

tionship to the people. They are a brief summary of His relationship to the people and His will for them. They are the ten words.

At our last session, we noted that Section A of the contents of the Pentateuch was The World Before Abraham. Section B was The Patriarchal History, Section C, Deliverance from Egypt, and Section D The Establishment of the Covenant.

The Establishment of the Covenant is often called the Book of the Covenant. It is an extremely important section. It is the place where God made His covenant with Israel after He had brought them out of Egypt. It was not a means of salvation, for He had already brought them out of Egypt. They had already had the experience of the Pass-over. He asked whether they would do His will and undertake His covenant and they agreed to do it.

This Book of the Covenant can be divided into four sections, of which the first is the first chapter in it and the fourth is the last chapter.

1) *The Preparation for the Covenant* (19:3-25). The first two verses of chapter 19 are just finishing the account of the journey in the previous chapter. All of chapter 19 except the first two verses is the preparation for the covenant. Section 4) is *The Ratification of the Covenant*, chapter 24. Thus you might say that the first and last chapters are the envelope which contains the Covenant itself. Section one is preparation for it, and section four is ratification of it.

2) *The Ten Words* (20:1-17). What is in between is actually the Covenant itself. As you see it has two sides like an envelope, the preparation is chapter 19, the ratification is chapter 24. In between these two is the main body of it. It is like the constitution or the fundamental law of almost any organization: it has two parts. Today we call them the Constitution and the bylaws. They did not use those terms. Section two they called the ten words. We usually call it the ten commandments, which is a free rendering. Literally it is the ten words.