



**“FOR GOD’S SAKE, DON’T *TAKE* A LIFE UNJUSTLY, JUST *GIVE YA* LIFE FOR GOD’S SAKE”**

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EXODUS 20:13 BIBLE STUDY

DANNY SCOTTON, JR.

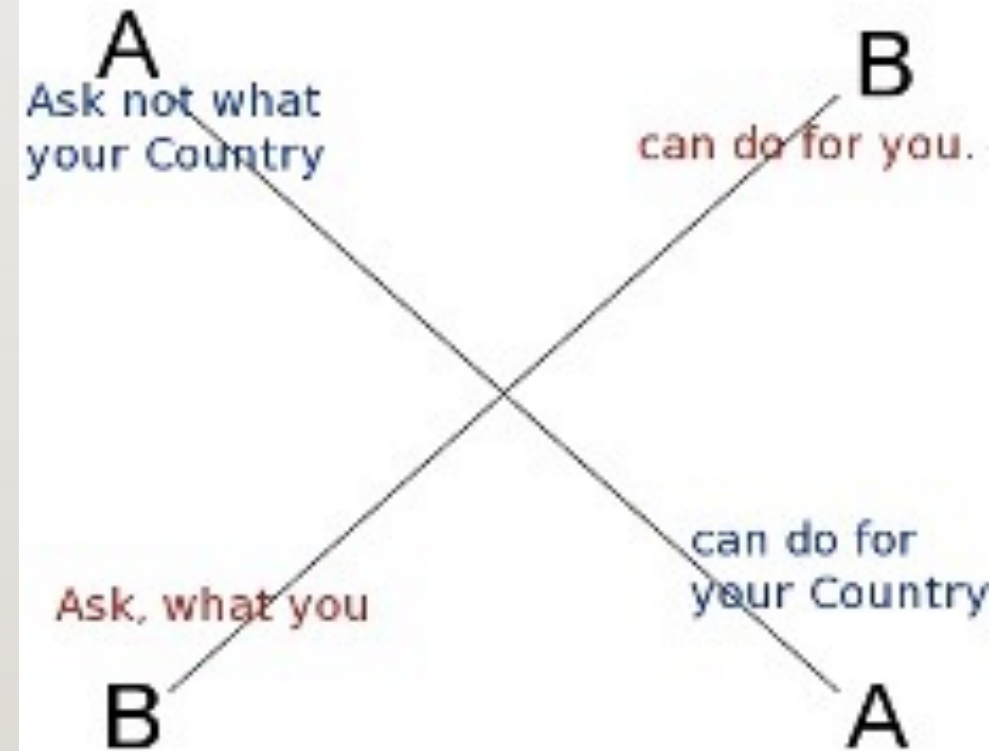




# CONTEXT CHIASTIC (X-SHAPED) STRUCTURE



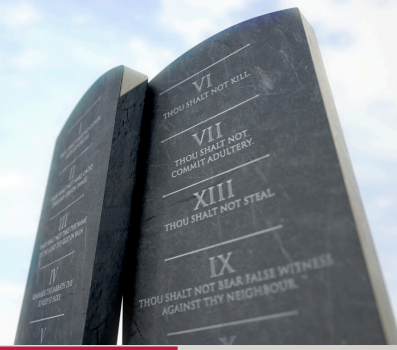
- **A: Thoughts (Commandments 1-2)**
  - **B: Words (Commandment 3)**
    - **C: Deeds (Commandments 4-8)**
  - **B': Words (Commandment 9)**
- **A': Thoughts (Commandment 10)**





## CONTEXT

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



- 1 Then God spoke all these words, saying: 2 I am the LORD [YHWH] your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (Ex 20:1-2, AT)





# CONTEXT

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- You shall not have any other gods before Me!  
(Ex 20:3, AT)
- There shall not **be to you** any other gods before My Face. (Ex 20:3, AT alt.)



# CONTEXT

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

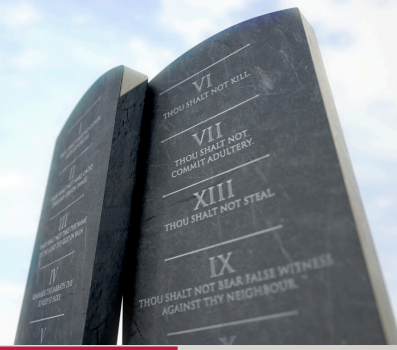


- 4 You shall not make for yourself a [carved] idol in the form of anything that is from the heavens above, or that is from the earth below, or that is from the waters below the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them nor worship them. For I the LORD [YHWH] your God am a jealous God, punishing the sin of parents on their children, and on the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, 6 but showing unfailing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Ex 20:4-6, AT)



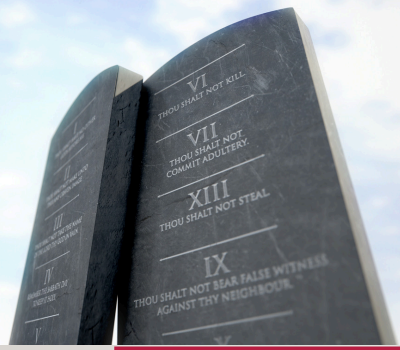
## CONTEXT

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



- You shall not take up the Name of the LORD [YHWH] your God in vain. For the LORD [YHWH] will not leave unpunished those who take up His Name in vain. (Ex 20:7, AT)





# CONTEXT

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



- 8 Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD [YHWH] your God. [On it,] you shall not do any work – neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female slave, nor your animals, nor any foreigner within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD [YHWH] made the heavens and the earth, the seas and all that is in them. But He rested on the seventh day. Therefore, He blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

(Ex 20:8-11, AT)



## EXODUS 20:12 WEIGHTY WORD



- Honor your father and your mother so that your days will be lengthened in the land that the LORD [YHWH] your God is giving to you. (Ex 20:12, AT)
- Give weight to your father and your mother so that your days will be lengthened in the land that the LORD [YHWH] your God is giving to you. (Ex 20:12, AT alt.)





## EXODUS 20:13 DON'T KILL UNJUSTLY



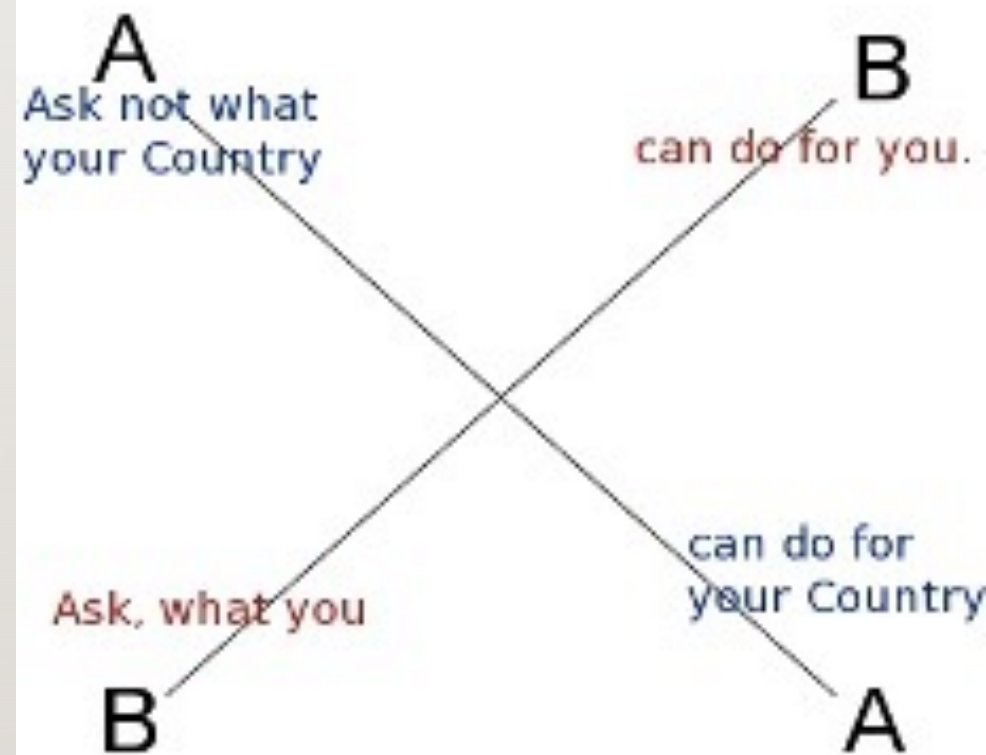
- You shall not [ לֹא | *lō* ' ] kill unjustly [ רָצַח | *rāṣaḥ* ]. (Ex 20:13, AT)

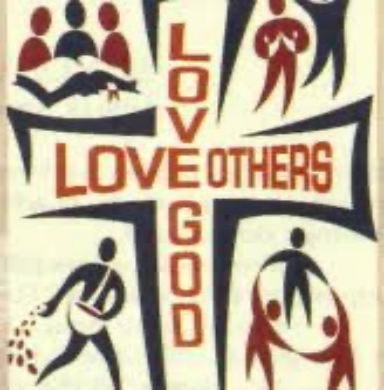


# CONTEXT CHIASTIC (X-SHAPED) STRUCTURE



- **A: Thoughts (Commandments 1-2)**
  - **B: Words (Commandment 3)**
    - **C: Deeds (Commandments 4-8)**
  - **B': Words (Commandment 9)**
- **A': Thoughts (Commandment 10)**





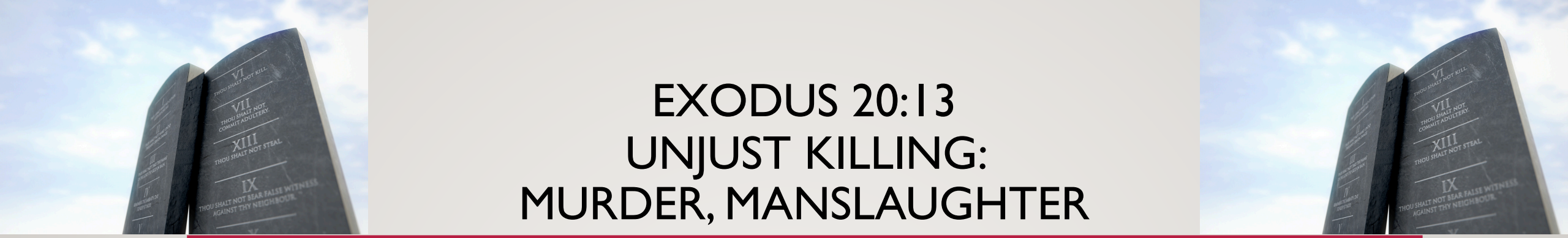
## CONTEXT

# LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS

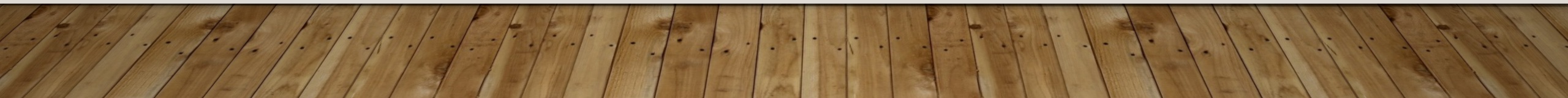


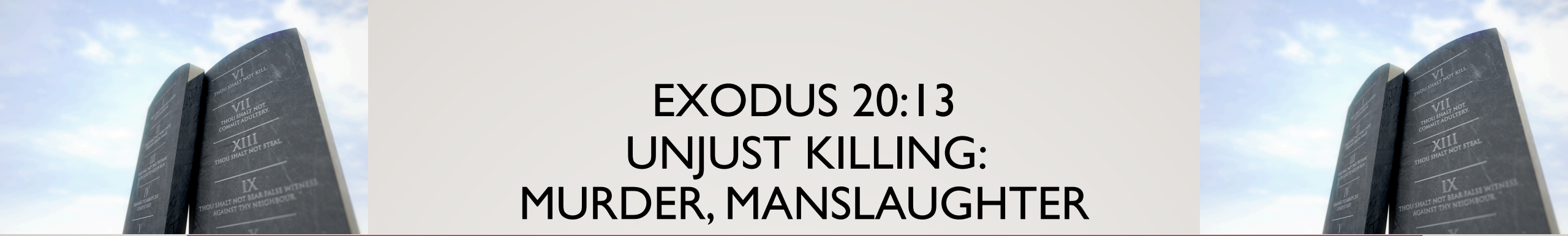
- 37 Jesus replied: “ ‘**Love the Lord** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ [Dt 6:5] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘**Love your neighbor** as yourself.’ [Lev 19:18] 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Mt 22:37-40, NIV; cf. Mk 12:29-31)





## EXODUS 20:13 UNJUST KILLING: MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER

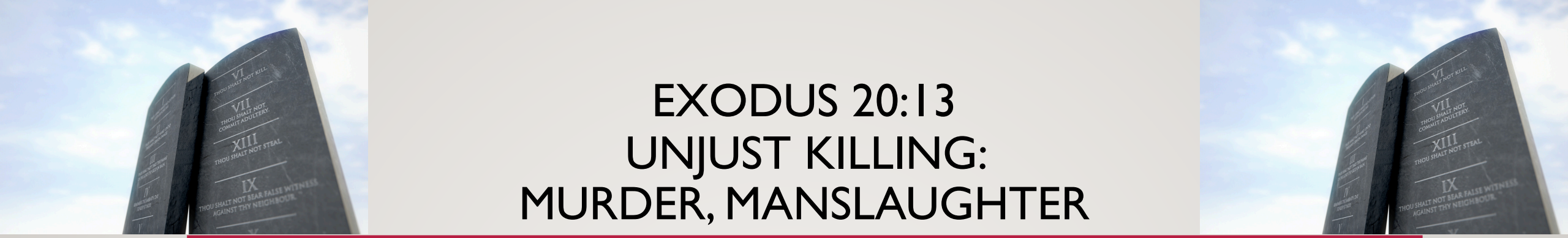
- 16 “ ‘If anyone strikes someone a fatal blow with an iron object, that person is a **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*]; the **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] is to be put to death. 17 Or if anyone is holding a stone and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*]; the **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] is to be put to death. 18 Or if anyone is holding a wooden object and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*]; the **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] is to be put to death. 19 The avenger of blood shall put the **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] to death; when the avenger comes upon the **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*], the avenger shall put the **murderer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] to death. (Num 35:16-19, NIV)
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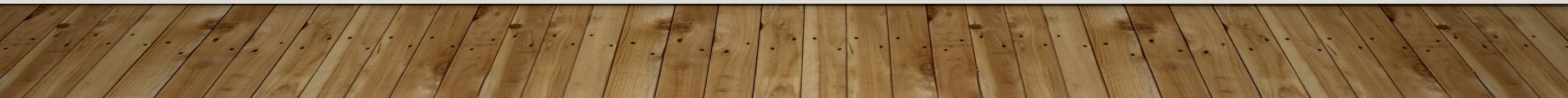
EXODUS 20:13  
UNJUST KILLING:  
MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER

- 20 If anyone with malice aforethought shoves another or throws something at them intentionally so that they die 21 or if **out of enmity** one person hits another with their fist so that the other dies, that person is to be put to death; that person is a **murderer** [ נצַרְ | *rāṣah*]. The avenger of blood shall put the **murderer** [ נצַרְ | *rāṣah*] to death when they meet. (Num 35:20-21, NIV)

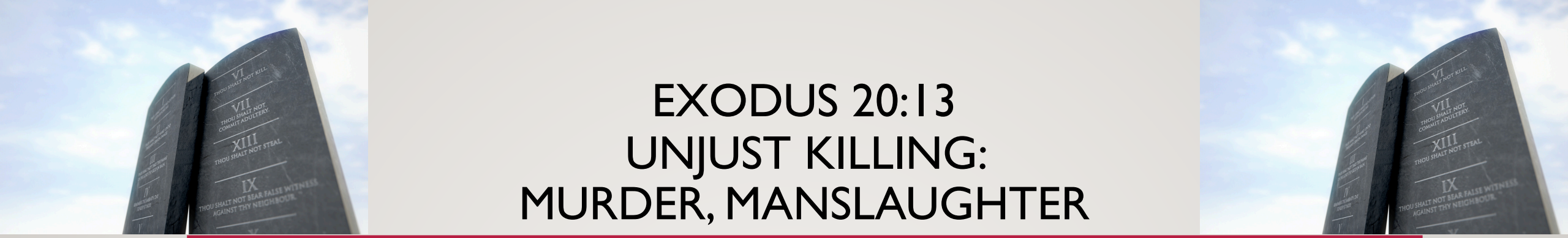




EXODUS 20:13  
UNJUST KILLING:  
MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER

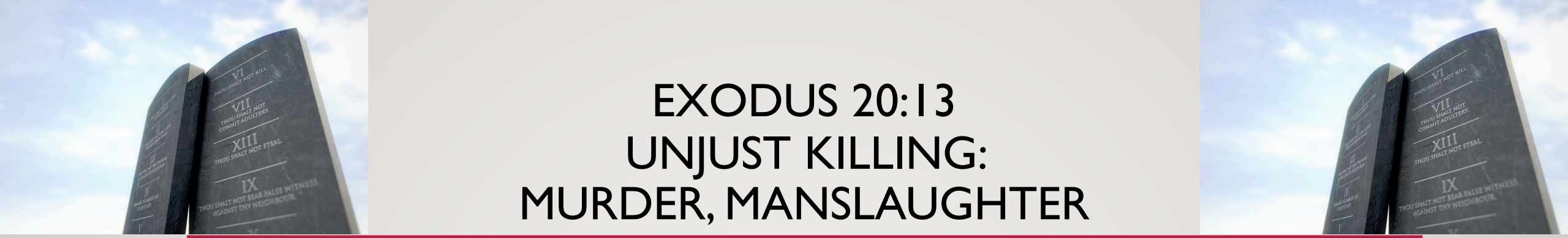
- 22 “ ‘But if **without enmity** someone suddenly pushes another or throws something at them **unintentionally** 23 or, **without seeing them**, drops on them a stone heavy enough to kill them, **and they die**, then since that other person was **not an enemy** and **no harm was intended**, 24 the assembly must judge between the accused and the avenger of blood according to these regulations. 25 The assembly must protect the **one accused of murder** [  $\text{רָשָׁח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] from the avenger of blood and send the accused back to the **city of refuge** to which they fled. The accused must stay there until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the holy oil. (Num 35:22-25, NIV)
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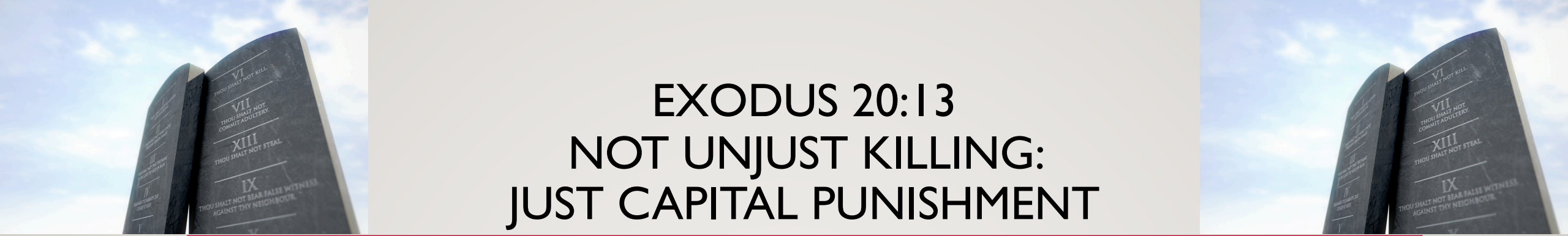
## EXODUS 20:13 UNJUST KILLING: MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER

- 22 “But if he pushed him suddenly **without enmity**, or hurled anything on him without lying in wait 23 or used a stone that could cause death, and without seeing him dropped it on him, **so that he died**, though he was **not his enemy** and **did not seek his harm**, 24 then the congregation shall judge between the **manslayer** and the avenger of blood, in accordance with these rules. 25 And the congregation shall rescue the **manslayer** [  $\text{רָשָׁח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he had fled, and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.  
(Num 35:22-25, ESV)



EXODUS 20:13  
UNJUST KILLING:  
MURDER, MANSLAUGHTER

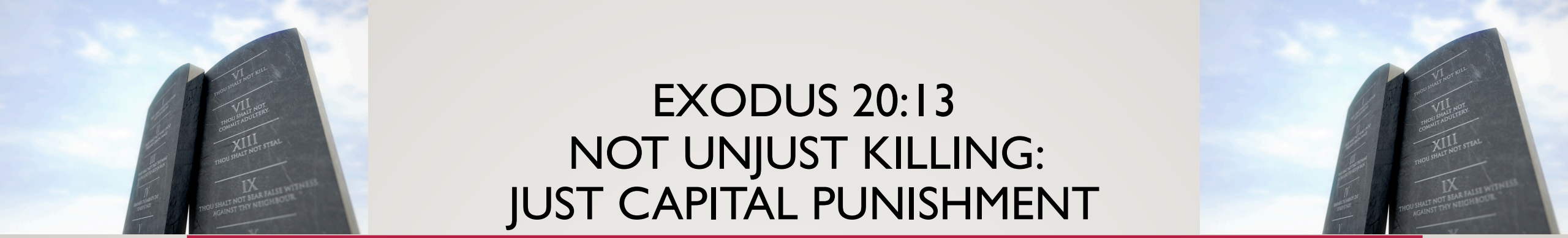
- 26 But if the **manslayer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] shall at any time go **beyond** the boundaries of his city of refuge to which he fled, 27 and the **avenger of blood finds him** outside the boundaries of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the **manslayer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*], he shall **not be guilty of blood**. 28 For he must remain in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest, but after the death of the high priest the **manslayer** [  $\text{רָצַח}$  | *rāṣaḥ*] may return to the land of his possession. 29 And these things shall be for a statute and rule for you **throughout your generations in all your dwelling places**. (Num 35:26-29, ESV; also see Dt 4:42; Jos 20:3)



EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT


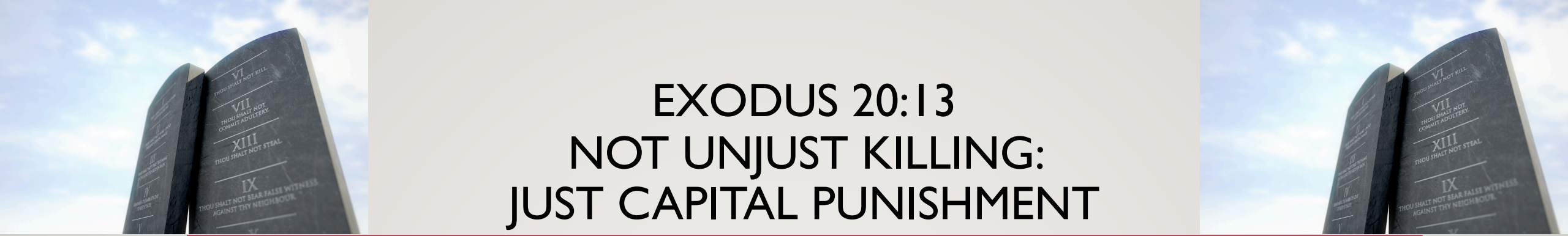
- “Whoever sacrifices to any god **other** than the LORD [YHWH] must be **destroyed**.”  
(Ex 22:20, NIV)





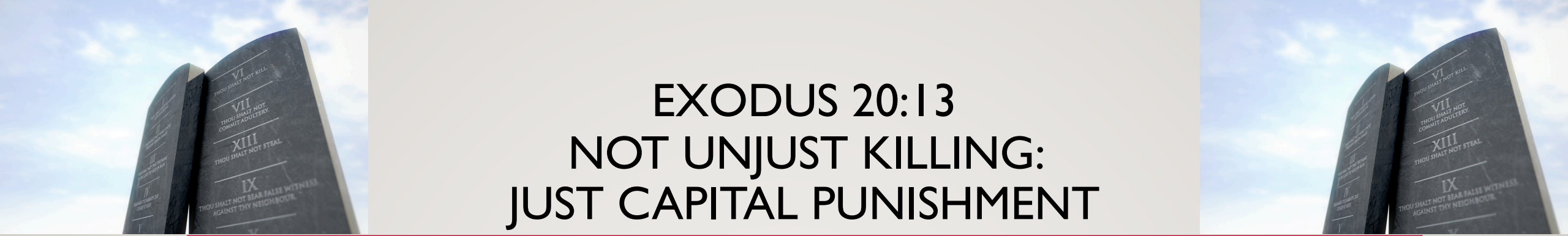
## EXODUS 20:13 NOT UNJUST KILLING: JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- 25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. 26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “Whoever is for the LORD [YHWH], come to me.” And all the Levites rallied to him.
- 27 Then he said to them, “This is what the LORD [YHWH], the God of Israel, says: ‘Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each **killing** his brother and friend and neighbor.’ ” 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about **three thousand of the people died.** (Ex 32:25-28, NIV)



EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

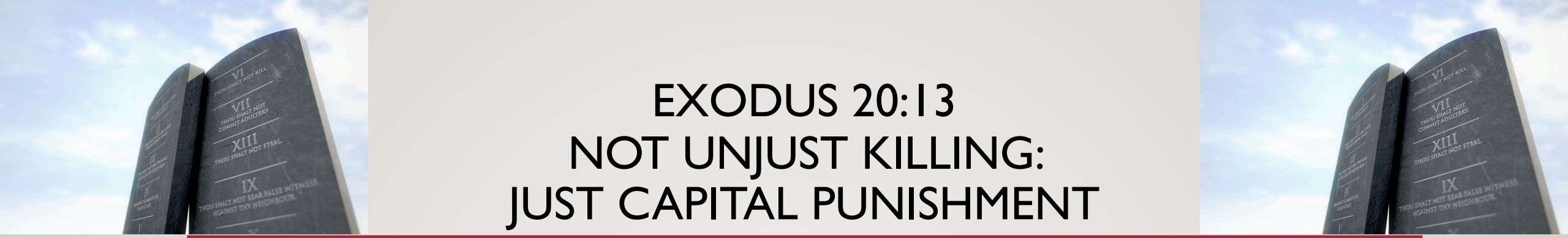
- anyone who **blasphemes the name of the LORD** [YHWH] is to be **put to death**. The entire assembly must stone them. Whether foreigner or native-born, when they blaspheme the Name they are to be **put to death**. (Lev 24:16, NIV)



EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

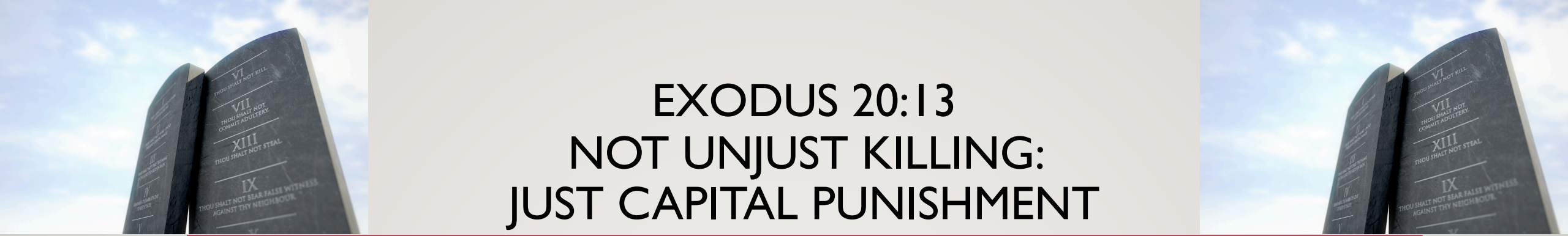
- This is what the LORD [YHWH] Almighty, the God of Israel, says about Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Maaseiah, who are **prophesying lies to you in my name**: “I will deliver them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will **put them to death** before your very eyes. (Jer 29:21, NIV)





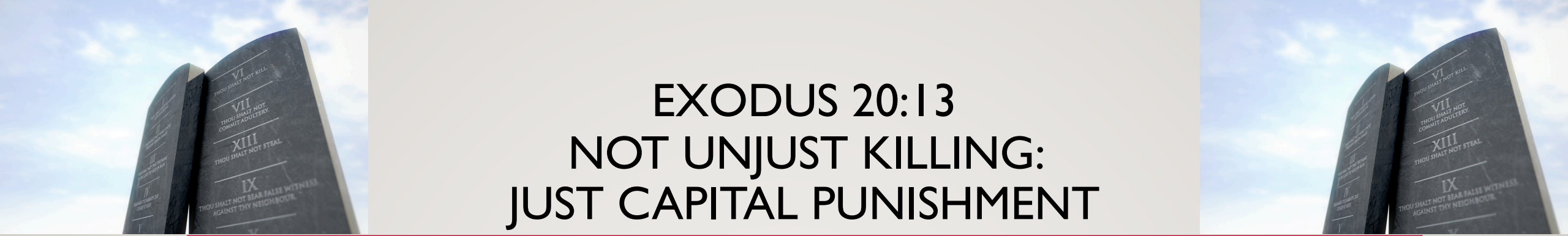
EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- 14 “ ‘Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it is to be **put to death**; those who do any work on that day must be **cut off from their people**. 15 For six days work is to be done, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, holy to the LORD [YHWH]. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day is to be **put to death**.  
(Ex 31:14-15, NIV)



EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

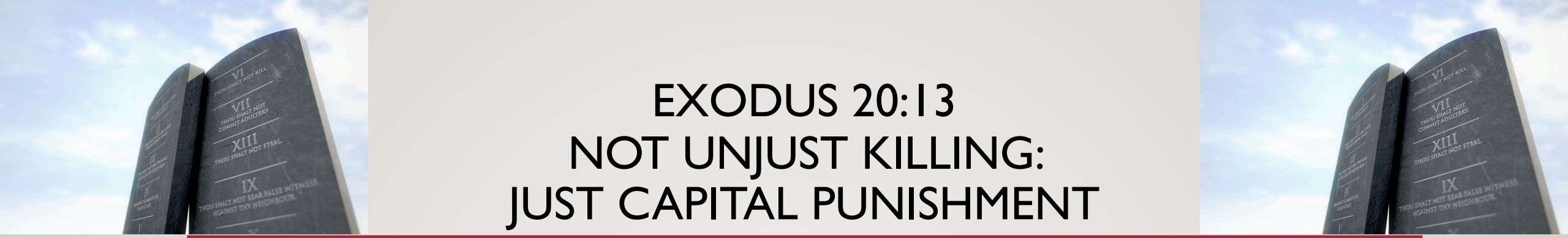
- For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day shall be your holy day, a day of sabbath rest to the LORD [YHWH]. Whoever does any work on it is to be **put to death**.  
(Ex 35:2, NIV)



EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

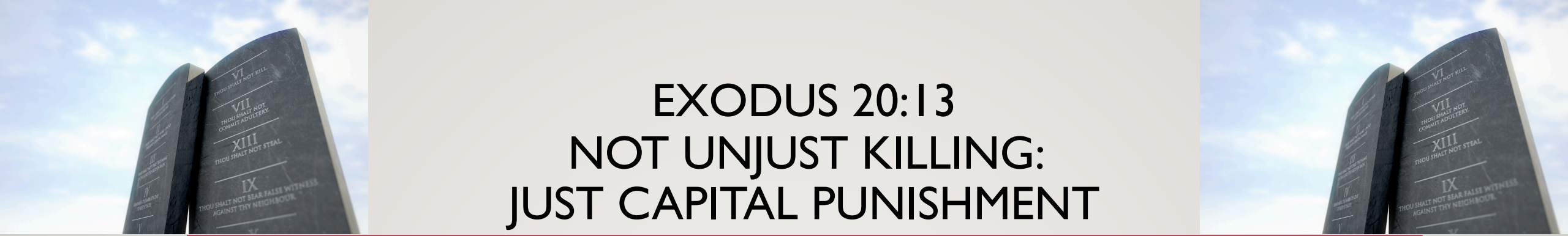
- “Anyone who **attacks** their father or mother is to be **put to death**. (Ex 21:15, NIV)
- “Anyone who **curses** their father or mother is to be **put to death**. (Ex 21:17, NIV)
- “ ‘Anyone who **curses** their father or mother is to be **put to death**. Because they have **cursed** their father or mother, their **blood** will be on their **own** head. (Lev 20:9, NIV)





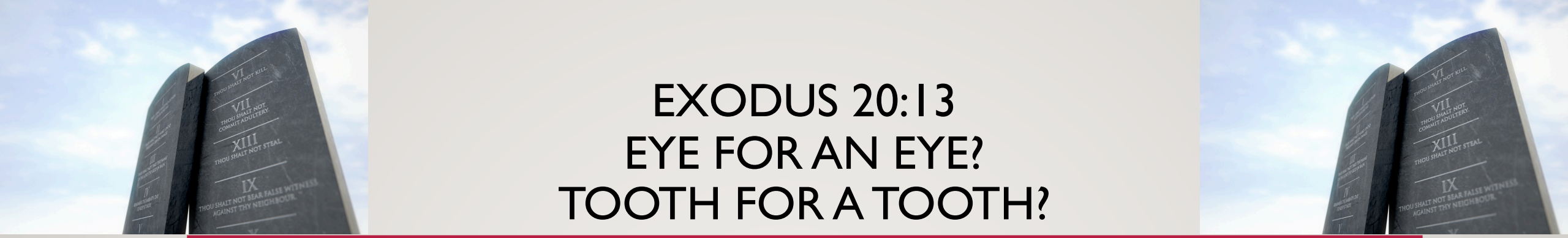
EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- 30 “If anyone kills a person, the **murderer** [ רָצַח | *rāṣaḥ*] shall be put to death on the evidence of **witnesses**. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of **one** witness. 31 Moreover, you shall **accept no ransom** for the life of a **murderer** [ רָצַח | *rāṣaḥ*], who is **guilty of death**, but he shall **be put to death**. 32 And you shall **accept no ransom** for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the high priest. (Num 35:30-32, ESV)



EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- “Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.” (Gen 9:6, NIV)



EXODUS 20:13  
EYE FOR AN EYE?  
TOOTH FOR A TOOTH?

- 22 “If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows. 23 But if there is serious injury, you are to take **life for life**, 24 **eye for eye**, **tooth for tooth**, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. (Ex 21:22-25, NIV; cf. Lev 24:19-20; Dt 19:21)



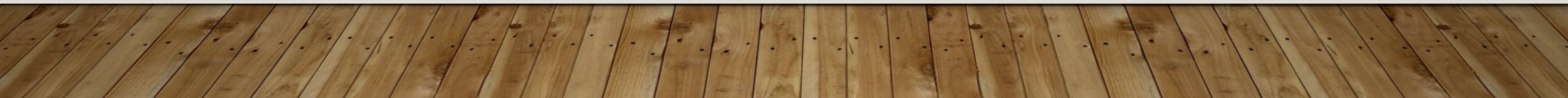


EXODUS 20:13  
EYE FOR AN EYE?  
TOOTH FOR A TOOTH?



- 12 “Anyone who strikes a person with a **fatal blow** is to be **put to death**. 13 However, if it is **not done intentionally**, but God lets it happen, they are to flee to a place I will designate. 14 But if anyone schemes and **kills someone deliberately**, that person is to be taken from my altar and **put to death**.

(Ex 21:12-14, NIV)





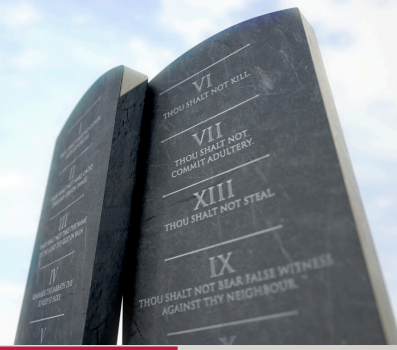
EXODUS 20:13  
EYE FOR AN EYE?  
TOOTH FOR A TOOTH?



- 26 “An owner who hits a male or female slave in the **eye** and **destroys it** must **let the slave go free** to **compensate for the eye**. 27 And an owner who knocks out the **tooth** of a male or female slave must **let the slave go free** to **compensate for the tooth**. (Ex 21:26-27, NIV)



EXODUS 20:13  
UNJUST KILLING:  
NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE



- “If a bull gores a man or woman to death, the bull is to be stoned to death, and its meat must not be eaten. But the owner of the bull will not be held responsible. (Ex 21:28, NIV)





EXODUS 20:13  
UNJUST KILLING:  
NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE



- If, however, the bull has had the **habit** of goring and the **owner has been warned** but has **not kept it penned up** and **it kills a man or woman**, the bull is to be stoned and its **owner also is to be put to death.** (Ex 21:29, NIV)



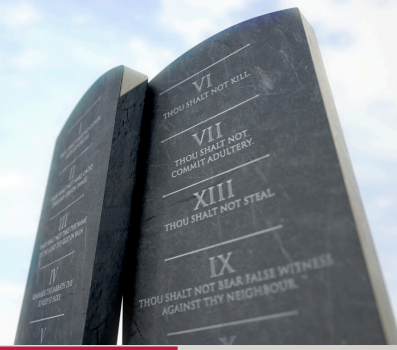
EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST SELF-DEFENSE



- 2 “If a thief is caught breaking in at night and is struck a fatal blow, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed; 3 but if it happens after sunrise, the defender is guilty of bloodshed. (Ex 22:2-3a, NIV)



## EXODUS 20:13 NOT UNJUST KILLING: JUST HOLY WAR OF YHWH



- 8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and **go out to fight the Amalekites**. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with **the staff of God in my hands**.”
- 10 So **Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered**, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army **with the sword**.  
(Ex 17:8-13, NIV)





EXODUS 20:13  
NOT UNJUST KILLING:  
JUST HOLY WAR OF YHWH



- 10 When you march up to **attack** a city, make its people an offer of peace. 11 If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labor and shall work for you. 12 If they refuse to make peace and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city. 13 When the LORD [YHWH] your God **delivers** it into your hand, **put to the sword all the men in it.** (Dt 20:10-13, NIV)



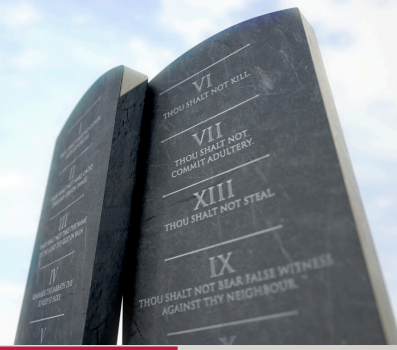
## EXODUS 20:13 NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”  
(Mt 28:19-20, NIV)



## EXODUS 20:13 NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for **rulers do not bear the sword for no reason**. They are God's servants, **agents of wrath** to bring **punishment** on the wrongdoer. (Rom 13:4, NIV)





## EXODUS 20:13 NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- 21 You have heard that it was said to the people of old, "**Do not murder. For whoever murders will be liable to judgment.**"
- 22 But I say to you that **everyone who is angry** with their brother [or sister] will be **liable to judgment**. And whoever says to their brother [or sister], "**Raca!**" [means “empty-headed”, “fool”] will be liable to the Sanhedrin. And whoever says, "**Fool!**" will be **liable to the fiery Hell**. (Mt 5:21-22, AT)



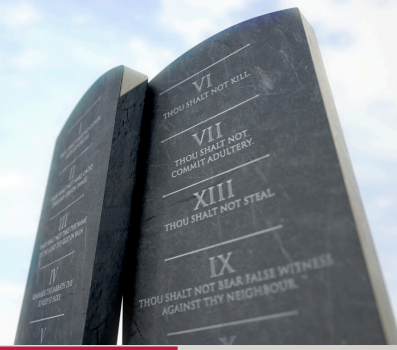
## EXODUS 20:13 NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- 8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing **debt to love one another**, for whoever loves others has **fulfilled** the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “**You shall not murder**,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.  
(Rom 13:8-10, NIV)



EXODUS 20:13  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CONSIDERATIONS



- And He died for all, so that those who live should **no longer live for themselves**, but **for He who died for them** and was raised [to life]. (2 Cor 5:15, AT)





## EXODUS 20:13 NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a **living** sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.  
2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:1-2, NIV)



## EXODUS 20:13 NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 6:23, NIV)