

**So30201a – 06/14/26**  
**“No Other gods”**  
**Exodus 20:1-3**

**Introduction – Read Exodus 20:1-3**

- This morning we begin our Sunday mornings in the book of Exodus
  - This Wednesday night we will begin to study this book in its entirety and as I have been saying, Exodus is one of my favorite books to teach

**Exodus is one of the four books that I had the privilege of teaching out at Calvary Chapel Bible college**

- And what that means to you, is I have studied and put time into discovering things in this book more than most books that I have the privilege of teaching
  - So hopefully that will not make it boring, but a really beneficial study for all of you who take the time to be here or follow along online either live or you know you can go any day of the week and listen, it doesn't have to be live

**But anyway, this Wednesday night we are going to be introduced to Moses and the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty of Pharaohs**

- And the first study in the book of Exodus is one of my favorites and one of the most important
  - Because what we are going to do, is look at Egyptian history and compare it to what we see in the Bible - and the overlap is amazing – if you just pick one, pick the study the study this Wednesday, you won't regret it
- I really believe your faith in God's word and that is it telling a true story, will really be increased this Wednesday night
  - So we will meet the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty of Pharaohs and we will meet this man Moses – hope you can be with us

**But this morning, and really all the Sunday mornings while we are looking at the book of Exodus on Wednesday nights, we are going to do a verse by verse study of Exodus chapter 20 or in other words we are going to focus in on the 10 commandments**

- Now it is important that you understand, why in the age of grace, when all of us understand that we are saved by what Jesus has done for us and not for what we do for Him, why is it important in the age of grace to study the 10 commandments?
  - Most Christians today think, aren't those just for the Jews?

**There was a time in American Christianity where these 10 commandments were taught frequently in church, memorized by kids and attempted to be followed by followers of Christ**

- But we live in a world today where most people can't rattle off more than 3 or four of the commandments
  - And again, that goes back to the question, "why should we know these things if we are saved by grace?"
- Well it is important for you to know we find 3 different types of laws in the Torah, the first five books of the Bible

**Different Types of Laws in God's Law**

**Moral law- "mitsva" – ordinance or order**

**Ceremonial law – "hukkim" – custom of the nation**

**Judicial law – "mishpat" – decisions or judgment**

- There is the Moral law, of which the 10 commandments are a part and they are based on God's Holiness that does not change and our need to live the way He intends which does not change – unlike what we are told today, truth does not change with culture and time – what was true for the way Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses were to live, is still true for the way we should live that way

**But then in the Torah there are ceremonial laws, like all the sacrifices and cleansings the Jewish people needed to go through to approach God, and then there was judicial law, or what you were to do to someone who broke those laws**

- And judicial laws do change with culture, especially in America where we vote on how criminals are to be dealt with or at least the people who write those laws, so judicial law does change
  - And most of the ceremonial and sacrificial laws were pointing toward and fulfilled in Jesus, so because we live in a time after the life and death of Jesus, our need to follow many of those ceremonial laws have changed
- But God's moral law is based on God's holiness and how He created us to be, and so those laws, the moral laws do not change

**But it still brings up the question, "If we are not saved by the law, even the Moral law of God, is it really important that we know it? – And the answer to that is "Yes" but why?**

- And the answer is when we as New Testament believers study God's law, three things should happen in our lives

**Why are the Ten Commandments Important?**

**#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ**

- So often we were told when we first heard the gospel, "give your life to Christ and He will make your life better."
  - Now that is not an untrue statement, but it is not the total truth is it?
  - And sometimes for people in America, our lives are pretty good, so do I really need Christ if all He is for is to make my life better?
- Well this is why knowing the Law of God is so important – I see what God's standard is, and obviously see how far I fall from that standard - So then I see my need for Christ
  - Christ doesn't just make my life better, He does, but Jesus saves me from sin and death and without Him, we would all be lost in our transgressions and sins

**Why are the Ten Commandments Important?**

**#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ**

**#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ**

## **The Law not only shows us our need for Christ, but then as we study the law of God, it shows how to live toward God and our fellow man**

- We live in a day and age where so many including Christians do whatever is right in their own eyes, and part of the reason for that is because we have lost the standard
  - We live in the age of Grace which I am thankful for, we could not be saved without grace
  - But we sometimes think well “then it doesn’t matter how I live, grace brother” – no friend there is a standard God intends you to live by
- I love this quote by Bible scholar J.C. Ryle

**“There is no greater mistake than to suppose that a Christian has nothing to do with the law and the Ten Commandments, because he cannot be justified by keeping them. The same Holy Spirit who convinces the believer of sin by the Law and leads him to Christ for justification will always lead him to a spiritual use of the law as a guide in the pursuit of sanctification.” – J. C. Ryle**

### **Why are the Ten Commandments Important?**

**#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ**

**#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ**

**#3 – The Law helps us Discover Christ**

- You see you learn something about the Law giver from the laws that are given

**Just one example – think of all the disability laws that go into building codes in the United States – what does that say about the people who made those laws?**

- I think it says that we want everyone, no matter their disability to have access and be a part of our public lives
  - Whether that means to go to a ball game or a concert or church for that matter - We as Americans don’t want you limited by your limitations - To me it shows the compassion of the American people, the Lawgiver in that example

## **So too the laws of God tell us something about the lawgiver**

- Consider what John in the New Testament says about God's law

**“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” – I John 5:3**

- This verse alone changed my view on the law of God, for John tells us that God's commandments are actually His love expressed to us
  - They are not how we earn God's love, but are actually His love expressed to us in giving us the best way to live – so these things are as important today as the day they were given...
- And with that lengthy introduction, now we get to the first commandment from Exodus 20 which says...

**“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.” – Exodus 20:2-3**

- God begins here with a general statement that will apply to all the commandments
  - “I am the Lord your God – who brought you out of Egypt – out of the house of bondage”
  - In this opening statement we discovered a couple of things about the Lord

**We discover about God in verse 2...**

**#1 – Who He is – “I am the Lord your God”**

- Notice God says “I am your” God - not “I am the Lord God” - I am the man; you need to listen

**Kind of like the kid who says, “why Dad?”**

- and Dad says, “because I'm the Dad, so you obey!!!!”
  - No – God says, I am telling you this because I am your God, I love you! And I am for you!

**I had an opportunity to share with this girl not too long ago who was really going through it, really doubting God's love for her**

**And as she shared it was obvious that almost everything you would direct a young Christian girl to do with her life, she had done the opposite**

- and yet here she was saying to me – “I don’t feel like God loves me”
  - And I had the opportunity to share with her – “no – He does and He has never stopped”
- But you feel like you are not experiencing that love because in His love He has told you things to avoid and things to embrace
  - And you have done the opposite in almost every instance - And that doesn’t make God angry at you or make Him want to judge you
- But it has stopped you from experiencing the love of God in your life

**Because again His commandments are His love for us**

- It’s like the Lord is saying to us – “I love you – and this is how you will see it, walk in these things and you will see they are good for you and I am good to you”

**And I shared that with her not to lay some legalistic trip on her – because we are saved by grace, not by works – but I shared that with her so that she would walk in and experience the love of God**

- He never stopped loving her, she stopped walking in what is the expression of His love toward her – His commandments are to bless – I am your God!

**We discover about God in verse 2...**

**#1 – Who He is – “I am the Lord your God”**

**#2 – Where they were – “The land of Egypt”**

- God is telling His people you have been in Egypt for over 400 years
  - And that has corrupted your view of things
  - You don’t have My priorities, you don’t have My heart toward the world

**For over 400 years you have been in Egypt and though at this time God had taken them physically out of Egypt, now by giving them His law He was trying to take Egypt out of them**

- And friends this is something we need to hear as much as they did so many years ago
  - we live in a society that is backwards
  - evil is called good and good is called evil
  - and because we see it on TV and in music and movies and social media, and if we are ever going to have the heart of God, we either need to do one of two things
- Either become a hermit and turn it all off
  - And for some of you that might be a good idea, at least for a season
  - But just turning off the worldly influence won't be enough because it has already affected your heart, your priorities, and your values
- So what we must do is align our hearts under the Word of God – we need to let His word wash us, and direct us and get us back on track

**And this is the heart of what we want as we hear the first commandment - “You shall have no other gods before Me”**

- As we consider this commandment, as we let God's word shape our heart, I think there are 3 things to write down and consider, pray through and think in today

**“You shall have no other gods before me”**

**#1 – This Commandment is a Premise**

- what is the premise? – there are other gods

**Oh man – This is the last time I'm coming to this church, did you hear that, this pastor – believes there are other gods?**

- Hey listen - If you define “God” as a supernatural supreme being in control of everything, then you are right there is only one true and living God, and God tells us that

**“I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me.” – Isaiah 45:5**

- But when we define “god” as that which has the foremost part of your heart, that which you worship and are truly devoted to, then you bet there are other gods

**In fact, all religions of antiquity encouraged the worship of other gods**

- What were the gods of other religions? – well in Moses’ day there was...

**Other “gods” in the times of Moses**

**Baal & Mammon (gods of Prosperity)**– worshiped to bring an excess of crops and things into their lives

**Ashtoreth (goddess of Pleasure)** - the people would meet at her alters and commit all types of immoral sexual sin – of course to them it is just worship, Ashtoreth made me do it

**Molech – (god of Practicality)** – one of the most cruel false god for if you want to be successful, you were to do whatever it takes, even sacrificing your own children

- archeology has found that they would bury the ashes of these sacrificed children in the walls of their business and homes again to bring success and blessing
  - “Oh that is just terrible pastor Jason – all of those things, I am so glad we live in such an advance culture where we don’t do things like that?”

**Yeah I am so glad we live in a culture that isn’t addicted to prosperity and pleasure even if it costs us our kids? Are you kidding me? – that is definition of our culture sometimes**

- you have to do what is best for you
  - to your own self be true
  - if it feels good it can’t be wrong
- These are all slogans of a culture in America that worships something other than Jesus Christ

## **We may not call it Baal, Mammon, Ashtoreth or Molech**

- But our society heads after these things that take the place God in our lives all the time
  - We don't call it Baal – but we think, just one more deal and I will be happy
- We don't worship Ashtoreth – but our society is given to pornography, and even just most of the stuff on regular TV and social media qualifies
  - We don't worship Molech – but our society is big on sacrificing their kids to move ahead in business or just getting rid of them before they are even born because we think we don't have the time or the money

## **In our society, we don't call them by their ancient names but we worship the god of prosperity and pleasure and practicality just as much as any culture before us**

- And that is the point God is making, there are other gods
  - No, there is no other supreme deity that controls the universe other than the true and living God, but there are other things you can worship, there are other things you can live your life after and be devoted to
- The premise is there are other gods, but then next, this first commandment is not just a premise, it is also a prediction

## **“You shall have no other gods before me”**

### **#1 – This Commandment is a Premise**

### **#2 – This Commandment is a Prediction**

- Look at this verse from Isaiah chapter 46...

**“Bel and Nebo, the gods of Babylon, bow as they are lowered to the ground. They are being hauled away on ox carts. The poor beasts stagger under the weight. Both the idols and their owners are bowed down. The gods cannot protect the people, and the people cannot protect the gods. They go off into captivity together.” – Isaiah 46:1-2 (New Living Translation)**

- Not only is this first commandment a premise – there are other things that will compete for your heart, watch out!

## **But this first commandment is also a prediction**

- you are not going to have any gods before me
  - God is telling His people, “nothing will ever compare to Me, the true and living God

## **At times in their history the children of Israel trusted in other gods, and yet when the day of trouble came – the other gods could not help**

- And so it is true in our lives – you cannot trust in your power, or your pleasure or your prosperity or your practicality to save you
  - It is a prediction – you will have no other gods before Me, you will never have any one else that will measure up or be there for you as I am

## **I think a great biblical example of someone who violated this first Commandment was Solomon**

- The third King of Israel started off so well
  - He just wanted to serve God, He just wanted wisdom to rule God’s people

## **He started off so well and God blessed him not only with wisdom but riches and victory over his enemies**

- But then the scripture tells us that..

## **“Solomon loved many foreign women” – I Kings 11:1**

- That sounds like a violation of the 7<sup>th</sup> commandment or the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment
  - But although it certainly was – understand what came with those foreign wives, was foreign gods

## **God was not saying interracial marriage is not good, to God we are all one in Christ – God is not saying interracial marriage is not good, but what He is saying is intergod worship is not good**

- And we see it, as Solomon brought all these other gods before the one true God’s presence, instead of being blessed by a well-rounded worship life which is what our world would tell us today would happen
  - Solomon was ripped off in his heart

**He writes the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament and really until the final chapter it is real bummer of a book, because he talks about every experience in his life and how all of it was empty and vain**

- Here is a man who started with such a love for life and God and yet
  - Once his heart was divided, he became disillusioned and depressed and maybe that is where you are at

**“How weak the gods of this world are,” wrote Elizabeth Browning, in her poem “Idols” “and weaker yet their worship made me” – Elizabeth Browning, “Idols”**

- Maybe that is where you are at - you are down and you are disillusioned and you are depressed
  - And the world will tell you – it is because you need more you time

**But maybe the real reason is your heart is divided**

➤ and those other things you are trying to find fulfillment in **Well those other things lie, they don't deliver, because as God said “you shall have no other gods before me” – they won't be like me, they won't deliver what they promise**

- so what do we do? Well not only is the first commandment a premise, there are other gods and not only is it a prediction, they won't measure up, but thirdly and finally this first commandment is a promise...

**“You shall have no other gods before me”**

**#1 – This Commandment is a Premise**

**#2 – This Commandment is a Prediction**

**#3 – This Commandment is a Promise**

- When our hearts have been divided, when we have been putting other things in front of the Lord and it is tearing us apart, what do we do and where do we turn?
  - Hey listen – this first commandment is not just a premise and a prediction, it is also a Promise
  - You shall have no other gods before me

**“No other God’s before me” – by the way, doesn’t mean that He just wants to be first on the list – you see **“Before me” means “before my face” or in My presence.****

- and that reminds me of a Bible story, we need to hear and get into our heart this morning before we go our way

In I Samuel 5 – Israel had lost the Ark to the Philistines in battle and in that day they would take your god into their temple, saying not only did we defeat you, but our god defeated your god. Well we read in I Samuel chapter 5 that as the Philistines brought the Ark into the temple of their god Dagon, in the morning, Dagon had fallen over before the ark – now by the way, if your God can fall over, I have fallen and I can’t get up, that is not a good god. But they thought, Oh it’s just a mistake, so they propped up their god and the next morning – Dagon was fallen over again and this time he had lost his head and hands – and the priest saw their god Dagon like this and probably said, Dagonit – Dagonit what happen to Dagon? – and they realized, listen– the Philistines realize these gods cannot hang out – so they sent, sadly, the ark away – and continued to worship this false god – now personally I would have chosen the God that didn’t lose his head and hands and needed my help to get propped up, but you know whatever floats your boat

**But listen – understand the point of the story – the point is - it’s a promise – these false gods that are getting a hold of your life, these false gods that you have allowed to disillusion you, to depress you**

➤ And now you are addicted, now you don’t see a way out  
**Oh precious one, hear the promise of the Lord – You shall have no other gods before me - You see the answer is not to figure out how to get the false gods off the throne of your heart**

- the answer is not how do I dethrone this false god?
  - the answer is just to enthrone Christ!

**David became King at age 30, but just over one tribe of of Israel known as Judah, it wasn’t until 7 years later at 37 he became King over all of Israel, but the minute he did, some amazing things began to happen in the middle of the nation – first and foremost, strongholds in the land that had been there for years began to fall**

**Israel had many great military leaders from the time of Joshua to King Saul but none of them could ever conquer the Jebusites that lived in Jerusalem**

- and as the age of judges came and went
  - Israel had great military leaders, men like Gideon and Barak and Samson

**But still during the lives of all those men, Jerusalem stayed in enemy hands**

- And when Saul was King, he had some military advances, but Jerusalem stayed in Jebusite hands
  - And when the Kingdom was divided – though David had many military victories, Jerusalem remained a stronghold for the enemy in the middle of the nation of Israel

**Part of the practical reason for that was the location**

- Jerusalem sits atop of a hill
  - And in those days of walled cities, it was very easy to defend

**In fact, the Jebusites would mock the Israelites that even the lame and the blind could defend their city against all oppressors**

- And for generation after generation, that was exactly what happened - Israel had a stronghold of the enemy right in their midst

**That was until David became King not just over a part of the nation, but over all of the nation of Israel**

- And I mention that because I feel this is such an important spiritual principal for our lives

**Many of us even as believers have strongholds of the enemy in the midst of our lives**

- and those strongholds can of course be many, many things
  - but they are areas you wish were not there, they are areas that are a drag to your relationship with God and maybe others

**And for some of us those strongholds have been there for a long, long time, maybe for some of us, it has actually been generations**

- And we try everything to be free from these strongholds, we go to classes, we listen to teaching series, we read self help books, yet for many of us, this doesn't do it
  - And we get frustrated
- I know in my life personally I felt sometimes like the enemy is laughing at me like they were laughing at Israel
  - "Jason all I need is the blind and lame demons to deal with you on this issue, you are so weak, it is such a stronghold"
- And if you have ever felt that way, you understand what I am saying but understand the principal

**This stronghold in the middle of Israel finally falls when David, the rightful King was crowned King of all, not just a part of the nation, but King of all**

- And the strongholds in my life and yours will continue to be there as long as our hearts and our lives are divided between two kings, between various gods
  - But when we realize the promise, you shall have no other gods before me and we just invite God to be God of all, not just a part, but God of all, then the strongholds in our lives begin to fall

**You enthrone Christ – really enthrone**

- Let Him be who you worship, what your heart is after
  - He will not share His throne with anyone
- God is saying to some of you today, "Let me into the temple of your heart, fully, completely – I will deal with those issues in your life"
  - When I am your God, there will be no other gods before me
  - Amen? Amen