



*Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
on 20 January 2008*

'You've Only Just Begun!'

Psalm 19 vv 7 - 14

The law of the LORD is perfect; it gives new strength.

The commands of the LORD are trustworthy, giving wisdom to those who lack it.

The laws of the LORD are right, and those who obey them are happy.

The commands of the LORD are just and give understanding to the mind.

Reverence for the LORD is good; it will continue for ever.

The judgements of the LORD are just; they are always fair.

They are more desirable than the finest gold; they are sweeter than the purest honey.

They give knowledge to me, your servant; I am rewarded for obeying them.

No one can see his own errors; deliver me, LORD, from hidden faults!

Keep me safe, also, from wilful sins; don't let them rule over me.

Then I shall be perfect and free from the evil of sin.

May my words and my thoughts be acceptable to you,

O LORD, my refuge and my redeemer!

Exodus 20 vv1 - 17

God spoke, and these were his words: "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves.

"Worship no god but me.

"Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the LORD your God and I

tolerate no rivals. I bring punishment on those who hate me and on their descendants down to the third and fourth generation. But I show my love to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my laws.

"Do not use my name for evil purposes, for I, the LORD your God, will punish anyone who misuses my name.

"Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me. On that day no one is to work – neither you, your children, your slaves, your animals, nor the foreigners who live in your country. In six days I, the LORD, made the earth, the sky, the sea, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That is why I, the LORD, blessed the Sabbath and made it holy.

"Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you.

"Do not commit murder.

"Do not commit adultery.

"Do not steal.

"Do not accuse anyone falsely.

"Do not desire another man's house; do not desire his wife, his slaves, his cattle, his donkeys, or anything else that he owns."

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1. The Covenant was God's law-code for Israel. Is the law simply a set of rules or is it a clue to developing relationships?

2. How should we be living the Covenant in today's societies and communities? What does it mean in terms of the 'rules' we place upon ourselves and others - the expectations we have of ourselves and others?

3. In the light of question 2, what, if anything would you add to the list of Commandments.

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