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Texas Asks Supreme Court to Skip Ten Commandments Case as Incoming Attorney General Nathan Johnson Refuses to Defend SB 10

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Fell with Lemon"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Texas has asked the US Supreme Court not to hear the challenge to its law requiring the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom. In a brief filed on 10 November 2026, outgoing Attorney General Ken Paxton's office argued the case is a poor vehicle - because the man about to take over the office, Democrat Nathan Johnson, has publicly said he will not defend the law.

It is a strange position for a state that won in the court below to take. Texas beat the challengers in the Fifth Circuit in April, yet it is now telling the justices to walk away, at least partly because its own incoming attorney general has already walked away from the law.

The law at the centre of it all is Senate Bill 10. It requires every public school classroom in Texas to display a 16-by-20-inch poster of the Ten Commandments, drawn from the King James Bible. Schools that do not buy their own must put up donated ones, though teachers need not teach the text.

The case is Nathan v. Alamo Heights ISD, No. 26-257, Brought by nonreligious and multifaith families who sued in July 2025. A federal judge blocked the law, but the Fifth Circuit revived it in April 2026, ruling 9-8 that the 1980 precedent Stone v. Graham was effectively dead after the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in Kennedy v. Bremerton. The families asked the Supreme Court to step in during August.

Ken Paxton Brief: Ten Commandments SB 10 Is A Poor Vehicle For Review

Paxton's brief gives the justices three reasons to say no. First, there is no error to correct, because Stone v. Graham "fell with Lemon" - the test the Supreme Court abandoned in Kennedy. Second, lower appeals courts should weigh in further before the justices decide.

Third, the case is a poor vehicle, because the claims are facial and mostly pre-enforcement challenges rather than attacks on a specific display.

"Among other factors, the recent election in Texas renders this case a particularly poor vehicle."

That is the brief's polite way of naming the problem in the attorney general's office. Johnson, a Democratic state senator, beat Republican Mayes Middleton on 3 November and takes office in January 2027. Paxton, meanwhile, ran for the US Senate instead - and lost to James Talarico, as reported in James Talarico Wins Texas Senate Seat as First Democrat Since 1988.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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