

"The Second Commandment"

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Second Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

Grace and expectations

Exodus 20:2—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Exodus 20:4-6—"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

Jealous God

- Deuteronomy 4:23-24
- Joshua 24:19-20
- Isaiah 42:8

Visiting iniquities, showing mercy

- Ezekiel 18:4-20
- Ezekiel 18:21-32

Idols made with hands

- Deuteronomy 29:16-18

- Isaiah 40:18-20
- Daniel 3:1-15

Stephen's history

Acts 7:39-41—"Whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands."

This Old Testament account comes from Exodus 32:1-35.

Acts 7:43—"You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, images which you made to worship; and I will carry you away beyond Babylon."

This Old Testament account comes from Amos 5:26.

Paul's experiences

Acts 17:29—"Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising."

Acts 19:24-27—"For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: 'Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.' "

Mentioned in Revelation

Revelation 9:20—"But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk."

Idols of the heart

Ezekiel 14:1-8—“Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak to them, and say to them, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.’ ” Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the Lord will answer him by Myself. I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.” ’ ”

One of the most common forms of an idol of the heart includes pride and a desire to control other people.

- Matthew 20:25
- Matthew 23:4-12
- 2 Corinthians 11:20
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4