

## **A HOLY NATION (The Ten Commandments)**

Exodus 20:1-23:9

Exodus 20:1-3

1. Memorize the Ten Commandments. Read verses 1-2. By what right does God give the law to Israel? What does this show about the basic relationship between God and his people?
2. In what way does God's law limit human freedom? Make freedom possible? Which laws deal with man's relationship to God; which laws with man's relationship with man? How did Jesus summarize the law? (Mt 22:37-38)
3. Read verses 3-6. With which two commandments do these verses deal? What is forbidden? What is the implied command? How are these two commandments different and how are they similar? What does it mean that God is jealous?
4. Read verses 7 and 8. What does it mean to "misuse" the name of the Lord our God? Why is this a serious matter? What is the next commandment? How and why did God personally establish the Sabbath as a holy day? See Mk 2:27-28. How can we keep the Sabbath holy? What is God's command for the other 6 days?
5. Read verse 12. Why does God command us to honor our parents? How can we do so? Read verses 13-15. What is forbidden by these commandments? What did Jesus say? (Mt 5) How are they related to the second great commandment to love your neighbor?
6. Which part of the commandments did the Lord reemphasize? (20:21-26) Why was this so important?
7. Peruse chapters 21-23:9. Find some of the people who are disciplined by the law; Protected by the law; What are some of the relationships regulated by law?
8. Find some laws in chapters 21-23 which are based on God's compassion? Which laws are expressions of his justice? His mercy? Which are designed to keep material things from ruling men?
9. Find some laws which remind men that God must be first; some which provide for keeping a clear relationship with God? Some which would remind Israel of her own former life?
10. How did God promise to deal with the enemy nations who occupied Canaan? (23:20-33)
11. What are some things these detailed laws reveal about the life of these people who had just come up out of Egyptian slavery, Why did they need the law to become a holy nation?