

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Two**

#### **Two Great Commandments**

Matt. 22:35 "Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The Lord said that to love God and to love one's neighbor were the two great commandments in the law and was the foundation on which the law and the prophets rested. When God wrote the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone and gave them to Moses to deliver unto the children of Israel, the commandments on those two stones were divided into those things that pertain to our relationship to God and those things that pertain unto our relationship with men. Those Ten Commandments on two tables of stone formed the foundation of the covenant that God made with the children of Israel.

In the book of Jeremiah God promised to make a new covenant with Israel: Jer. 31:31 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

This promise was confirmed in the 8th chapter and in the 10th chapter of the book of Hebrews. In the 8th chapter God said "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts." In the 10th chapter God said "I will put my laws

into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." By combining the promises made in chapters 8 and 10 we see that God said that he would put and write his laws in two places: the mind and the heart of his people and that would serve as a foundation for the New Covenant of worship. Those laws that were placed in two places in the children of God are the laws of love to God and love to our neighbor.

These are the two great commandments that Christ spoke about and serve as the foundation for our worship and service to God. These two laws are the foundation and bear testimony in the court room of our hearts and minds of our faithfulness to serve God or to convict us when we deviate from that service: Rom. 2:14 "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15 Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."