

GOD GIVES HIS LAW: Exodus 20:1-20

Sometimes we wish there were no rules, don't we? Like *Outback Steakhouse* says, "No rules, just right." But did you ever think what the world would be like if we got our wish? People could do whatever they wanted—right or wrong, hurtful or self-centered, and it would be very bad! We'd always have to watch our backs!

God has given His law for three purposes. First, to keep this very thing from happening. The Bible tells us that He has "written His Law in our hearts". Nobody needs to tell us that it is wrong to hurt another person! And when we do, we feel guilty! When God's Law functions in this way we call it the **FENCE**.

God also has given us His law so that we know we need a Savior! As we hear the Ten Commandments we know that we have broken them. Sometimes we break them by doing what they forbid or not doing what they demand. But sometimes we break them just by the thoughts and desires that we have in our lives that are allowed to go unchecked. Any way you look at it, we are sinners. When the law makes us realize this we call it the **MIRROR**. This leads us to Jesus who alone can save us from our sin.

Finally, God has given His Law to us to show us what His will is for our lives. This is the same reason He gave it to the Israelites. The mark of the Covenant that God made with them was that they would obey all that He commanded. We, too, seek to follow God's Law so that we show the world our Love for Him. When the Law functions in this way we call it the **GUIDE**.

Remember these three words! They're going to be important as we begin to look at the Ten Commandments.

So crack open that Bible of yours to the second book from the front, EXODUS. Then go through the book until you find the big number **20**. And then read the first twenty verses. You'll recognize them from the little numbers that follow the big number 20.

READ EXODUS 20:1-20

NOTICE THESE THINGS:

1. God starts this section by reminding the Children of Israel of something very important. What is it? (You'll find the complete answer in verse 2!)
2. God doesn't put any verse numbers on the Commandments. The Church has given numbers to each of these. Have you ever noticed that some Churches number the commandments differently?
3. What does Moses say to the people in verse 20? Copy it out below.
4. What do you think verse 20 means?
5. Does God give these commandments in anger? Or in love?

BASIC TRAINING 101

MINING THE BIBLE