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You Shall Not Make for Yourselves an Idol

20: 4-6

You shall not make for yourselves an idol **REFLECT:** Has a picture or image of God replaced the real the LORD as the object of my worship? Have I changed my ultimate loyalty to an object, an activity, an organization or a person that has become the god I serve?

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in haven above or on the earth beneath or in the water below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, ADONAI 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 I will show love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and obey My commandments (Exodus 20:4-6).

The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood - idols that cannot see or hear or walk (Revelation 9:20).

The First Commandment clearly teaches that **ADONAI** is the only **God**, and no others are to be tolerated, or even thought of. The Second Commandment declares the type of **God** that **He** is, and how **He** is to be worshipped. We must remember that **God** is not against making images. Later, **God** would command **Moses** to make a **bronze snake** in the wilderness. This commandment is against *worshipping* these **idols**.



No **idols** were to be worshiped. **Deuteronomy 4:15-18** confirmed that command: **You saw no form of any kind the day God spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below.** The people of other nations worshiped objects **in heaven above** (like the sun, moon and stars), or **on the earth below** (such as the crocodiles in Egypt or sea monsters among the Babylonians), but **Isra'el** was to worship the one true **God**.

The reason that **idols** are not to be worshiped is that **ADONAI** is a **jealous** or zealous **God**, and their idolatry is looked upon as spiritual adultery. The Hebrew term *qanna'* combines the two concepts of jealousy and zeal (not envy or suspicion).³⁶⁶ So **zeal**, or **zealousness**, meaning *a passionate devotion to*, would be a better term to use than **jealous**, which has negative, even petty connotations. So idolatry would cause **God's zeal** to burn like a husband's **zealousness** would burn against an unfaithful wife (**Hosea 2:2-5**). Because **God** and **Isra'el** are viewed as married, **Isra'el** is viewed as the wife of **ADONAI** (**Deuteronomy 5:1-3, 6:10-15, 7:6-11; Isaiah 54:1-8, 62:4-5; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 16:8; Hosea 2:14-23**). For that very reason, **the Israelites** should not have worshiped other gods. **God** has a right to be **zealous** over what is rightfully **His**. As a result, this was not a petty jealousy, but a righteous **zealousness**.

God will punish **the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Him (Exodus 20:5)**. When one member of the family commits a sin, spiritual adultery for example, the whole family suffers. They will not all be

put to death for the father's crime (**Ezeki'el 18:4b**), but if they continue to **hate God**, the penalty of the father's act will surely be felt by future generations to come in different ways. On the other hand, obeying **ADONAI's commandments** flows naturally from loving Him (**John 14:15; First John 5:3**).

An idol is anything or anyone who takes the place of **God** in our lives. Saint Augustine said, "Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that ought to be worshiped." Believers are not immune from this temptation. Even different aspects of our faith can become idolatrous. One of the greatest examples of this is the **bronze snake** in the wilderness. When the **Israelites** grumbled in the desert, **God sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many of them died**. **ADONAI** then commanded **Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole**. So anyone who was bitten by a snake could **look up at the bronze snake** and live (**Numbers 21:4-9**). That **bronze snake** is a type of **Christ** on the cross. **Yeshua** said: **Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life** (**John 3:14-15**). That **snake**, like **Yeshua**, was *a means of salvation*, something to deliver **the people** from their sins. But **the Israelites** eventually worshiped it. Seven hundred years later when a godly man named Hezekiah became king, he began to cleanse **Isra'el** from her idolatry. As **Second Kings 18:4** tells us, one of the first things he did was **to break to pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it**. They took a good thing that **God** had given them, *a means of salvation*, and turned it into **an idol** to be worshiped. Thus, we must be careful not to do the same thing.

God will tolerate no rivals; not our service, not our concern, not our passionate devotion, not even our ability, though we live or die for the cause of **Yeshua the Messiah**. **He** wants every key to every door in your heart. **He** is **zealous** that there be no competition. **He** will not share the throne of our hearts. There is only one seat on the throne and it is **His**. **He** wants to look at us and say, "There go **My children**. **They** are all **Mine**. **They** belong to **Me** without exception. Every part of **their** personalities, every relationship, every ambition, and every desire belongs to **Me**."

In the last days those that dwell upon the earth will choose to worship **idols that cannot see** (see the commentary on **Revelation, to see link click [Db](#) - The Sixth Trumpet: Four Angles Who Had Been Kept Ready, Were Released to Kill a Third of Mankind). As a direct result of **their** rebellion, a third of mankind will be killed. Is there **an idol** in your heart? Can **God** look down into your heart and ask, "Do I have a rival here? Why aren't you all mine?" **Dear children, keep yourselves from idols** (**First John 5:21**). **ADONAI****



your **God** is a **zealous God** who will tolerate no rival.³⁶⁷