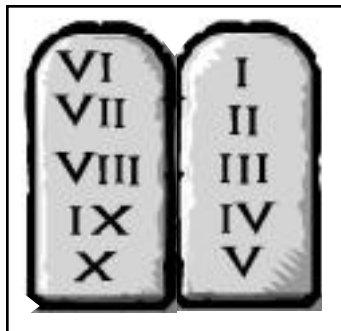


עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים

Word Number One - אֲנֹכִי יי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

THE FIRST WORD of the Ten words is:

“I am Adonai your God,
Who brought you out of Egypt,
out of the land of slavery.”



The First Word tells us Who God is in relationship to who we are: He is our King because He rescued us from slavery. If God had not delivered us from being slaves to the Egyptians, then we would never have been able to leave Egypt, build the Tabernacle, and worship God as He wanted us to. And, since He is our King, then He has the right to tell us how we should act, and what we can do to please Him.

Now you may say that you were never in Egypt, and that God did not redeem you from slavery! But wait a minute: did He redeem your forefathers? Did He redeem the families of Ya'acov? Then since you are part of Israel, you too must realize that it is as though you lived there yourself! Because if God had not redeemed our forefathers, then we would all still be slaves in Egypt—even you! The reason we are all free to worship the Almighty now, is because He redeemed our people way back then. So their redemption is our redemption.

This First Word of the Ten helps us to get everything straight in our minds. And it gives us the right motivation to follow the rest of the commandments. Since God is our King, we want to please and honor Him. And since He is our Redeemer and Savior, we love Him for His great kindness to us, and we want to obey Him because we love Him. Obeying God is the way that we tell Him we love Him. Another thing: since we are free, and no longer slaves, we are free to worship God with our whole lives. In other words, we're not free to just do whatever *we* want to do—we're free to do whatever *God* wants us to do. And the more that we come to love and honor God, the more we desire ourselves to do what He wants us to do. That's because when God rescued us from Egypt, He was giving us an illustration of how He intended to rescue our souls from sin. Remember the Lamb that had to be killed, and the blood put over our doors? That was to tell us the story about Yeshua, the Lamb of God, Who would come and die for our sins so that we could be rescued from the slavery of sin. When we commit ourselves to accepting Yeshua as our Rescuer and Master, then He changes us so that we are willing and able to follow His commandments. Do you see why God started the Ten Words this way?