

EXODUS: The Person, Promise, and Power of God

Exodus 20 – The Ten Words of Our Fearful God, Part 1

20 And God spoke all these words, saying,
2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."
Exodus 20:1-2

Q: What doth the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?

A: The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us, That because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 44

Why *study* the Ten Commandments?

1. Too many don't _____ them!
2. They are central to the history of our _____.
3. They are _____ to Old Testament ethics.
4. They are foundational to New Testament ethics.
5. God's Law is _____ and for _____ good.

Why *obey* the Ten Commandments?

1. Because of _____
2. Because of _____
3. Because of _____
4. Because of _____
5. Because of _____

Borrowed from *The 10 Commandments: What They Mean, Why They Matter, and Why We Should Obey Them* by Kevin DeYoung

J. C. Ryle:

"There is no greater mistake than to suppose that a Christian has nothing to do with the law and the Ten Commandments, because he cannot be justified by keeping them. The same Holy Ghost who convinces the believer of sin by the law, and leads him to Christ for justification, will always lead him to a spiritual use of the law, as a friendly guide, in the pursuit of sanctification."

Thomas Watson:

"The moral law is the copy of God's will, our spiritual directory; it shows us what sins to avoid, what duties to pursue."

“The Treaty of the Great King”

The Decalogue, or “ten words” of Yahweh are in the form of a _____ with _____ between the Almighty and His subjects/citizens.

“The revelation they contain is nothing less than an epitome of the covenant granted by Yahweh, the sovereign Lord of heaven and earth, to his elect and redeemed servant, Israel. Not law, but covenant ... Such a covenant is a declaration of God’s lordship, consecrating a people to himself in a sovereignly dictated order of life.”

Meredith Kline, *Treaty of the Great King: The Covenant Structure of Deuteronomy*

20 And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

The covenant originates in _____.

In Exodus 20 God uses his covenant name, *Yahweh*. He is the Great I Am, the sovereign and almighty Lord. He is the supreme, self-existent, eternal, and unchangeable God who bound himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with the unbreakable promise of his covenant.

Instead of “Thus says the Lord ...”, we read, “God spoke all these words ...”. At Sinai, the people heard not only the _____ of God but also his very _____.

The words _____ more clearly ...

They reflect His _____ ...

19 *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. (Lev. 19:1-2)*

They presume His _____ ...

They establish His _____ ...

They demonstrate His _____ to each of His own people ...

The words establish His _____ ...

His standards are _____ ...

His standards are _____ (Deut. 5:22) ...

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

“The first commandment is not suggesting that there are, in fact, other gods. There’s a view called henotheism, which says there are many gods, but you must give your god first place. That’s not what the first commandment is about. No other gods should be worshiped because in reality there are no gods but Yahweh. This is the point Paul makes centuries later when he says:

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords” – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Cor. 8:4–6)

The gods of this world are only so-called gods. They have no ontological existence. There is only one supreme being in the universe, and he demands to be worshiped alone.”

(Kevin DeYoung)

¹⁸ *For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the Lord, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:18)*

As the Creator of the universe, the all-powerful Deliverer of his people, the sovereign keeper of the covenant, and the great I Am, _____ deserves our absolute allegiance and fealty. He will not share his glory with another.

First, consider the _____ of the command ...

Second, recognize the meaning of “ _____ ” ...

No _____ ...

No _____ ...

No _____ ...

Whom do you adore?

Whom do you trust?

Whom do you call on?

Whom do you thank?

The attraction of idolatry to the Israelites (per Doug Stuart)

1. It was guaranteed.
2. It was selfish.
3. It was easy.
4. It was convenient.
5. It was normal.
6. It was logical.
7. It was pleasing to the senses.
8. It was indulgent.
9. It was erotic.

⁴ **“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or 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 or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.**

If the first commandment is against worshipping the wrong _____, the second commandment is against worshipping God in the wrong _____. _____ we worship matters to God nearly as much as _____ we worship!

What exactly is forbidden?

Any graven image that _____ God, _____ for God, or enables closeness __ God
Why?

1) God is _____ and any image of him is blasphemously _____.

This was the problem with idolatry all along: It created a false image of God that was inadequate to his deity and unworthy of his majesty. God is infinite and invisible. He is omnipotent and omnipresent. He is a living spirit. Therefore, to carve him into a piece of wood or stone is to deny his attributes, the essential characteristics of his divine being. An idol makes the infinite God finite, the invisible God visible, the omnipotent God impotent, the all-present God local, the living God dead, and the spiritual God material. In short, it makes him the exact opposite of what he actually is. Thus the whole idea of idolatry rests on the absurdity of human beings trying to make their own image of God. An idol is not the truth but a lie. It is a god who cannot see, know, act, love, or save.

Philip Graham Ryken and R. Kent Hughes, *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*

2) God is _____ for His _____.

3) Belief/faith in Scripture comes by _____, not by _____.

4) God is clear in how he _____ with His people (and that's not it!)

5) God has already created an " _____ " of Himself.

What about my nativity set?

What about The Chosen?

What should we make of the warning statement?

How can we be guilty of violating the first commandment?

How can we be guilty of violating the second commandment?

Next week: The Ten Words of Our Fearful God, Part 2