



Lecture # 8 Part 1

**The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man’s
Duty to God (Part 2): Commandment Two Concerns The
Worship of God—Never Make Nor Worship False Gods,
Exodus 20:4-6**

Exodus 20:4-6 (NASB)

⁴“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.
⁵You 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,
⁶but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

(Exodus 20:4-6) Introduction: there is only one true and living God, the Sovereign LORD and Majesty of the universe. He is the great Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is the LORD God (**Jehovah, Yahweh**) of heaven, the Father of the LORD Jesus Christ. As the Lord God, the Creator of all people, He has one major concern: how people worship Him. This is the concern of this commandment, the worship of God by man. Every person upon earth worships something. The great tragedy is that most people worship falsely. They worship something other than the only true and living God.

They worship false gods.....

- a.** the false gods created by the imagination of people
- b.** the false gods of science and technology
- c.** the false gods made of wood, stone, metal, and other materials—all formed into the image of idols
- d.** the false gods of self, money, sex, pleasure, houses, lands, and the other possessions of this earth
- e.** the false gods of the state and government, of its power to feed, protect, and take care of man
- f.** the false gods of natural law, of the basic forces of the universe, of believing that energy or force itself is the controlling power of the universe and of life

The false gods worshipped by people are innumerable. Every person has an image of what the *supreme* authority of the universe is, an image of the supreme being of the universe, an image of that to which he should give his life. To what should we give our lives? What should we be worshipping? The demand of this commandment is that we give our lives to the only true and living God, that we worship Him and Him alone.



Lecture # 8 Part 1

Note what worship is:

Worship is the heart reaching out to God (drawing near God for His love and care) and the giving of one's heart to God in praise, thanksgiving, service, and witness.

This is exactly what God demands:

- a. that we reach out to Him, draw near Him for His love and care
- b. that we give ourselves (sacrificially) to God in praise, thanksgiving, service, and witness

This is the subject of this great commandment: *Commandment Two Concerns The Worship of God—Never Make Nor Worship False Gods, [Exodus 20:4-6](#).*

1. Who is to obey this commandment? You (v.4).
2. How long was this commandment to be in force? Forever (v.4).
3. What is forbidden by this commandment (v.4-5)?
4. Why did God give this commandment (v.5-6)?
5. What is the decision required by this commandment? Obedience (v.6).

1. [Exodus 20:4](#) Commandments, The Ten— Obedience: Who is to obey this commandment?

[Exodus 20:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“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.”

Note the very first word of the commandment: “**You**.” God addresses this commandment to “**you**.” “**You**” are personally responsible to Him, responsible to obey His commandment. But you are not only *responsible* to obey: you are held *accountable* to obey by God. The idea is just this: **If you disobey God, you will be held accountable and judged by God.**

Now, who is to obey this commandment?

- a. “**You**” you personally.
- b. “**You**” are *responsible* to obey this commandment.
- c. “**You**” are held *accountable* to obey. And if you disobey the commandment, you will be judged.

[Ezekiel 18:20 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰“**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



Lecture # 8 Part 1

will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.”

Deuteronomy 26:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Ephesians 5:5-6 (NASB)

⁵“For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

2. (Exodus 20:4) Commandments, The Ten— Obedience: How long was this commandment to be in force?

Exodus 20:4 (NASB)

⁴“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.”

Was it given to Israel alone, or was it given through Israel to all people of all generations? Note the commandment: **You shall not make nor worship any idol whatsoever (Exodus 20:4-5)**. God Himself spoke these words (**Exodus 20:1**), a commandment that forbids—absolutely forbids—the making and worshipping of anything other than God Himself.

Exodus 20:1 (NASB)

¹“Then God spoke all these words, saying.”

God is the great Creator, the Sovereign Lord and Majesty of the universe. This means that He and He alone is to be *acknowledged and worshipped* by His creation. In fact, the Creator would never tolerate His subjects (**creation**) worshipping anything or anyone other than Himself.

How long is this commandment in force? It is in force as long as God’s creation stands, as long as the universe exists. This commandment was in force when it was first given by God, and the commandment is still in force today. It will be in force throughout all eternity. No person is ever to worship anything other than the LORD God Himself.

You and your descendants are under the force of this commandment. All people of all generations are to obey this commandment.

Deuteronomy 11:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them.”



Lecture # 8 Part 1

Deuteronomy 26:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Psalm 96:9 (NASB)

⁹“Worship the LORD in holy attire [beauty]; Tremble before Him, all the earth.”

Isaiah 42:8 (NASB)

⁸“I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.”

Matthew 4:10 (NASB)

¹⁰“Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”

Matthew 7:21 (NASB)

²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

Revelation 22:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“Blessed are those who wash their robes [do his commandments], so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.”

3. (Exodus 20:4-5) Commandments, The Ten— Obedience— Disobedience— Worship— Idolatry: What is forbidden by this commandment?

Exodus 20:4-5 (NASB)

⁴“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.

⁵You 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.”

“You shall not make any idol nor worship any false god—none whatsoever.”

How is this commandment broken? How is it violated?

Scripture says that this commandment forbids at least three things.

1. This commandment prohibits the *making* of any idol whatsoever; therefore, the commandment is broken and violated by making idols (Exodus 20:4).



Lecture # 8 Part 1

Exodus 20:4 (NASB)

⁴“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.”

- a. To make an image of anything for worship is wrong. **Note the verse:** We must not build an image of anything for worship, not an image of anything in the sky above nor that is in the earth beneath, nor that is in the water upon the earth. Nothing in the universe is ever to have an image made of it, **not for worship**.

Note that the entire universe is covered; even the unseen world of heaven is covered.

No idol of anything is ever to be made.....

- a. not of heavenly creatures: angels, demons, devils, or imaginary gods
- b. not of heavenly bodies such as the sun, moon, or stars
- c. not of earthly creatures such as cows, elephants, or man
- d. not of water creatures such as fish, crocodiles, or sea animals

The making of any idol whatsoever is forbidden—absolutely forbidden. God emphatically declares, **“You shall never make an idol of anything, not ever—not of anything.”**

- b. This commandment also forbids the making of an image of God Himself; He is a heavenly being (**Exodus 20:4**). Note that **“no image or form or likeness of anything in heaven is to be made”** (**Exodus 20:4**). God is in heaven, in the spiritual world or dimension of being; therefore, no image is to be made of God.

Exodus 20:4 (NASB)

⁴“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.”

- c. A question needs to be asked at this point: **What about images such as pictures, crucifixes, statues, and other symbols that are used to stir our memories to pray and worship? Is this commandment speaking against such images?** There is a tendency within human nature to focus upon that which is seen instead of upon the unseen, a tendency to fix our attention upon the seen object instead of upon God. Reason and honesty—especially *honesty*—demands that we acknowledge this fact.

Consequently, if we use visible objects to arouse us to pray and worship, **there is great danger.....**



Lecture # 8 Part 1

- a. that a pure and spiritual worship of God will fade, deteriorate, and be degraded.
- b. that the physical object will become more valued and receive more of our attention than God. **Why?** Because God is spiritual and unseen, and the physical object is seen.