

“A JEALOUS GOD”

The Second Commandment

Servants' Guide

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Exodus 20:4-6 says:
“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”
What is the difference between the first commandment and the second?
 - The first commandment sees Yahweh and says have no other gods besides Yahweh. The second seems to see Yahweh and says to have nothing to represent Yahweh because all such attempts are insufficient and actually insult His glory.
 - The second commandment has severe blessings and consequences not mentioned in the first.
 - Perhaps, the 2nd is more relevant because Israel is worshipping God and no other gods right now and God wants to be supreme in their worship.

2. What qualities of God simply cannot be captured in any image made by man?
 - God's holiness cannot be capture by sinful hands.
 - He cannot be pictured for God is spirit and is omnipresent. Any representation would limit his transcendence.
 - God is eternal but we cannot represent or even contemplate that in a finite world.
 - In actuality, any image dishonors God because it is a limited representation. It will obscure God's glory.

3. Read Exodus 32. These events occur while Moses is on the mountain receiving the law.
 - a) What is the intention for constructing this golden calf?
 - They wanted to be led (v.1)
 - A visible representation of divine leadership was desired. (v.5)
 - They attribute this golden calf to the works that Yahweh did to bring them out of Egypt. (v.8)

 - b) What is God's reaction? Why does this offend God so much? (vv. 27-29)
 - God's anger burns. (v.10) He wants to start over with just Moses. (v.10)
 - Sends Levites to kill 3,000 Israelites. (v.27-28)
 - Names are blotted out of the book. (v.33)
 - Plague kills many more. (v.33-35)
 - God wants to send them into the Promised Land b/c his covenant with Abraham but he does not want to go and be present with the Israelites. (33:1-3)
 - See J.I. Packer discussion (p.42-44 of Knowing God)

4. Carefully examine vv. 4-6. What are some things we can learn as God calls himself a “jealous God”.
 - This commandment is to be taken with utter seriousness considering the ramifications attached.
 - Our submission and obedience has potential of generational curse and blessing.
 - This commandment of no graven images has relation to obedience to God's word/commands.

5. How might we arouse the jealousy of God in the church today?
 - We must ask ourselves if we know God in all his fullness.
 - Have I studied the bible enough? Who is the God of the bible?
 - Do I only worship a part of who God really is?
 - Does my life demonstrate a lack of knowing Him?
 - When we lack faith, we are obscuring his ability and authority; when we lack love, we obscure His heart of compassion; when we lack prayer, we are obscuring his sovereignty; when we lack restraint, we are obscuring His holiness. Are we glorifying his in the fullness of all the bible has revealed to us about God?

6. Share some of the convictions that you received today.