

**The Purposes for the Law:
Why God Gave the Ten Commandments and the Law
Exodus 20: 18–26**

- 1. To reveal the glorious majesty and holiness of God:
*Showing that a great barrier — a great gulf — exists between man and God***
- 2. To reveal man's need for a mediator,
*for a person who can approach God on behalf of man***
- 3. To test man**
 - a. To see if man will walk in the fear and reverence of God
 - b. To see if man will truly obey God and not sin
 - c. To see if man will trust the mediator appointed by God
- 4. To teach that
*God alone is the Lord: He alone has truly revealed Himself, has spoken to man from heaven***
- 5. To teach how God alone is to be approached and worshipped**
 - a. No idolatry: No other gods are to be made or worshipped
 - b. No pageantry
 - 1) The altar of worship was to be of earth: A non-showy, non-costly material provided (created) by God alone

- 18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance
- 19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”
- 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”
- 21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.
- 22 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven:
- 23 Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.
- 24 “Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honoured, I will come to you and bless you.

2) The altar of worship was to be made of natural, undressed stones:
A material provided by God, not defiled and polluted by man

c. No immodest behaviour:
The altar was not to have steps that would expose a person's nakedness (symbolized self-righteousness, man ascending up to God)

25 If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.

26 And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.”