

9/7/08

God is To Be Worshiped In Spirit**Ex. 20:4-6**

A.W. Tozer in his devotional Renewed Day By Day, September 24:

“I observe with pained amusement how many “waterboys” of the Pulpit in their efforts to be prophets are standing up straight and tall and speaking out boldly in favor of ideas that have been previously fed into their minds by the psychiatrists, the sociologists, the novelists, the scientists and the secular educators.

“A new Decalogue has been adopted by the neo-Christians of our day, the first word of which reads, “Thou shalt not disagree”; and a new set of tolerate everything, for they shall not be made accountable for anything.”

People delight in the most debauched and immoral things in our present society, be they through movies, television, magazines and their own lives.
* Tolerant to all evil, they do not like anything or anyone that points to or exposes their godless life-styles, as they serve the many gods of their making, from materialism, sexual pleasure to good works. Yes, idolatry is very much alive today!

A person asked, “Why is there but one God?” A child answered: “Because God fills every place, and there’ no room for another one.” #1977

We want to look at the Second Commandment, which is characterized by three things. Ex. 20:4-6

- I. The proclamation of the Commandment. vs. 4
- II. The expansion of the Commandment. vs. 5a
- III. The explanation for the Commandment. vs. 5b-6

I. The proclamation of the Second Commandment. vs. 4

A. The people being addressed once again are the people of God.

* “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything.”

1. The prohibition once again is personal and individual.
 - a. The phrase “you shall”, like the first is in the second person singular.
 - 1) Though Yahweh is dealing with the entire nation to make them His people, yet he held each person accountable for the ten words.
 - 2) This would be applicable to all future generations.

- b. The prohibition was to every man and woman individually, no exception.
 - 1) Be they Moses, the deliverer.
 - 2) Be they Aaron, the High Priest.
 - 3) Be they the heads of the tribes.
 - 4) Be they the average Hebrew.
- 2. The prohibition regards the second word, like the first is in the negative.
 - a. There are eight in the negative, the first to the third and the sixth to the tenth. vs. 3, 4-6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
 - b. There are two positive commands, the fourth and the fifth. vs. 8-11, 12
 - c. The term for words “devar”, in verse one we said means a declaration, yet we commonly call them the Ten Commandments.
 - 1) Literally it is the “Ten Words”. Ex. 34:28, Deut. 4:13, 10:14
 - 2) They are said to be written by the finger of God, Ex. 31:18, 24:18
 - 3) Two tables were given, written on both sides, the work of God and the writing of God engraved on stones. Ex. 32:15-16
- 3. The prohibition of the second word was that they were not to make for themselves a carved image, or any likeness of anything.
 - a. The second commandment is not a repetition of the first.

- 1) The first prohibited the worship of any other god, except for Yahweh.
- 2) The second commandment is the prohibition of the wrong method and manner of worshipping God.
- b. The word image “pecel” basically means a physical idol, a statue.
 - 1) Something that would be shaped by a person with a tool.
 - 2) An object of worship as a god.
 - 3) There are about 14 synonyms and words for idols.
- c. The word likeness “t@muwnah”, means similitude or semblance.
 - 1) The idea is attempting to make a like representation of something.
 - 2) The goal would be to make a physical form as duplication.
- d. The extent was all encompassing, “of anything”.
 - 1) Not one exception.
 - 2) Of anything.
- 4. The prohibition of the second commandment is based on the nature of Yahweh’s revelation.
 - a. Moses told the people, “Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form

of any figure: the likeness of male or female.” Deut. 4:15-16

* They only heard Yahweh’s voice, they saw no physical person!

b. Jesus told the Samaritan woman, “God is Spirit and those that worship God, must worship Him in Spirit and truth”. Jn. 4:24

c. Therefore it follows, that if one did not see anything, in the realm of the physical, then one has no way of making any image or similitude to represent God.

5. The prohibition was a natural progression and extension of the First word.

a. If they were to have no other gods before Yahweh for they saw nothing.

b. Then, it follows that if they made anything to represent Yahweh, it would be false worship of Yahweh.

c. This would be another god, apart from Yahweh, created in their own minds.

B. The particulars spheres the people were prohibited to make no carved image or similitude were three. vs. 4b-d

* “That is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”

1. They were not to make any image or similitude of anything in heaven above. vs. 4b

a. This would include anything that could fly, birds, storks, crows, etc.

b. This would include the angles, the stars, the moon, the sun or the planets.

c. This would also encompass the phenomena of nature, such as lightening, wind, fire, etc.

2. They were not to make any image or similitude of anything in the earth beneath. vs. 4c

a. This would include any aspect of God’s physical creation on the earth, trees, mountains, rivers, etc.

b. This would also include the multitude of animals, bulls, eagle, snakes, etc.

c. This would also encompass man, the image or likeness of human being.

3. They were not to make any image or similitude of anything that is in the water under the earth. vs. 4d

a. This would include all life form in the waters.

b. Fish, whales, alligators, etc.

* “Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,” Duet. 4:15

Illustration

Augustine was once accosted by a heathen who showed him his idol and said, “Here is my god; where is thin?” Augustine replied, “I cannot show you my God; not because there is no God to show but because you have no eyes to see Him.” #1976

Application

1. There are many passages that describe God by anthropomorphic terms, human attributes to describe the actions of God but they do not teach that God has a physical body.
 - a. The hand of the Lord.
 - b. The eye of the Lord.
 - c. The arm of the Lord.
 - d. The Lord will trample under foot.
2. There are passages that appear to say God was seen in a physical form and seemingly contradicting the second commandment but they are appearances of God called “Theophanies”, which are physical and visible manifestations to verify the presence and activities of God.
 - a. The thundering, lightening and fire on the mountain. Ex. 19
 - b. The pillar of Fire and the cloud by day to lead the Hebrews from Egypt is one example. Ex. 13:21
 - c. At the entering into the covenant it says, “Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved

work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in *its* clarity.” Ex. 24:9-10
 * “And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the **sun**, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to **worship** them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.” Duet. 4:19

3. The second commandment does not prohibit many things.
 - a. It does not prohibit religious art work, as long as it is not to assist one to worship God.
 * God Himself was going to give the pattern of the Tabernacle, which consisted of God’s throne in heaven but none were ever for public worship or worshipped.
 - b. It does not prohibit articles of jewelry, such as a cross, only if a person is not using it to worship God or bowing to it.
 * Isaiah says, “They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, *And* their hearts, so that they cannot understand. And no one considers in his heart, *Nor is there* knowledge nor understanding to say, “I have burned half of it in the fire, Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten *it*; And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?” He

feeds on ashes; A deceived heart has turned him aside; And he cannot deliver his soul, Nor say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?" Is. 44:18-20

4. Idolatry is prohibited not only in the Old Testament but also the New Testament.

- a. "Therefore, my beloved, flee from **idolatry**." 1Cor. 10:14
- b. Idolatry is one of the works of the flesh and those who practice it, shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19f, y
- c. "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from **idols** to serve the living and true God." 1Thess. 1:9
- d. "Little children, keep yourselves from **idols**. Amen." 1Jn. 5:21

The proclamation of the Second Commandment was a prohibition against idolatry!

II. The expansion of the Second Commandment. vs. 5a

* "You shall not bow down to them nor serve them."

- A. The people of God were not to honor idols.
 - 1. The prohibition is against ascribing worth to an inanimate object, as a deity.
 - a. The phrase bow down "shachah" means simply to prostrate oneself.

- b. The idea is of giving homage to an idol as a deity, a god.
 - c. This is a violation of the second word, making carved image.
 - d. This is a violation of a likeness of anything found in the three spheres, heaven above, in the earth beneath or in the water under the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.
2. The prohibition is against worshipping God in a false way, through an idol.
- a. It is rebellion against God, changing the revelation of God and His nature, being, Spirit, not physical.
 - b. It is corrupting of God by making a part of His creation equivalent with God, when in fact creation is the product of God and less than God.
 - c. It is to misrepresent God by declaring and teaching that God excepts and honors the worship of idols.
3. The prohibition is against having other gods before Yahweh.
- a. Idols in their most basic definition are a system of polytheism, for they function as go betweens, mediators.
 - b. The only mediator the Father has ever given were two.
 - 1) The High Priesthood in the Old Testament.

2) The High Priesthood of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

- B.** The people of God were not to be in bondage to idols.
1. The prohibition is of ascribing power to idols, as if they are gods.
 - a. The word serve “abad” means to labor or work.
 - b. The idea is of devoting oneself to the idol as a medium to reach God.
 - c. This would be trust the idol as having authority, to be effective in accomplishing a response from God.
 - d. This would be to have one’s confidence in these idols, so as to give witness to their effectiveness for God.
 2. The prohibition is against unfaithfulness to the only One true God, who deserved their service, Yahweh.
 - a. Yahweh alone performed the ten plagues in Egypt, therefore they are to obey His Ten Commandments.
 - b. Yahweh alone, delivered them from Egypt and brought them through the Red Sea, on dry ground.
 - c. Yahweh alone provided and protected them till they arrived at Mount Horeb.
 3. The prohibition is against spiritual deception.
 - a. By not examining the word of God.

- b. By trusting the teachings of man.
- c. By deceiving oneself.

Illustration

“Why should the Gentiles say, “So where *is* their God?” But our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. Their idols *are* silver and gold, The work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. Ps. 115:2-8

Application

1. In a few chapter as Moses was up in the mountain to meet with Yahweh and the people by the hand of Aaron would be led into idolatry, as he fashion a molded calf and worshipped it as their god, who took them out of Egypt, they will sit down to eat, drink and play in a sexual orgy. Ex. 32:4-5

* Moses came down and cast the two Table of stone and broke them at the foot of the mountain, signifying that they had broken the law before the received it, about 3,000 fell by the sword of the Levites. Ex. 32:19, 28

2. The children of Israel committed harlotry with the women of Moab, through the council of

Balaam, by their sexual rites, sacrificing to their gods, eating and bowing down to them, “And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.”

Num. 25:6-8

3. Paul warned the Corinthians pointing to the example of the Old Testament, “But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did.” 1Cor. 9:5-8b

* Do you notice the connection between idolatry and fornication, they seem to go hand in hand!

4. Hezekiah as he came to the throne, he reformed the land. Cleansing it from its idolatry, they even began to worship the brass serpent Moses commanded by God to make for healing the

people, which Jesus interpreted for Himself. Jn 3:14-15

* “He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze **serpent** that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan”, it is a thing of brass.” 2Kings 18:4, Num. 21

5. The Northern Kingdom was the first to go into captive by Assyria, due to their idolatry, refusing to hear the prophets and repent.

* “And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed **idols**, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them.” 2Kings 17:15

6. The source of idols is demons, “They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.” Deut. 32:17, 1 Cor. 10:21

* “But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you **served** those which by nature are not gods.” Gal. 4:8

7. The believer is not even to worship angels.

* “And I fell at his feet to **worship** him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. **Worship God!** For the

testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Rev. 19:10

The expansion of the Second Commandment prohibited every level of idolatry!

III. The explanation for the Second Commandment. vs. 5b-6

- A. The first reason for the prohibition is based on Yahweh’s relation to them. vs. 5b-c
 * “For I, the LORD your God.”
1. Yahweh identifies Himself as the all existing One, the God of covenant once again, as in the second verse. vs. 2a
 - a. He is the author and authority behind the covenant.
 - b. The personal pronoun “I”, again is emphatic and the subject.
 * He alone initiated the covenant and stipulated the specific revelation, writing them on two tablets of stone. Deut. 4:13
 2. Moses again uses the word LORD Y@havah”, called the Tatragramaton, four consonants YHWH, without vowels.
 - a. The word as we stated in the last study, is based on the same verb “to be” I AM Who I AM. Ex. 3:14a-b
 - 1) The word “hayah” is the singular verb “to be”, “to happen”, means

continuing, unfinished action, “I am being that I am being”, active presence.

- 2) “He that will be, He that is and He that was”, I will be that I will be, expressing a perfect, unconditional and independent Eternal Self-existence.
 - b. The phrase “I am Yahweh” refers to all that He is, says and does.
 3. Yahweh again identified Himself as their personal God, “your God”.
 - a. The phrase appears four other times in the ten words. vs. 2, 7, 10, 12
 - b. Moses had declared to them He was their God through past covenant, the God of the Patriarchs. Ex. 3:15a-g
 - c. Moses had declared to them He was the God of all the generation of Jews, after the Patriarchs. Ex. 3:15h-i
 - 1) This was God’s name forever, revealing His person, character, authority, power, all that He was, revealing His flawless reputation.
 - 2) The name was a memorial to all generations by His acts and deeds through all generations.
- B. The second reason for the prohibition is based on Yahweh’s love for His people. vs. 5b

* “Am a jealous God.” vs. 5d

1. The phrase indicates His deep love for His people.
 - a. The word jealous “qanna’ , comes from the root, to have zeal”
 - b. The context is God’s love relation with His people but it should not be understood from the human fallen and selfish perspective.
 - d. But rather from the perspective that God has such passion for His people that He can not cease to be provoked when something or someone attempts to take us away from Him or divide our exclusive loyalty, fidelity and devotion.
2. The phrase indicates His protectiveness of His people.
 - a. His jealousy is holy and perfect in love, not to limit us but to bless us!
 - b. He knows that life and things without Him will destroy us, causing us to perish eternally.
3. The phrase indicates Him as the best One for His people.
 - a. He wants us to depend on Him, for all of life.
 - b. He wants us to have confident reliance on Him, for all things.
4. The phrase indicates and verifies His holiness.

- a. Seeking to impart it for a god-like life.
- b. Resulting In His love and peace.

C. The third reason for the prohibition was based on Yahweh’s righteous judgment of them. vs. 5e

* “Visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.”

1. The declaration is not teaching that God punishes the child for the sins of the father or the reverse.
 - a. This clear from the nature of God’s character, He is holy, good, all knowing and perfect in judgment, He can make no mistake.
 - b. This is clear also from the nature of man, each person has a free-will and can choose to do good or evil, to follow good or bad examples, being created in the image of God.

* “The soul who **sins** shall **die**. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”

Ezk. 18:20

2. The declaration is not teaching generational sins that need to be cast out of a believer through deliverance.
 - a. Many today are teaching demons have to be cast out of you as a Christian, that hold you bond from your past family descendents.
 - b. This is a gross distortion of the text, the interpretation is foreign in context.
 - c. If you are a Christian, Christ has delivered you from all your sins and any hold of Satan on you.
 - d. There is not one example of a demon being cast out of a Christian in the Old or New Testament.
 - 1) Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. 1Jn. 4:4
 - 2) Light and darkness can not be in the same vessel. 2Cor. 6:14-16
3. The declaration is teaching that the sins of a father are passed down to his children by example and teaching.
 - a. A father and mother will be teaching a son how to life, what is right or wrong, what is permissible or not.
 - b. If a father and mother believes there is nothing wrong with drinking, cursing, fornication, etc.
 - c. Then the child will begin to live out these standards much earlier than his father and mother did.

- d. Then he or she will pass them down to their children and so forth, from generation to generation.
- e. The accountability of parents to God for their children is great!
4. The declaration is teaching that in such cases the judgment of God is against those individuals, for their choice of a life-style that is in rebellion against God, as evidence that they hate God.
 - a. The individual, regardless of the home environment has a choice to be like his parents or to turn from evil and be accountable to God, he or she is not a robot, the death in context is spiritual and eternal, not physical, for all will taste physical death.
 - * “Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.” Ezk. 18:4
 - b. This does not mean that the environment will not affect the person but the Bible is clear each person has the choice of being like those who hurt them, to be evil like them or not. Deut. 24:16
 - * “If, however, he begets a son Who sees all the sins which his father has done, And considers but does not do likewise; *Who* has not eaten on the

mountains, Nor lifted his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, Nor defiled his neighbor's wife; Has not oppressed anyone, Nor withheld a pledge, Nor robbed by violence, *But* has given his bread to the hungry And covered the naked with clothing; *Who* has withdrawn his hand from the poor *And* not received usury or increase, *But* has executed My judgments And walked in My statutes--He shall not die for the iniquity of his father; He shall surely live! Ezk. 18:14-17

- c. This means God is just in His judgment of every person, there are no victims and all will have an opportunity to repent, it is a given, if not, God would be unjust to judge a person who had no choice!
- * "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!" Ezk. 18:32

D. The fourth reason for the prohibition was based on Yahweh's mercy towards them. vs. 6

- * "But showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."

1. The word "but" marks the sharp contrast between those God is judging throughout the generations and those He is not.
 - a. Those He judges, is due to their sinful life-style and hating God.
 - b. Those He does not judge, is due to their turning from a sinful life-style and not hating God.
2. The mercy of God is poured out on those who love Him.
 - a. The attribute of God's mercy is usually related to a person in misery or distress and speaks of God's innate desire to pity and succor the needy.

* The word is "cheded" God's steadfast love, a covenant word.
 - b. The book of Exodus depicts the attribute of mercy clearly. Ex. 34:6-7
 - 1) And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth." vs. 6
 - 2) "Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children

- to the third and the fourth generation.” vs. 7
- c.** Another way of looking at mercy is that it is the attribute by which God imparts to us less than we deserve in terms of judgment or guilt.
- 1)** Mercy was demonstrated by giving less than the forty stripes required by the law for certain crimes, they would give minus one or thirty-nine lest he be humiliated before his brethren. Deut. 25:3
 - 2)** And a relief by pity when in distress or misery and mercy is a branch of God’s goodness, as we have noted, less than a person deserves.
- d.** In the book of Numbers we get another reference to this attribute. Num. 14:18
- * “The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.”
- e.** But take note that in both Exodus and Numbers place an emphasis on, “By no means clearing the guilty”.

- 1)** We must be careful not to think of God’s mercy as God being permissive or partaking with a person’s sin. Hab. 1:13
 - 2)** We must see mercy as God’s gracious goodness to pity the sinner in his or her misery in time of need. Heb. 4:14-16
- f.** The one’s who love God are those who agree with God’s standard, wanting to please Him and see the Biblical standards for the benefit of their lives and mercy is imparted.
- g.** The one’s who do not love God are those who do not agree with God’s standards, not wanting to please Him and see the Biblical standards as an imposition and restraint on their lives, therefore mercy is withheld.
- 3.** The evidence of their love for God is that they keep his commandments.
- a.** Those who love God will obey His word or commandments!
 - b.** Those who love not God, will not obey His word or commandments!

Illustration

The Council of Trent’s decreed “Images were not only to be placed in the temples, but also to be worshipped as if the persons represented thereby were present.” And Pope Pius IV, said: “I most

firmly assert that the images of Christ and of God and also of the saints are to be retained, and that due honor and veneration are to be given them.

#5142

Application

1. The God we serve is Holy, demanding both his jealousy and wrath, otherwise He could be unholy.
 - a. Ezekiel was translated to the temple, “He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of **jealousy** was, which provokes to **jealousy**.” Ezk. 8:3
 - b. “And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and **jealousy**.” Ezk. 16:38
 - c. “(for the LORD your God is a **jealous** God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.” Deut. 6:15
 - d. “But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for He *is* a holy God. He is a **jealous** God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.” Josh. 24:19

- e. “For I am jealous for you with godly **jealousy**. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.” 2Cor. 11:2
 - f. “Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The **Spirit** who dwells in us yearns jealously?”” Ja. 4:5
 - g. “I am the LORD, that is My name; And My **glory** I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. Is. 42:8
2. The Catholic Church of Rome is permeated with idolatrous worship, represented by the Church of Pergamos, from 313-600 AD. Rev. 2:12-17
 - * The decrees issued during this period of church history of Pergamos are illuminating.
 - a. 300 A.D. Prayer for the dead.
 - b. 300 A.D. Making sign of the cross.
 - c. 375 A.D. Worship of saints and angels.
 - d. 394 A.D. Mass first instituted.
 - e. 431 A.D. Worship of Mary began.
 - f. 593 A.D. Doctrine of purgatory introduced
 - g. 600 A.D. Prayer directed to Mary.
 3. The period following Pergamos was Thyatira, which is known as “The Dark Ages”, 600-1500 A.D., the time of the Reformation. Rev. 2:18-29
 - a. Thyatira means continual sacrifice, indicative of the Roman system that continues to offer sacrifices, instead of resting in the sacrifice of Christ.

- b. The title “Son of God” to address her is most significant in view of the place Mary has been exalted in progression in Thyatira.
- c. 1508 A.D. The Ave Maria approved.
- d. 1854 A.D. Immaculate Conception of Mary.
- e. 1950 A.D. Assumption of the virgin Mary.
- f. 1965 A.D. She was proclaimed Mother of the Church.
- g. The following words of St. Bernard sum up the Catholic position in this connection: “On the day after Mary’s death, when the apostles gathered around her tomb, they found it empty. The sacred body had been carried up to the Celestial Parade: the grave had no power over one who was immaculate. But it was not enough that Mary should be received into heaven. She was to be no ordinary citizen...she had a dignity beyond the reach even of the highest of the archangels. Mary was to be crowned Queen of Heaven by the eternal Father: she was to have a throne at her Son’s right hand.. Now day by day, hour by hour, she is praying for us obtaining graces for us, preserving us from danger shielding us from temptation, showering down blessings upon us...” 2/15/04
* On the internet is the attempt to deify Mary as a co-redemptress, equal with Jesus by a petition!

- h. Everything false or anti-biblical is traced back to the mystery religion of Babylon, Nimrod and his tower, the worship of his wife Semiramis and his son Tammuz.

Gen. 6

- 1) Different names for Semiramis:
 - a) In China, Shinqmoo.
 - b) In Germany, Virgin Hertha.
 - c) In Scandinavians, Disa.
 - d) In India, Indrani
 - e) In Babylon , Aphrodite.
 - f) In Greece, Nana.
- 2) The Scriptures reveal her worship.
 - a) In Judges, Ashtaroth. Judg. 2:13
 - b) In Jeremiah,. The queen of heaven. Jer. 44:17-19
 - c) In Ezekiel Woman are weeping for Tammuz her son. Ezk. 8:14
- 3) You have the Trinity of darkness counterfeiting Trinity of God.
 - a) Nimrod attempted to take men away from God.
 - b) Semiramis attempted to be the Queen of heaven, supposedly by her miraculous impregnation by a sun ray, resulting in the birth of Tammuz, after Nimrod’s death.
 - c) Tammuz being worshipped as a counterfeit for Christ by his supposedly resurrection from a death by wild bores, to which those forty

days are attributed to “Lent” in the Catholic Church.

- i. The time of church history of the Church of Thyatira, 600-1500 A.D., was a time the Catholic Church was called by God repent from her sexual immorality and eating things sacrificed to idols, but she did not.
 - 1) God sent men to reproof, rebuke and exhort her John Knox, Luther, Zwingle, Calvin, the reformers that repented calling her to repent but did not nor has she repented to this very day.
 - 2) Rather she killed Christians who would not bow down to her dogmas, like the Huganotes, the Anabaptist and the Inquisition marks her true hatred of Biblical truth and the worship of herself.

- 6. The dogmas of Rome are many, here are some from 600-1965: Tim Lahaye, page 44.
 - a. A.D. 786- Worshipping of images and relics.
 - b. A.D. 995- Canonization of dead saints.
 - c. A.D. 1090- Prayer beads.
 - d. A.D. 1190- Sale of Indulgences.
 - e. A.D. 1220- Adoration of the wafer the host.
 - f. A.D. 1854- Immaculate conception of Mary.
 - g. A.D. 1950- Assumption of the Virgin Mary.
 - h. A.D. 1965- Mary was proclaimed Mother of the church.

The explanation for the Second Commandment vindicated Yahweh’s judgment on idolatry!

Conclusion

The Second Commandment is characterized by:

- I. The Proclamation of the Second Commandment prohibited idolatry!
- II. The expansion of the Second Commandment prohibited every level of idolatry!
- III. The explanation for the Second Commandment vindicated Yahweh’s judgment on idolatry!