



Lecture # 1

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty to God (Part 1):

Commandment One Concerns God's Being—Never Believe in False Gods, Exodus 20:3

(Exodus 20:3) Introduction: God is; God exists. There is a Creator of the universe: the one true and living God. He is the **LORD GOD** Himself (**Jehovah, Yahweh**). He created all that is, including man. Therefore, God cares for man: He cares about man's welfare, what happens to man as he walks throughout life day by day. But God cares about something else as well: God cares about what man thinks of Him. What people think about God determines their eternal fate. God wants, even longs, for us all to live with Him eternally. This is the reason God gave us this first commandment:

Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

³"**You shall have no other gods before Me.**

But the great tragedy is this: not all of us will live with God eternally. **Why?** Because many do not live with God now.

I have **four very specific points** to make in these introductory remarks.

1. There are some who deny God: they just do not believe that God is, that God exists.
 - a. Some persons are secularists, people who believe that this physical world is all that exist.
 - b. Still others are evolutionists, people who believe that man has evolved to be the ultimate being of this earth, evolved to be the god of this earth.
 - c. Other persons are humanists, people who believe that man—his knowledge, his science, his technology—determines the destiny of man and of all else in this world.

Now if a person denies God, he naturally does not live with God, not now nor will he in the future. He has cut himself off from God. **This commandment is directed to the atheists, secularists, humanists, and evolutionists.**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"—not this secular world and universe and certainly not man himself who is ever so frail, so frail that his life is as a vapor that appears for just a brief time and then vanishes ever so quickly.

2. There are some people who question God's existence: God may exist, but He may not exist. There may be a God behind the universe, but there may not be. They just do not



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know, not for sure. How could they ever know? They are skeptical toward God. They are agnostics.

Now, if a person questions God's existence, he naturally does not live with God, not now nor will he in the future. **This commandment is directed to the agnostic:**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"—not man's questioning and reasoning ability, not his science, technology, nor exploratory abilities.

3. There are other people who believe in many gods, believe that the destiny of man and his world are in the hands of many powers and authorities throughout the universe (**polytheism**). This commandment is directed to all who believe in many gods. There is only one true and living God.

Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

³"You shall have no other gods before Me.

4. There are many people—many, many people—who believe in one god and only in one god. But that god is not the true and living God, not the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many people, especially within industrialized nations, say that the god worshipped by the **Moslems, Buddhists, Christians**, and others is the same god, that we all just call god by different names. But this is not true, not according to Scripture, not according to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ claims to be the only living and true God. He declares that this is the very reason He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world: to reveal Himself—to reveal the truth to us—that there is only one true and living God. And this is the key belief: the god most people believe in is not the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He and He alone is the true and living God. He and He alone is the One who sent Jesus Christ to reveal the truth of Himself and the world to us.

This commandment is directed to those who believe in only one god, but who believe that he is the god of all people and religions of the earth.

Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

³"You shall have no other gods before Me.

As stated above, God loves all people and longs for all to live with Him eternally. But so many of us are mistaken about God; so many of us deny, question, and have wrong images of God; so many of us tragically reject the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And all who reject the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ reject the only living and true God. And if we reject Him, we doom ourselves to be separated forever from God. This is the reason God gives us the first great commandment: to warn us, to warn us that there is only one true and living God.



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Exodus 20:3 (NASB)

³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Let us review the four points that we have discussed up to this point.

1. There are some who deny God: they just do not believe that God is, that God exists.
2. There are some people who question God's existence: God may exist, but He may not exist.
3. There are other people who believe in many gods, believe that the destiny of man and his world are in the hands of many powers and authorities throughout the universe (**polytheism**).
4. There are many people—many, many people—who believe in one god and only in one god.

This is the first of the Ten Commandments: *Commandment One Concerns God's Being—Never Believe in False Gods, [Exodus 20:3](#).*

1. **Who is to obey the commandment (v.3)?**
2. **How long was the commandment to be in force (v.3)?**
3. **What is forbidden by the commandment (v.3)?**
4. **What is the decision required by this commandment (v.3)?**