

10: No Other Gods / No Idols

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

What does this commandment reveal about God?

- That God is the highest God.
 - **Genesis 14:18-20** Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.
 - **Acts 17:24-25** God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.
- That God is the True God.
 - **Deuteronomy 32:39** "Now see that I, *even I, am* He, And *there is* no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand.
 - **1 Corinthians 8:4-6** Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), ⁶ yet for us *there is* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom *are* all things, and through whom we *live*.
- That God is the most powerful God (Elijah vs Baal)
 - **1 Kings 18:20-21** So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. ²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

- **1 Kings 18:39** Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He *is* God! The LORD, He *is* God!"
- That only God is to be worshiped
 - **Luke 4:5-8** Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, '*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*' "
- Only God can save us
 - **Acts 4:12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
 - **John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

What does this commandment reveal about us?

- That we are meant to worship God.
 - **1 Chronicles 16:28-29** Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. ²⁹ Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!
- Because of our sin nature, we are prone to wander from God.
 - **Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
 - We actually desire to worship. But when our expectations aren't meant, we tend to wander.

What is the actual instruction?

- Worship only God.
 - Do not participate in the worship of another God
 - Do not partake in prayer to another God
 - Do not even play around with anything that has any relation to another God
 - This is why many believers avoid Yoga or other activities with origins in false gods.
- Do not give worship to any other God
 - There are no other gods
 - There are no other paths to salvation
 - We do not tolerate worship to another
- Do not give priority to anything over God
 - Anything or anyone that claims our primary loyalty is another god.
 - **Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

What are God's promises to us?

If He is to be the only God, then He must fulfill the role of God in every aspect of our lives

- He will be our God and we will be His people
 - **Jeremiah 7:23** But this is what I commanded them, saying, "Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.'
- We will be saved from judgement and wrath
 - **Romans 5:8-10** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- He will seal us with His Spirit

- **Ephesians 1:13-14** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- He is to be our protector, our victory, our provider...

Isaiah 42:8 I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

Commandment 2

Exodus 20:4-6 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

What does this commandment reveal about God?

- He is alive – not in dead things
 - **Acts 17:29** Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.
- It is not enough to worship God, He must be worshiped correctly.
 - **Genesis 4:3-5** And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, ⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.
 - We do not worship on our own terms

- **John 4:24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

What does this commandment reveal about us?

- We want to see something visible
 - **John 20:29** Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”
- We are the image of God
 - **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
 - The Imago Dei – The image of God.
 - Man is the greatest creation because of the image of God.
 - The word image = carved image or idol (Let no one make any carved image).
 - We are commanded to have no idols representing God because we are the idols.
 - We represent the image of God. We are the idol, the image of God to the rest of the world.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

What is the actual instruction?

- Don’t make or have any idols
 - Even if we don’t worship them
- Don’t even use Christian imagery to worship

What are God’s promises to us?

It is listed in the passage:

- **Exodus 20:5-6** you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
 - Some promises are for individuals, some for groups, like nations. For the 10 commandments, the promises are for groups.
 - Parents that disrespect God will have children that don't acknowledge God, that will have children that hate God.
 - Parents influence their children, and grandparents influence their grandchildren.
 - We see this also in sins like abuse and rape, where victims often grow into perpetrators.
 - Note – of those that hate Me. A generation that loves God breaks this.
 - EX – Olympics opening ceremony
- Mercy is promised to define the generations that love God.
 - For those that keep His commandments, He has mercy. Mercy is God not holding offense against us for what should offend Him.
 - **Ephesians 2:4-5** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- As this is a national promise, we can surmise that a nation that makes idols will have their sins held in judgement against them and they will spiral downward in morality.
- A nation that rejects idolatry will flourish as a Christian nation, even if not all are Christians, the nation itself will be blessed.

Joshua 24:14-15 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you

to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”