

十戒の第五戒に伴う約束

— エペソ人への手紙6章1-3節 —

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ABSTRACT Yuzuru MIURA, “The Promise in the Fifth Commandment of the Decalogue and Its Relevance in Ephesians 6:1-3.” When Paul, writing in Ephesians, instructs children on their duty, “children, obey your parents in the Lord,” he is quoting the fifth commandment. But its meaning has not been clear to us, the contemporary readers, for the promise attached to the commandment has been translated as “that it may go well with you and that you may *live long on the earth*.” Does this mean “longevity” on the earth in contemporary days? If we attempt to discuss the issue, based on the assumption that Paul’s use of the text identifies that of LXX Exodus, as most commentators support, it seems that the question cannot be answered. However, Paul adds the words, “this is the first commandment with a promise.” The fifth commandment is surely the first/only commandment with a promise in the Decalogue. Focusing on the promise, it is important to notice that the phrases “to go well with you” and “to live long” are found frequently in the book of Deuteronomy, not Exodus. In Deuteronomy the two phrases are seen in the context of not only “keeping the commandments,” but “keeping the whole law.” The fifth commandment leads to not only the whole Decalogue, but all the Lord’s laws and commandments. “To honor/obey father and mother” corresponds to “to honor/fear God.” Furthermore, in Deuteronomy the two phrases are seen in the context of passing down faith in the Lord from parents to children. The promise in Deuteronomy is God’s blessing toward God’s people and their children, who keep his commandments. We, modern readers of the Scripture, do not consider the promise in Deuteronomy simply as “longevity” on the earth in our contemporary sense; we can naturally understand it as “God’s blessing” toward his people when we read it. The promise of the fifth commandment quoted by

Paul in the context of Ephesians should be read and understood in the same way. So our thesis agrees with the understanding of Ephesians 6:3 in the ESV: “that it may go well with you and that you may *live long in the land.*”