

"Second Commandment—Part 1"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of May 24, 2025.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled "Second Commandment—Part 1."

As I mentioned last week, the plan was for most of the Ten Commandments to have their own individual Bible studies—but the topic of the First Commandment expanded into two parts. As it turns out, the Second Commandment has also expanded into two parts.

Foundational scripture

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

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

Second Commandment

■ Exodus 20:4-6—"You shall not make for yourself a carved image (any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, that is on 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 [with God mentioning the consequences for those who hate Him and love Him]."

Some Hebrew words for "jealous"

Have you ever noticed how many scriptures there are in the Bible that talk about being jealous?

Let's notice three Hebrew words that refer to being jealous.

■ The Hebrew word *qana* (identified in *Strong's Concordance* as No. 7064) is used about 28 times. It can mean "to be jealous, be envious" (a negative attitude) or "to be zealous" (a positive attitude).

■ The Hebrew word *qina* (identified in *Strong's Concordance* as No. 7068) is used about 43 times. It can mean "jealousy and envy" (which are negative) and "zeal" (which is positive).

■ The Hebrew word *qanno* (identified in *Strong's Concordance* as No. 7072) is used two times. It means "jealous" and is negative in both scriptures.

Notice another Hebrew word

Now, let's look at a fourth Hebrew word that refers to being jealous.

■ The Hebrew word *qanna* (identified in *Strong's Concordance* as No. 7067) is used only six times. But notice the following description of the meaning: "Jealous; an adjective or title used exclusively of God, focusing on His desire for exclusive relationships."

Following are the first four scriptures using this particular Hebrew word.

■ Exodus 20:5—Listed as part of the Second Commandment: "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God."

■ Deuteronomy 4:24—"For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

■ Deuteronomy 5:9—Listed as part of the Second Commandment: "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God."

■ Deuteronomy 6:15—"The LORD your God is a jealous God among you."

The information mentioned in Deuteronomy 6:15 is also mentioned in Exodus 34:14. But the Exodus verse has more detail—mentioning *qanna* twice.

■ Exodus 34:14—"For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD (whose name is Jealous) is a jealous God."

How is the Lord's name identified as "jealous"? Some sources identify the following name (Jehovah Kanna, the Jealous God) to be associated with Exodus 34:14. (Many Church of God students would prefer to say Yahweh Kanna, the Jealous God.)

It is the worship of idols that provokes God to jealousy.

■ His jealousy is His expected response.

■ His jealousy is His righteous reaction.

No idols made with hands

Now, let's look at scriptures that discuss the concept of avoiding idols made with hands.

■ Acts 7:41—When Stephen gave his history lesson before his martyrdom, he included a comment about the idol in Exodus 32:1-6.

- Exodus 32:1-6—Aaron requested golden earrings to use an engraving tool to make a molten calf—which the people declared as the “god” who brought them out of Egypt.
- Acts 7:43—When Stephen gave his history lesson before his martyrdom, he included a comment about the tabernacle of Moloch, the star of their god Remphan (Chiun) and images that they made to worship—found in Amos 5:25-27.
- Amos 5:26—You also carried the tabernacle of Moloch and Chiun your images—the star of your god, which you made to yourselves.
- Deuteronomy 29:16-18—When they dwelt in the land of Egypt, they saw the abominations and idols among them (wood, stone, silver and gold)—causing people to serve the gods of those nations.
- Isaiah 40:18-20—Nothing compares to God—not images of gold and silver of the rich and not the wood items of the poorer people.
- Daniel 3:1-18—King Nebuchadnezzar made a huge image of gold (90 feet high and nine feet wide) and instructed the people to fall down and worship it—but Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego would not.
- Acts 19:24-27—Demetrius (and other silversmiths who made silver shrines of Diana) complained when the apostle Paul persuaded people to turn away from the gods made with hands.
- Revelation 9:20—The people who lived through the troubles associated with the sixth trumpet did not repent of the works of their hands—idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood.

Next time, part 2

Next time, we will discuss idols of the heart and mind. I recommend that you take a peek at Ezekiel 14:1-8.