



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*June 16, 2024*

*"A Living Message"*

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:2, NRSVUE)*

*"I am the One who is and will always be, your God, who has helped you in the past and who cares about your freedom." (Leonard Felder, [The Ten Challenges](#))*

**I've heard more than once** comments that go something like this: "I'm interested in Bible study if it helps me deal with *MY* world, not the world of 2000 years ago." That's something we all hope for I think! Beginning this week I will be writing a series of "Sunday Blasts" that will look at, perhaps in a little different way, a selection from a section in the Hebrew Bible – the Torah – that we are all familiar with: The Ten Commandments. But first...

**A recent article** written by Rabbi David Aaron began like this: "God does not expect us to be perfect. In fact, that's why the Torah wasn't given to angels." (The Torah is the collection of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.)

**Rabbi Aaron recounts an ancient story** about how God gave Moses the Torah. The story illustrates an important truth about human purpose, the nature of the Torah, and why it was given to humanity. Here is a short summary:

Moses ascends to Heaven to receive the Torah, prompting the angels to question his presence and the decision to entrust humans flawed by nature with such a sacred task. God instructs Moses to demonstrate why humans are worthy of the Torah, leading to a realization that it's about believing in God's word and one's ability to fulfill a divine mission on Earth. After Moses defends humanity's qualifications, the angels are impressed and offer their support, acknowledging the unique role humans play in choosing goodness amidst imperfection. And living out life fulfilling God's purpose for us.

(You can read the whole story at <https://aish.com/48965741-3/?src=ac> It leads us right into our study of the Ten Commandments and how they can encourage us today.)

**A Living Message** Steven Charleston (retired Episcopal bishop and former dean of Episcopal Divinity School) presented that message this way:

"Here is one way to look at yourself through spiritual eyes: you are a message. When you wonder what existence is all about, when you ask about your purpose in life, or when you feel small in comparison to the troubles of the world: remember that you are a message sent by Spirit into creation. What you say, what you do, how you think and feel: your whole life is a long and sustained message for others to encounter, experience and receive. You are a living message: sent to touch more lives than you can imagine." May it be so. Amen!

**Prayer Box:** pray for continued healing for Elizabeth, Joyce, Debbie, and Joe; healing for Holland, Gail, Mia, Patti, Florence, and John; pray for children finishing this school year; pray for those suffering from depression; pray for all struggling families; pray for all who grieve; pray for an end to the divisiveness our country; pray for peace in the Middle East.

*Lord, hear our prayers!*