

I Alone Am God

Text : **Exodus 20: 1-3 , Matt. 5: 17-19**

INTRODUCTION :

A. From the beginning of time God has had but one plan for saving man.

1. He announced that plan immediately after man's sin separated him from God.

Gen. 3: 15- And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.

2. Notice what God promised :

- a. God will put an adversarial relationship between man and Satan.
- b. God is going to send a man to confront Satan.
- c. Satan will cause a non-threatening injury to the heel of the sent-man.
- d. The sent-man will deal a death blow to the head of Satan.

B. The entire bible is a summarization of the unfolding of **Gen 3:15** (context of bible)

1. It shows Satan's attempts to influence all mankind to reject God's rule over them.
2. God's first dramatic response to sin was the universal flood.
 - a. God chose one man to save mankind from extinction.
 - b. Soon after disembarking from the ark one of the three sons was condemned by sin.

*** With the flood, God clearly demonstrated the horrible consequences of sin.**

C. God again chose one man through who He would deliver mankind, Abraham. (**God's covenant with Abram named him as the father of the promised one of 3:15.**)

1. **Gen. 12: 1-** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;
2- And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;
3- And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."
2. God repeatedly referred to his plan to bless the world through Abraham.
 - a. **Gen. 17: 3-** Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, **4-** "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.
 - b. **Gen. 22: 18 -** "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

D. God's relationship with the nation of Israel is a result of His covenant with Abram.

1. God called them out of Egyptian bondage because of His promise to Abraham.
2. For God to rule Israel as their King, He had to give them a Law.
 - a. **Exod. 19: 3-** **Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 4- 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5- 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;**
 - b. The law which God gave to Israel at Mt. Sinai was **His** law to rule **His** nation.
 - c. None of the precepts set forth in the law given by God through Moses were new.
 - 1) Example : Cain was condemned for killing Abel.
 - 2) Example : Abimelech was condemned for taking Abraham's wife ... etc.
 - 3) The ten commandments were contained in the code of Hammurabi ... **600 prior.**
3. The function of God's law given at Mt. Sinai was never as a plan of salvation.
 - a. The law was never intended for nations other than Israel.
 - b. **Deut. 28** ... All of the blessings and cursings were linked to possessing the land.
 - c. It was a perfect law given by the perfect God to regulate life in His nation.

E. READ ... Gal. 3:15-29

1. The promise was the eternal purpose of God.
 2. The law was added as a way to regulate and to teach God's people / nation. (**Israel**)
 3. The law was only to last until the promise became a reality. (cf - **Jer. 31**)
- * **The Law taught us that man cannot keep any law perfectly, even one given by God.**
- * **Thus, the law was and remains an effective tutor. (**schoolmaster**)**
- * **It is essential because no one can appreciate grace until he understands law.**

TRANSITION :

Even though no one can keep the Law perfectly, no one should resent God for giving it or for punishing violations. It was a perfect law. The fault lies with man, not the law. Rules are essential. (*We can't even play a game without rules.*) **And**, justice demands rules be enforced. The 10 Commandments were but a small portion of the Law, but they established the principles under which all relationships are to be maintained so it is important for us to understand them. Thus, we will examine them one-by-one. First, **You shall have no other gods before Me.**

READ ... Exodus 20: 1-3 Compare ... Isa. 45: 22 , 46:9 , 44:8 , etc.

I. What does this commandment mean ?

A. God does not try to justify or to prove His own existence.

1. The first four words of the Bible : **In the beginning God ... (Gen. 1:1)**
2. No where in the bible will you find arguments to prove that God exists. (**7 reasons..**)
 - a. It is so simple and so fundamental, it is a given.
 - b. **The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” Psa. 14:1**
 - c. Apos. Paul chides unbelievers saying God is all around them; they had to know Him.

Rom. 1: 18- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19-** because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. **20-** For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

B. In this first command God states the obvious.

1. How many creators of the universe can there be ?
2. How many sovereign Lord's can there be ?
 - a. A sovereign is the absolute authority who is above all other authorities.
 - b. A sovereign is does not draw his power from another source, he **is** the source.

C. God was demanding that Israel accept the obvious.

1. They had just come from a land of many Gods. (**literally hundreds of Gods**)
 - a. They were accustomed to gods of most every aspect of life and nature. (**illustrate**)
 - b. In God's land, He would tolerate no competition for the affections of His people.
2. While taking them out of Egypt God used the plagues to demonstrate His superiority.
 - a. 1st – Turning the water to blood ... Superiority over Isis, the God of the Nile.
 - b. 2nd – Frogs were a symbol of the fertility Goddess “Heqt” and four other male gods.
 - c. 9th – Darkness was to show supremacy over “Re”, the Egyptian sun god.
 - d. 10th – Death of the first born demonstrated God's superiority over Pharaoh. (**diety**)

D. God wants HIS people to be HIS alone.

1. **Exod. 19: 4-** **You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself.**

2. **READ ... Deut. 6: 4-6** .. In return for His blessings, God demanded love and loyalty.
 3. **READ ... Deut. 6: 10-16** .. **Don't forget who blesses .. love and serve only Him**
 4. Man's relationship with God has always depended on loyalty, on being faithful to Him.
 - a. When God entered into a covenant with Israel, it was like a marriage – exclusive.
 - b. God viewed Israel's breaking of the covenant as adultery. (**punishable by stoning**)
 - 1) **Ezek. 6: 9-** Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive, how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me, and by their eyes which played the harlot after their idols; and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which they have committed, for all their abominations.
 - 2) **Ezek. 16: 15-** But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be *willing*. **16-** You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen. **17-** You also took your beautiful jewels *made* of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them. **18-** Then you took your embroidered cloth and covered them, and offered My oil and My incense before them. **19-** Also My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil and honey with which I fed you, you would offer before them for a soothing aroma; so it happened," declares the Lord God. **20-** Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter? **21-** You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through *the fire*. **22-** Besides all your abominations and harlotries you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare and squirming in your blood.
- **No one can have a relationship with the one true God AND any other god.**
 - **This is the nature of truth, the nature of God ... There is only one.**

II. What does this commandment mean to the Christian ?

- A. The God of the New Testament is the same God revealed in the Old Testament.
 1. He is the same yesterday, today , and forever. ... **Heb.13: 8**
 2. Paul said the Old Testament record was written to teach us about God. ... **Rom. 15:4**
 3. The Old Testament law leads us to Christ. ... **Gal. 3:24**

B. As God's people of old, Christians believe that there is but one God.

1. **I Cor. 8: 5-** For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, **6- yet for us there is but one God**, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.
 - a. There is one God.
 - b. We are created **by** that one God.
 - c. We are created **for** that one God.
2. The oneness of God is fundamental to all Christian doctrine.

Eph. 4: 4- There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; **5-** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6-** one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
3. **NOTE :** The doctrine of the trinity is NOT three Gods, but one God expressed in three personalities. (as man is body, soul, and spirit)

C. The one true God is revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

1. **John 14: 8 -** Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."
9- Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
2. **Read and Compare :** **Col. 1: 12-21 ... 2: 13-15**

D. THEREFORE : In order to be loyal to the one true God, one must be loyal to Christ.

III. How can the Christian apply this command in his life today ?

A. Man's relationship with God is and has always been founded upon love and loyalty.

1. Jesus and His Apostles taught this concept as being the most important thing.
 - a. **Mark 12: 28-** One of the scribes ... asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" **29 -** Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD'; **30 -** AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.'
31- "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."
 - b. Compare : **Gal. 5: 14 ; Rom. 13: 8-10**

- c. The love relationship with God is the main emphasis of the book of **I John**.
- 2. Love is a decision of the will, not an emotion. (**No one forces you to value anything**)
 - a. One who has decided to love will act upon that decision.
 - b. He will make a commitment to God ... to the Christ. (**form a covenant**)
- 3. Once committed to the Christ, he will be faithful to Him alone. (**of his own freewill**)
 - a. God / Christ has **ONLY** exclusive relationships.
 - b. **Matt. 6: 24** ... “**No man can serve two Masters ...**”

B. God will neither be number two in your life nor share His throne with anything.

- 1. **Luke 14: 26-** If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. **27-** Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (**prioritize and act**)
 - a. God will NOT be second to any member of your family.
 - b. He will not be equal to your job or your business.
 - c. He will not be placed below your own life. (**a life lived for Him, not just death**)
- 2. Martin Luther wrote : “**Whatever your heart clings to, whatever you rely on, that is properly your God.**”
- 3. If God is not the **sovereign ruler** of your heart or you have no relationship with him.
- 4. Is there anything you would not do for God ? Give up for Him ? Be for Him ?

CONCLUSION :

A. Do you want to be happy and feel fulfilled in this life and also the next ?

- 1. Dedicate your entire heart, your entire life to Him, **body soul and spirit**.
- 2. **This is the very purpose for which you were created.**

B. As God made a covenant with Israel, He desires to make one with you.

- 1. He has satisfied the requirements of Law and paid the price to redeem you from sin.
- 2. If you will accept him as the **only sovereign** in your life, He will save you from law. **Extend grace to you and give to you HIS righteousness as a gift.**

INVITATION :

Who sets on the throne of your heart ?

If you have not surrendered your life to Him, you are trying to be your own god.

??? When you stand before the true sovereign of the universe, will you be a faithful **subject** and recipient of His loving favor **- OR -** will you meet Him as a **competitor** ?