

# TEN COMMANDMENTS

**First Commandment:** “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

## LESSON 1

READ: Exodus 20:1-3

### INTRODUCTION:

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**A. LET'S START WITH THIS THOUGHT - NOT ONLY DOES EVERY MAN NEED A GOD, BUT EVERY MAN HAS ONE.**

1. In the heart of every man there is a throne upon which sits the deity that he worships.
2. The question is not do we have a god but is the one we have the true God!
3. God knows that and that is what He is speaking about in Ex.20:1-3.

**B. GOD DECLARES THAT HE WILL ACCEPT NO PLACE BUT FIRST PLACE.**

1. This first commandment asserts the claim of God to absolute sovereignty over the lives of His Children.
2. Without this fundamental declaration of Divine authority there is no basis for the commandments that follow.
3. I can tell you not to commit adultery, steal, covet - But your question is going to be upon what authority do you have the right to tell me that?
4. Unless I tell you Upon the authority of your God. I do not have the authority to say the rest.

**C. SO, THE FIRST COMMANDMENT IS NOT THE FIRST ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST IN ORDER GIVEN.**

1. But it is first because if you do not accept it there is no reason to look at the remaining nine.
2. You must put first things first.
3. You do not teach a child to run before you teach him to walk.
4. Some things just must come first. - NO OTHER GODS BUT GOD IS FIRST!

## DISCUSSION:

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God begins by saying in vrs.2 "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

### A. IN THIS VERSE GOD GIVES 3 REASONS WHY HE DESERVES OUR TOTAL AFFECTION.

1. First, He says, "I am the Lord."
2. There are several names in the Bible for God.
3. But the word "Yaweh" is the Hebrew word for Lord.
4. This is the personal name for God.
5. Sometimes the word for God is the same word used for any God but not Jehovah.
6. Not until you come to Exodus.
7. God is telling Moses I want you to go back to Egypt and tell the people that I am bringing them out of the land.
8. I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and Joseph your four fathers.
9. Moses in essence says, "Yes we have heard about you, and we have worshiped you as this God for centuries and centuries but they're going to ask me this question - What's your name?"
10. And God says, "You tell them "Yaweh" sent you."
11. What does that mean? "I am that I am"
12. I will be, because I will be. You tell them "I AM" sent you!
13. The personal name of God is a name that emphasizes His unchanging character.
14. God is saying, " I deserve First Place in your life because I AM."
15. That is saying is if we are going to understand the ten commandments it is because we understood the one who commands.
16. Why is it just as wrong to commit adultery in 2010 as it was a thousand years before Christ was born?
17. Because God is still I AM.
18. People say that ethics change - But God has not changed - He is still the same God.
19. Therefore, his values, His ethics and His principles have not changed.
20. There is no one else that can call himself by the name of limitless life!
21. Any other god is limited and does not deserve our worship.

## B. SECOND HE SAYS IN VRS.2 "I AM YOUR GOD".

1. The word "Your" in the Hebrew is not plural but is singular.
2. God is saying I am the God of Moses, the God of Abraham, the God of Joshua, the God of Jim, the God of Bill, the God of Barbara. I AM YOUR PERSONAL GOD!
3. His deity gives Him the right to command and gives me the desire to Obey Him.

## C. ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose a man comes us to me and says, "I'm your father.

1. When you were young, I put you up for adoption and the man that raised you is not your father.
2. And he had legal proof that he was your father and demands your obedience.

And I have never looked at my birth certificate, just taken my folks word for it.

1. My response would probably be, "You may have the legal right to the title of father, but the other man has my affection and my obedience."
2. Beloved God has both - It is not just legal claim, He says, "I am close, I am personal. - I am YOUR God.

Third - then He says vrs.2 "who brought you out of the land of Egypt."  
Just 3 months ago.

1. It's important to notice how He brought them out of Egypt.
2. He did it with a series of plagues and what did those plagues attack?
3. The gods of Egypt.
  - a. They worshiped frogs - God took care of that.
  - b. They worshiped the Nile River - God turned it into blood.
  - c. They worshiped Pharaoh - God took his son.

## GOD PROVED THAT ALL THE GODS OF EGYPT WERE IMPOSTORS.

1. They were getting ready to go into the land of Canaan which was filled with gods.
2. And God says, "I am that I am and I am your God and I am the one that brought you out of Egypt and destroyed the gods of Egypt."
3. And as you go into the land of many gods I demand first place and insist that you worship no other gods. Because of who I am.
4. Do you know why God needs first place in your life.
  - a. He is God, He is a close and personal Father.
  - b. He took us out of slavery and redeemed us from the bondage of our sins.
  - c. So, He commands that "You shall have no other gods." vrs.3

## GOD IS NOT SAYING THERE ARE OTHER GODS.

- a. He is acknowledging that every man is going to worship something.
  1. A god is whatever we put our trust in.
  2. A thing does not have to have a temple or an altar to be a god to us.
  3. To be our god we just have to trust in it and make it first in our life.

In 1 Jn.2:15-17 John says there are three kinds of gods.

1. The lust of the flesh - You can make a god out of passion and pleasure.
2. The lust of the eyes - You can make a god out of your possessions.
  - a. You can attend church but if your trust is in your money and possessions that is your god.

The pride of life. - Power or position can be your god.

There is one good way to tell what your gods might be.

What do you dream or think about most of the time.

I know we schedule a couple of hours each week for God but what about those other hours. What do you think about?

Some people worship gods and try to sprinkle in a little Jehovah worship.

1. God is saying, " I will have nothing to do with that."
2. You may have no other gods before me. NO EXCEPTIONS!
3. A little later the children of Israel are going to make a golden calf and worship it.

God burned with anger and said to Moses, "Do not worship any other gods for my name is Jealous and I am a jealous God."

1. Does this mean that God has a flaw? - No - It is moral excellence.

It is not the jealousy that some husbands display towards their wives.

But there is a whole jealousy that you have toward your wife based on trust, justice and a desire for her exclusive affection.

Out of all the men in the world, I demand first place before Barbara's father, brothers, etc.

When we married we made a covenant that I would be first and she would be my first and no other woman would have that place.

B. God made a covenant with Israel and said you shall be my bride and I shall have no other lovers and you shall have no other lovers.

He also made a covenant with His church, "I'll be your bridegroom and you shall be the bride and you shall have just one.

One thing all thrones have in common is they are  
all just built for one.

## CONCLUSION:

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First rethink the end of all other affections.

1. What is the end? Think about money, titles, wealth and any other god you can think of but what is the end result.

If you are worshiping a limited god that is foolish.

There is only one God, and he is our God - The Great I Am.

Second, we need to recall all the deeds of the Almighty on our behalf.

1. Often we forget what God has done for us.

Third, relate personally to Jehovah your God.

1. He is asking you to make Him the Lord of your life

If you do not make Him the Lord of your life you are going to be struggling with commands not knowing the one that does the commanding.

That is how we become a hard lined, unloving, uncaring line drawing kind of person.

Not knowing the heart of the commander.

If you do not have a personal relationship with God you have just a list of rules.

God wants us to keep the rules because we love Him.

First things must come first and the first thing is that you have to know God.

How can He be first when he is the last one we talk to, think about in our spare time, or if His words are the last thing that we turn to read when we have a moment.

CLOSE:

Why not put Jehovah first in your life?