The First Commandment with Promise  
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16
   1. The fifth of the 613 commandments given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai, is to honor father and mother. Note what it means:
      a. Rendering honor to parents
      b. Recipients of honor are the parents
      c. Results of honoring our parents
B. Ex. 20:1-17 - Often called the Ten Commandments, were the first ten commandments of the first written law of God
   1. The first four commandments dealt with man's relationship with God.
   2. The last six deal with humankind's relationships with others.
   3. It is significant that the first commandment that addresses human relationships is for children to respect and obey their parents

I. RENDERING HONOR TO PARENTS
A. Respect and honor; what does it mean to show it to others?
   1. Lev. 19:32; Esther 6:7-9; 1Peter 2:17
   2. Then it means the same toward parents
B. Obey and follow their leadership; what does it mean when done to others?
   1. Num. 27:20; 1Tim. 6:1
   2. Then it means the same toward parents
C. Help and support; what does it mean to help and support others?
   1. Prov. 3:9; Rom. 13:7; 1Tim. 5:3, 17
   2. Then it means the same toward parents

II. RECIPIENTS OF HONOR ARE THE PARENTS
A. From the beginning - Noah's son Ham - Gen. 9:22-25
B. From the Law of Moses
   1. Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 18:7; Deut. 27:16, 21:18-21
C. From the wisdom of Solomon - Prov. 1:8, 6:20, 30:17, 28:24
D. From the New Testament - Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20; Matt. 15:1-6

III. RESULTS OF HONORING OUR PARENTS
A. To honor parents is to honor God because:
   1. Keeping the commandments of God honors Him - Matt. 15:6
   2. God is the Creator of the family - Gen. 2:18, 21-24
B. God said honoring parents is conducive to a better life in this world
   1. Prov. 3:1-2; Eph. 6:1-3
   2. If it is true that obeying God produces a better life, then it only makes sense that the same would happen with parents - Deut. 30:16, 20
   3. In one sense, parents are God's proxies for children in this world
      a. Psalm 103:13; Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:6
4. They are given, not merely for our protection, preparation, and instruction for adult life, but to learn about God’s love through the love of our parents.
   a. The first place we experience love is when we are infants in the arms of our mothers and fathers
   b. The first place we learn forgiveness and grace is from the hearts of our parents
   c. The first place we learn security, hope, and joy is in the countenance of our fathers and mothers
   d. Parents, you stand in God’s place, responsible to teach your children about God’s love, grace, forgiveness, peace, wisdom, and hope through your love, forgiveness, peace, and joy.
   e. Woe upon you if you withhold that from them, or fail to show it to them, or abuse your power over them
   f. But this lesson is for children. Because your parents are God’s proxies on your behalf, the love and respect you give them is also given to God
   g. What did Jesus say about that? - Matt. 25:34-40
   h. How you treat your parents is a reflection of how you treat the Lord.