

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS...# 2

### Introduction: The intent of the Law

The role of the Ten Commandments in the history of Israel is witnessed throughout Scripture. Virtually all other regulations given then people of God were somehow founded on these basic ten words. Therefore while the development of God's will is vast, its inception is quite simple. In very plain language the Lord put before Moses just what the people needed to know that they might please Him. As they accepted these basic laws and walked in them, God gave further light that their lives might be blessed in greater harmony with one another.

Let us refresh ourselves in the exact purpose of the law. The reasoning is in Exodus 19:5-6. Having seen the power of the Lord, the Israelites were challenged to be a people for their God...a people in whom He would take special delight. With this privileged position came the great blessing of being a kingdom, of priests, an entire nation set apart for God. Israel did not live up to this solemn charge and the law was hardly given before some forgot God. But God did not forget them nor did He take from them the light of His Word. Many years later, Paul the Apostle, would point out that the great legacy to Israel was the commitment of the oracles of God (Romans 3:2). The failure was not in the Word but in the weakened wills of the hearers.

### The Second Commandment

The second commandment puts this picture into the clearest light possible contrasting the will of God and the performance of many of the people. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image," said the Lord (Exodus 20:4). But even as He spoke, the golden calf was being readied (Exodus 32; Psalm 106:19). "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to serve them" said the Lord, but Israel soon faltered at Beth Peor (Ps. 106:28, Numbers 25:3)