

IDOLATRY AND DIVINE JEALOUSY

Exodus 20:4-6 Jeff Schreve

Then God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. 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. 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, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:1-6

What do we learn from the second commandment?

1. God is not to be worshiped in a carved or created image.

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. You shall not worship them or serve them ... Exodus 20:4-5



Golden Lamp Stand

**Lamp Stand of Wilderness
Tabernacle**



A. The presence of God cannot be localized in an image.

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!" 1 Kings 8:27

When the people came into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that it may come among us and deliver us from the power of our enemies." 1 Samuel 4:3

B. The glory of God cannot be depicted in an image.

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance ... And from the throne proceed flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. Revelation 4:2-3, 5

C. The worship of God must be in spirit and truth with words.

"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His

worshippers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

“Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of words, but you saw no form—only a voice ... So watch yourselves carefully, since you did not see any form on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb from the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the sky, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water below the earth.”

Deuteronomy 4:12, 15-18



2. God is to be worshiped for who He is.

A. God is a jealous God.

... for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. Exodus 34:14

- **God wants your exclusive devotion.**

For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a

whoring after their gods. Thou shalt make thee no molten gods. Exodus 34:14-17 KJV

*Little children, guard yourselves from idols.
1 John 5:21*

An idol is anything we depend upon to meet the deepest needs of our heart: love, security, worth or significance.

B. God is a just God.

“The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.” Ezekiel 18:20

- Children are clearly affected by their parents.

C. God is a good and loving God.

*For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.
Psalm 86:5*

When you truly love God, you gladly obey His commandments and worship Him His way.