news focused on a judicial building in Alabama with its display in granite of the *Ten Commandments*, sponsored and installed by Alabama's chief justice, Roy Moore. Judge Moore defied a ruling for its removal, and by year's end both the monument and the judge were gone. *Sincere Christians of all denominations and even some representatives of Judaism protested their removal, but in vain*. The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms the greatness of the Decalogue and its demonstration of natural law: "*The 'deposit' of Christian moral teaching has been handed on ... alongside the Creed and the Our Father the basis for this catechesis has traditionally been the Decalogue which sets out the principles of moral life valid for all men*" (CCC 2033). And yet, as Catholics watched the monument being removed from the judicial building in Alabama, they may have observed in a close-up shot of the commandments that they were not the same ten nor the numerical arrangement they had learned in childhood. The courthouse rendition read:

1. **I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt have no other gods before me.**
2. **Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.**
3. **Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.**
4. **Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.**
5. **Honor thy father and thy mother.**
6. **Thou shalt not kill.**
7. **Thou shalt not commit adultery.**
8. **Thou shalt not steal.**
9. **Thou shalt not bear false witness.**
10. **Thou shalt not covet.**

Whereas the Catholic Catechism's presentation of the commandments for memorization are:

1. **I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.**
2. **You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**
3. **Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.**
4. **Honor your father and mother.**
5. **You shall not kill.**
6. **You shall not commit adultery.**
7. **You shall not steal.**
8. **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
9. **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**
10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

Was Judge Moore's version accurate? Without getting into excessive academia, let me show you the *Hebrew 4 Christians* rendition, which is literal:

	I am the LORD thy God.		You shall not murder.
	Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.		You shall not commit adultery.
	You shall not take the Name of Adonai thy God in vain.		You shall not steal.
	Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy.		You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
	Honor your father and mother.		You shall not covet...

The second commandment from the TLV is: *“³You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴Do not make for yourself a graven image (literally, a crafted idol) or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or on the earth below or in the water under the earth” (Ex. 20:3-4).* So *Thou shalt have no other gods before me* includes the phrase *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image*. So actually Judge Moore’s was very close to the TLV and the *Hebrew 4 Christians* rendition. Did you notice that the CCC Version combines parts of the first and second into one while omitting graven images. To maintain ten, the last commandment is split into two: coveting your neighbor’s wife and coveting your neighbor’s goods. I think I remember what I was taught in Puerto Rico’s Guadalupe K-7), Santa Rita(8-9), and Santa Rosa (10-12):

11. **Amar a Dios sobre todas las cosas** (*Love God above everything*)
12. **No tomar el nombre de Dios en vano** (*Do not take the name of your God in vain*)
13. **Santificar las fiestas.** (*Sanctify the feasts*)
14. **Honrar padre y madre** (*Honor your father and mother*)
15. **No matar** (*Do not kill*)
16. **No fornicar** (*Do not fornicate*)
17. **No hurtar** (*Do not steal*)
18. **No levantar falso testimonio ni mentir** (*Do not bear false witness or lie*)
19. **No desear la mujer de tu prójimo** (*Do not covet your neighbor’s wife*)
20. **No codiciar los bienes ajenos** (*Do not covet your neighbor’s goods*)

Do you think I was lied to? Were you, perhaps, also lied to? Scripture tells us: *“⁹Adonai, my strength, my stronghold, my refuge in the day of affliction, to You will the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: “Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, futility and useless things (Jer. 16:19)”* In my case the Scripture has absolutely proven to be true. *The Almighty* has awaken in me a desire *for the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*. I trust you are all equally motivated to get into the Bible, *Thy Word is Truth!*

A favorite verse in Scripture is: *“⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were “not a people,” but now you are “God’s people.” You were shown “no mercy,” but now you have been shown “mercy (1 Pet. 2:9-10)”* I learned this song in 1980: *“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. A peculiar people, to show forth the praises of Him. Who has called us out of darkness, out of darkness, out of darkness, into His marvelous light; into His marvelous light.”* Until I became Messianic Jewish, I did not imagine that the Apostle Peter was quoting from our reading this week: *“⁵Now then, if you listen closely to My voice, and keep My covenant, then you will be My own treasure from among all people, for all the earth is Mine. ⁶So as for you, you will be to Me a kingdom of kohanim and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you are to speak to Bnei-Yisrael.”* That was given to *Bnei-Yisrael* and it is theirs. We become partakers of these words when we accept *Yeshua* as our *Savior* and are grafted into Israel according to *Romans II*. And that is *the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth*.