

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

EXODUS 20

Exodus 20

Most people know the contents of Exodus chapter twenty. This is the chapter that clearly spells out the Ten Commandments. The ten commandments are really ten words. Hebrew, like other languages, is an inflected language. The words are built around roots and a verb system that has the subject identified in the verb itself, and many times, a letter or pointing system that has a negative or positive meaning, all wrapped in one word. Because of this reality the ten commandments are often called, "the decalogue" which is Greek: "deca-ten" and "logos-word" in this case, plural in number.

The commandments were written in stone with the very finger of God. They were written on two stone tablets and given to Moses to place in a chest he would make for it. The Chest or Ark would be forever referred to as the "Chest of the Covenant" or "Ark of the Covenant" as we speak of it in our language. God created a special place to keep this treaty/covenant inside a great portable worship center called the "Tent of Meeting" or as it is translated in English, Tabernacle. This sacred place was the center of

the camp of the Israelites because it represented the place where God would meet with His people and give them guidance and instruction.

The tabernacle was the center of life for everyone. All activities and behavior were determined by this place of meeting. The first four commandments deal with one's relationship to God. The last six deal with one's relationship with others. This is one of the reasons when Jesus was asked about what was the greatest of the commandments, He summed up the entire law by saying in effect, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength (Deut. 6:4) and love others as you love yourself (see Matt. 22:35-40). Jesus said, "**On these two, hang all the law and the prophets.**"

Prayer and Action Steps

Pray and thank God that He has come to us and has given us His love. He now asks us to love Him and love others like He loves us.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
