

## The Big Ten (Exodus 20:1-17)

**1-3** God dictates to Moses:

No. 1: "I'm your God, your God who liberated you from slave labour in the sweatshops of Egypt. I get total priority. You won't have any other gods taking your attention away from me. I'm it, the only God! No other god's worth squat."

**4-6** No. 2: "You won't idolize anything else of any shape. Nothing that *is* something, or *represents* something – you'll waste no time polishing them or showing them off to your mates\* or looking to them for the big answers of life. 'Cos I get jealous! And when I'm jealous, I'm ruthless. I punish families even three or four generations after those who hated me have rotted in their graves. But those who live by my rules, I show *them* incredible love for thousands of generations of their family line."

**7** No. 3: "You won't use my name lightly, as some sort of magic word, supposed to blackmail me into action. You won't use it as a swear word. If you do, you won't go unpunished. Handle my handle with care!"

**8-11** No. 4: "You'll keep my Rest Day different, distinct, special. You'll do what the word means – 'stop'. You'll work six days, do all you've got to do, then the seventh day is my day. You won't work, your family won't work, your staff won't work, your equipment won't work, your guests won't work. 'Cos I made everything you see in six days. Then I took a break on the seventh. So will you."

**12-17** No. 5: "You'll treat your parents with respect. Then you'll live long and prosper in this new land I'm moving you into."

No. 6: "You won't snuff out a life, stop someone's clock, blow anyone away, bump anyone off, dole out the big chill, erase, drop, hit, top, waste anyone."

\*friends

No. 7: "You won't sleep with someone else's wife or husband, put it about, cheapen yourselves."

No. 8: "You won't thieve, nick, lift, blag, fleece, half-inch, swipe or get sticky-fingered."

No. 9: "You won't lie, fib, fudge about someone, in or out of the witness box."

No. 10: "You won't drool over your mate's wife, his house, garden, staff, equipment, gadgets or anything he has and you don't."