IV. THE STRUCTURE AND MEANING OF THE DECALOGUE

A. Meaning of "Decalogue"

In the article "Decalogue" Encyclopedia Judaica states the following:

> DECALOGUE (The Ten Commandments). The statements of God quoted by Moses in Deuteronomy 5:6-18 are entitled "the ten words, or utterances" (עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים ; LXX δέκα ῥήματα (Deut. 4:13), δέκα λόγοι (10:4). The same title in Exodus 34:28 has traditionally been referred to the "original" version of these statements in Exodus 20:2-14 . . . Mishnaic Hebrew וַעֲשֶׂרֶת הַדִּבְּרוֹת reflects the specialized use of דִּבֵּר (cf. Jer. 5:13) for divine speech. . . . .
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> The Decalogue comrpised the stipulations of the covenant between God and Israel (Deut. 4:13). It was engraved on both sides of two stone "tablets of the covenant" (לוּחֹת-הַבְּרִית or לֻחוֹת הָעֵדֻת . . .

B. Versions of the Decalogue

Exodus 20:2-17

2. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
3. You shall have no other gods before Me.
4. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.
5. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,
6. but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
7. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.
8. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
9. Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
10. But the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

6. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
7. You shall have no other gods before Me.
8. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.
9. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,
10. but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
11. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.
12. Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you.
13. Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
14. But the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

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