

Exodus 20:3-6 Commandments 1-2

Introduction

Definition of religion:

This is the very essence of the first 2 commandments. God says **I AM** (vs1-2, therefore **YOU SHALL/MUST**(vs3-6). Today we will see:

1. Because I AM is unique, therefore you shall/must have no other gods before Him.
2. Because I AM is spirit, therefore you shall not make a graven image of Him
3. Because I AM is jealous, therefore you shall serve Him exclusively (those who do not, those who do are..).

Keep in mind:

- The 10 Words/commandments are **apodictic-**
- **Stated negatively-** indicating a people in _____ and under _____.
Rom 7:7-8
- **Written in 2nd person singular-** “emphatic reminder to each individual within the community who heard the law of his responsibility to obey it, for the well being of ancient Israel depended on the obedience of individuals within the covenant community” (Huey, 85).
- The 10 Words serve as the **broad foundation** for the specific Law expounded on in **Deut. 12-26**. As a result, they are not to be thought of in narrow terms of what is _____ and _____ but more broadly as each commandment points to the moral perfection which belongs to YHWH and is required by YHWH for all who would follow Him.
Matt. 5

1. **(Vs3) BECAUSE I AM is UNIQUE; YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS IN MY PRESENCE**

You shall “HAVE”- very unique and _____ language. Elsewhere Scripture speaks very specifically in regards to other gods stating (T.D. Alexander, 400):

Scripture	Command in regard to other gods	Scripture	Command in regard to other gods
Ex. 23:23	Make no mention of the name of	I Kings 9:9	Lay hold on
Deut. 6:14	Go after	I Kings 14:9	Made for yourselves other gods
Deut. 7:4	serve	2 Kings 17:17	fear
Deut. 8:19	worship/bow down	2 Kings 17:35	Sacrifice to
Deut. 18:20	Speak in the name of	2 Kings 22:17	Burn incense to
Deut. 31:18	turn to	Jer. 7:18	Pour out drink offerings to
Judges 2:17	Play the harlot after	Deut. 29:22-6	Went, served, worshiped

In between polytheistic and monotheistic would've been _____ - the practice of believing and worshipping one god while recognizing that there may exist other gods worthy of praise.

Isa. 42:8

Examples:

I Samuel 5:1-8

I Chron. 14:12

Church history- Perpetua, "I am a Christian..."

NO ONE LIKE HIM. He is OTHER! He is in the category of ONE!

Isa. 43:10-13

Isa. 44:7-8

Isa. 45:5-7

Isa. 46:5,9-11

2. (Vs4-5) BECAUSE I AM is SPIRIT; THEREFORE YOU WILL MAKE NO CARVED IMAGE OF Him

Translations =

According to Weinfeld, "The pagans would not conceive of a deity without an image, and the deity was considered _____ in its image."

Once the deity was "present" in the image the deity would be _____ and _____ to benefit its worshipers.

Consider that YHWH had thus revealed Himself in ways which could not be reproduced as images:

We might naturally ask, were not the tabernacle and the manna and Aaron's rod then idols (**Heb 9:4**)?

Deut. 4:15-19

(vs5) "you shall not bow down to them nor serve them" Bow down refers to _____, and serve refers to _____. Do you see the close connection to the first commandment?

For the believer there can be no image of God save the _____!

Jn. 1:29

Jn. 4:23-24-

Jn. 10:30

Col. 1:15- HE IS the _____ of the invisible GOD!

3. (Vs5-6) BECAUSE I AM is JEALOUS; therefore you shall worship Him exclusively (those who don't, those who do)

Jealousy reflects passion and thus it could be translated as _____. Jealousy speaks to _____ in the OT, not to mere emotion which is what we know it to mean.

Prov. 6:34

God is jealous for what/whom?

Ezekial 16:15-34

T. D. Alexander states, “As their Redeemer YHWH is passionate about the people of Israel and is ardently committed to ensuring that His exclusive relationship with them will not be endangered by anything or anyone else”

Dr. Daniel Block, “The intensity of his wrath at threats to this relationship is directly proportional to the depth of His love.”

Parallelism of **vs5-6**:

Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the 3rd and 4th gen of those who hate Me

Showing mercy to thousands to those who love me and keep my commandments.

Small Groups:

- What do we learn about how we relate to God through the 10 Words?
- How does God’s uniqueness relate to the first commandment?
- How does the verb “have” in **Ex. 20:3** relate to all the verbs listed in the chart in your notes? How is the first commandment connected to all those verses?
- Read **Ex. 12:12**. How does the first commandment help us understand what was happening in the plagues?
- How does God’s omnipresence and the fact that He is Spirit (**Jn 4:23-24**) relate to the 2nd commandment?
- Explain the difference between montheistic, henotheistic and ploytheistic.
- Knowing Israel had been in Egypt 400 years with a front row seat to the idol worship there (and everywhere in the Ancient Near East), why are God’s monotheistic commands so radical?
- In what ways is our modern multiculturalism a demonstration of henotheism? How do these trends reveal an attack on the first commandment? In what ways are you tempted to compromise the first commandment?
 - Happy Holidays vs. Merry Christmas
 - Partner vs. spouse
 - LGBTQ vs. Male/female
- How is God’s jealousy reconciled with His holiness? Or Explain how God’s jealousy is a virtue of YHWH. **Ex. 34:14. Deut. 4:23-4** How can His people be comforted by His jealousy?
Deut. 7:6-11
- What connections do you see b/w the first commandment and Jesus’ claims of Deity from John?
- Pray the Isaiah passages from your handout together to end your small group.

At Home:

Read **Deut 10:12-12:7, 12:29-32-, 26:16-19**

- Where do you see the first and second commandments? How are they communicated more specifically?
- What role does recalling God's past faithfulness in Egypt and the Exodus play in this explanation of the Law?

Read **I Sam 5:1-8 and I Kings 18.**

- How does YHWH demonstrate His power over idols in these passages?
- How do these mighty acts of God put the first two commandments on display?

Read **Psalms 115:3-8 and Psalm 135:15-18.**

- Compare and Contrast YHWH with the idols described in these passages.
- With the futility of man made idols so clearly stated in Scripture, why was Israel then and why are we now so prone to worship them?

Read **Ezekiel 14:1-8.**

- Though we usually set up idols in our hearts rather than in our homes, they are no less serious. What language does Scripture use to reveal the serious nature of idols in our hearts?
- What idols find a home in your heart? What do you believe they can do for you that God cannot or does not? (**I Jn. 2:15-17**)
- How does remembering what God did in Exodus 1-19 bolster your faith in YHWH and motivate you to obey the first commandment?
- Read **I Jn. 5:19-21.** Spend time in prayer confessing the idols which tempt your heart away from the One, True God. Thank God for all He is and has done for you in Christ. Recall how the first commandment comes from the Lord your God "who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Thank Him that His commands come from grace!