



**Lecture # 9 Part 2**

**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)**

<sup>4</sup>“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.

<sup>5</sup>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,

<sup>6</sup>but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

**4. (Exodus 20:5-6) Testimony— Influence— Sin, Results— Children— Parents: Why did God give this commandment?**

**Exodus 20:5-6 (NASB)**

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God gave this commandment for at least three reasons. (See Deeper Study # 1— Exodus 20:4-6 for more discussion.)

1. First, God prohibits the worship of idols because He is a jealous God. The Hebrew word for *jealous means* to be red in the face. God loves and cares for man. God does not want people living in error and following false gods that can do absolutely nothing to help them throughout life. Therefore, God is jealous—hot in the face—against anything that turns people away from the truth and from God Himself.

**Note this fact:** Scripture declares that idolatry is *spiritual adultery*; therefore, the displeasure of God against idolatry is rightly called jealous. Jealousy means that God has a sensitive nature, a nature of love. God is jealous of anything or anyone who threatens to take away the honor, recognition, or reverence that is due Him. Therefore, if a person gives his primary devotion, his primary attention, honor, time, energy, effort, or money to anything other than God Himself, he commits spiritual adultery against God. He turns away from God to something else. **The result:** God becomes jealous, red-hot against any person who is unfaithful to Him. **Man must never forget:** God does not tolerate unfaithfulness; He will never allow a rival to replace Him.



## Lecture # 9 Part 2

Note what Scripture says:

- a. God's jealousy will not allow His glory and honor ever to be transferred to another.

### **Isaiah 42:8 (NASB)**

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

### **Isaiah 48:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are named Israel And who came forth from the loins of Judah, Who swear by the name of the LORD And invoke the God of Israel, *But* not in truth nor in righteousness.”

- b. God declares that His very name is **Jealous**; therefore, He absolutely will not tolerate the worship of any other god.

### **Exodus 34:13-14 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup>“*But rather*, you are to tear down their altars and smash their *sacred* pillars and cut down their Asherim

<sup>14</sup>—for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

- c. God's jealousy arouses His anger against those who deny and hate Him.

### **Deuteronomy 6:15 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>“For the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.”

- d. God's jealousy will judge all those who oppose Him.

### **Deuteronomy 29:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup>“The LORD shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.” (cp. [1 Kings 14:22](#); [Psalm 79:5](#); [Isaiah 42:13](#); [Isaiah 59:17](#); [Ezekiel 5:13](#); [Ezekiel 16:38](#); [Ezekiel 23:25](#); [Ezekiel 36:5](#); [Nahum 1:2](#); [Zephaniah 1:18](#); [Zephaniah 3:8](#); [Revelation 21:7-8](#)).

### **1 Kings 14:22 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup>“Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy more than all that their fathers had done, with the sins which they committed.”



## Lecture # 9 Part 2

### **Psalm 79:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “How long, O LORD? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealousy burn like fire?”

### **Isaiah 42:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse *His* zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.”

### **Isaiah 59:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> “He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.”

### **Ezekiel 5:13 (NASB)**

<sup>13</sup> “Thus My anger will be spent and I will satisfy My wrath on them, and I will be appeased; then they will know that I, the LORD, have spoken in My zeal when I have spent My wrath upon them.”

### **Ezekiel 16:38 (NASB)**

<sup>38</sup> “Thus I will judge you like women who commit adultery or shed blood are judged; and I will bring on you the blood of wrath and jealousy.”

### **Ezekiel 23:25 (NASB)**

<sup>25</sup> “I will set My jealousy against you, that they may deal with you in wrath. They will remove your nose and your ears; and your survivors will fall by the sword. They will take your sons and your daughters; and your survivors will be consumed by the fire.”

### **Ezekiel 36:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom’, who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy *and* with scorn of soul, to drive it out for a prey.’”

### **Nahum 1:2 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> “A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies.”

### **Zephaniah 1:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD'S wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.”

### **Zephaniah 3:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> “‘Therefore wait for Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.’”



## Lecture # 9 Part 2

### Revelation 21:7-8 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

<sup>8</sup> But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

e. God’s jealousy, His zeal, will vindicate His true people, His true followers.

### 2 Kings 19:31 (NASB)

<sup>31</sup> “For out of Jerusalem will go forth a remnant, and out of Mount Zion survivors. The zeal of the LORD will perform this.”

### Isaiah 9:7 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> “There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

### Isaiah 26:11 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup> “O LORD, Your hand is lifted up *yet* they do not see it. They see Your zeal for the people and are put to shame; Indeed, fire will devour Your enemies.”

### Ezekiel 39:25 (NASB)

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name.”

### Joel 2:18 (NASB)

<sup>18</sup> “Then the LORD will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people.”

### Zechariah 1:14 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> “So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, ‘Proclaim, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts’, “I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion.’”

### Zechariah 8:2 (NASB)

<sup>2</sup> “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.’”

f. God’s jealousy demands total allegiance, loyalty, and devotion.

### Exodus 34:14 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> “For you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”



## Lecture # 9 Part 2

### Joshua 24:19 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup>“Then Joshua said to the people, “You will not be able to serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins.”

2. Second, God prohibits the worship of idols because the influence of idolatry is passed down from the parents to their children. If a person’s worship is false, he leads his children and grandchildren into false worship. What he does greatly influences and affects his family.

We must never forget this one fact: the human race is a living organism. What one person does affects other persons. This is clearly seen in acts of love, care, benevolence, war, lawlessness, drunkenness, drugs, immorality—in all the acts of behavior. The closer a person is to others, the more the person’s actions affect them. People influence people, and the point of this verse is that parents influence children, greatly influence them. A mother who is a drug addict is likely to lead her children to use drugs. A father who loves and puts sports before God leads his children to love and put things before God.

Note that Scripture uses the word “**hate**” ([Exodus 20:5](#)). If parents deny and *hate* God and worship idols, the children will be greatly influenced to deny and *hate* God and worship idols. Consequently, God’s judgment falls upon the children for generations. The result and consequences of idolatry are terrible. The worship of idols, just like all other behavior, influences the children of a family. Children are conditioned, heavily influenced by the behavior of their parents and their surroundings. Therefore, if a parent worships idols, most likely the children will worship idols. And all idolaters shall be judged by God. Therefore, the sin of idolatry and the judgment upon idolatry are passed down from generation to generation. Terrible consequences! All due to the *sins of the fathers and mothers*, especially the evil sin of idolatry.

This is what is known as the *judicial judgment of God*, a judgment that is justly deserved. (See [Deeper Study # 2—John 12:39-41](#) for more discussion.) If a parent sows the seed of idolatry, he is usually going to bear children who will be greatly influenced by his behavior.

The children will deny and hate God and worship the idols of man. **But note:** this does not mean that God holds a child guilty for the sins of his parents. God is not talking about the guilt of sin. He is talking about the results, the consequences of sin. Every person shall bear the judgment and punishment for his own sin. No person will ever be judged and punished for the sins of others.

### Deuteronomy 24:16 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup>“Fathers shall not be put to death for *their* sons, nor shall sons be put to death for *their* fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.”



## Lecture # 9 Part 2

**Thought 1.** God punishes sin, the sins of all people for all generations. God executes justice upon the sins of the fathers and the sins of the children. No generation of sin ever escapes the judgment of God.

### Acts 17:30-31 (NASB)

<sup>30</sup> “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,  
<sup>31</sup> because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

### 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (NASB)

<sup>7</sup> “And to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,  
<sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.  
<sup>9</sup> These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

### Jude 1:14-15 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> “It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,  
<sup>15</sup> to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

### Isaiah 65:6-7 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup> “Behold, it is written before Me, I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will even repay into their bosom,  
<sup>7</sup> Both their own iniquities and the iniquities of their fathers together,” says the LORD. Because they have burned incense on the mountains And scorned Me on the hills, Therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom.”

### Jeremiah 16:11-13 (NASB)

<sup>11</sup> “Then you are to say to them, ‘It is because your forefathers have forsaken Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘and have followed other gods and served them and bowed down to them; but Me they have forsaken and have not kept My law.  
<sup>12</sup> ‘You too have done evil, even more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me.  
<sup>13</sup> ‘So I will hurl you out of this land into the land which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers; and there you will serve other gods day and night, for I will grant you no favor.’”



## Lecture # 9 Part 2

### Jeremiah 17:10 (NASB)

<sup>10</sup>“I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.”

### Ezekiel 18:4 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup>“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.”

3. Third, God prohibits the worship of idols because the influence of a loving and obedient parent lasts forever, for a thousand generations. Note that the sin and punishment of idolatry is passed down for three or four generations, but the love and obedience of parents is passed down to their children for *thousands of generations*. This is what is known as Hebrew parallelism: it does not mean thousands of people, but thousands of generations. **Note exactly what the verse says:** God’s mercy is shown to thousands of those who love and obey Him, shown for thousands of generations.

Parents who love God and keep God’s commandments.....

- a. will influence their children for thousands of generations
- b. will have the mercy of God showered upon thousands of their children for thousands of generations

This shows the awesome influence of parents upon their children and the absolute necessity for loving and obeying God. Judgment will fall upon those who disobey this commandment—fall upon both the parents and their children for three or four generations. But God's mercy will be showered upon those who obey this commandment, be showered upon thousands of children for thousands of generations.

However, note a most significant fact: God’s mercy is showered only upon the obedient, only upon those who love God and keep His commandments, the very commandments He is spelling out in this passage.

### 2 Chronicles 17:3 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup>“The LORD [Uzziah] was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals.”

### 2 Chronicles 26:4 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup>“He did right in the sight of the LORD according to all that his father Amaziah had done.”

### Proverbs 22:6 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup>“Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

### 2 Timothy 1:5 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup>“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you [Timothy], which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.”