

Exodus
From Slavery to Sonship
Introduction to the Ten Commandments
Exodus 20:1-17 Part 31

I. The Structure of the Ten Commandments.

A Suzerain Covenant

1. *The preamble.*
 - a. The Suzerain or “great king” identifies himself. cf. 20:2a
 - b. The historical prologue. cf. 20:2b
2. *The covenant obligations.* cf. vv.3ff.
3. *The invocation of the gods as witnesses to the covenant.*
cf. Deut.4:26; 30:19; 31:28; Isa 1:2
4. *The promise of fidelity and obedience.* cf. Ex.19:8; 24:7
5. *The curses and blessings associated with the covenant.*
cf. 20:5-7,12; Deut.27-30
6. *The sign of the covenant.* cf. Ex. 31:13-17

II. The Amplification of the Ten Commandments.

cf. Ex.21-23

III. The Summation of the Ten Commandments.

cf. Matt.22:37-40

IV. The Three-fold Purpose of the Ten Commandments.

1. *A civil purpose: To restrain evil.*
cf. 20:20; Rom.13:1-5
2. *A pedagogical purpose: To show sinners their need of a Savior.*
cf. Rom.7:7-25; Rom.3:19,20,23; 8:3,4; Gal.2:16,21; 3:10,13,24

Augustine “The usefulness of the law lies in convicting man of his infirmity and moving him to call upon the remedy of grace which is in Christ.”

C.H. Spurgeon “As the sharp needle prepares the way for the thread, so the piercing law makes a way for the bright silver thread of divine grace.”

3. *A sanctifying purpose: To reveal what pleases God.*
cf. Psa.19:7-11; 119:9-16,97,130; John 14:15,23; Gal.6:2