

# Exodus #52

## The Moral Law

Lesson #4

“The Second Commandment – No Idols  
or Idol Worship”

Exodus 20:4-6

## **Exodus 20:4-6**

“<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Worship King Ni-Maat-Re,  
    living for ever, within your bodies,  
And associate with his majesty in your hearts.  
He is Perception which is in [men's] hearts,  
And his eyes search out everybody.  
He is Re, by whose beams one sees,  
He is one who illumines the Two Lands  
    more than the sun disc...  
He who is to be is his creation  
For he is the Khnum of all bodies.

If God is there for me, and if I, as Pastor, believe that I must conduct (oversee) worship in a way that treats each person as though he or she were the main attraction on Sunday mornings, and if the theology I teach gives them the impression that God exists for their happiness and pleasure it is inevitable that the people present in the sanctuary on Sunday will worship themselves and not God on Monday.”

## **Jeremiah 7:4-10**

“<sup>4</sup> Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’ <sup>5</sup> For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly practice justice between a man and his neighbor, <sup>6</sup> {if} you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own ruin, <sup>7</sup> then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

<sup>8</sup> Behold, you are trusting in deceptive words to no avail. <sup>9</sup> Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and offer sacrifices to Baal, and walk after other gods that you have not known, <sup>10</sup> then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’-- that you may do all these abominations?”

## **Amos 5:21-24**

“<sup>21</sup> I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Even though you offer up to me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept {them} and I will not {even} look at the peace offerings of your fatlings. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

**Q.96:** What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

**A.96:** That we in no way make any image of God. (Dt.4:15-19; Isaiah 40:18-25; Acts 17:29; Romans 1:23) nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His Word. (Leviticus 10:1-7; I Samuel 15:22-23; John 4:23-24).



**Q.97:** May we then not make any image at all?

**A.97:** God cannot, and may not, be visibly portrayed in any way. Although creatures may be portrayed, yet God forbids making or having such images if one's intention is to worship them, or to serve God through them. (Exodus 34:13-14; II Kings 18:4-5).

**Q.98:** But may not images be permitted in the churches as teaching aids for the unlearned?

**A.98:** No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God. He wants His people instructed by the living preaching of His Word (Romans 10:14-15, 17; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:19) - not by idols that cannot even talk (Jeremiah 10:8; Habakkuk 2:18-20).

The Hebrew term for jealousy  
combines the concepts of zeal  
and jealousy.

When a member of the covenant community commits the awful deed of idolatry, the whole community suffers. And how much greater the suffering will occur to those who are nearest the offender.

**When we come to worship we  
come to talk to God, for God,  
and what we do is about God.**

**Our corporate worship is  
meaningless if our individual  
lives Monday through Saturday  
are not filled with devotion.**

**The sin of a graven  
image for the people of  
God is worshipping God  
in the wrong way.**