

YE THERE IS NO GOD

ISAIAH 44:6-8; EXODUS 20:1-17

Text: Isaiah 44:6-8

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⁶ Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I *am* the first, and I *am* the last; and beside me *there is* no God. ⁷ And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. ⁸ Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared *it?* ye *are* even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, *there is* no God; I know not *any*.

Introduction:

The Mormon's idea of God is not scriptural. They believe I many gods and that we can become a god.

The fifth Latter Day Saints President Lorenzo Snow stated – “As man is, God once was; as God is man may become.

As we stated last week let God and His Word be true and all men liars.

Notice what God's Word says:

Exodus 20:1-7

¹ And God spake all these words, saying, ² I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the

house of bondage. ³Thou shalt have no other gods before me. ⁴Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; ⁶And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. ⁷Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Note:

1. A DIVINE REQUIREMENT (VS. 3)

Exodus 20:3

³Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

The statement of verse 3 is very simple and very clear. God simply says, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” While this statement was simple and clean, it was also revolutionary.

Every other culture operating in the world at that time was polytheistic. They all recognized and worshiped a multiplicity of gods. In verse 2, God reminded Israel that He had delivered them “out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” This is a reminder that they had been delivered from slavery, but it is a reminder of so much more.

The Egyptians, like all the other cultures around them, worshiped hundreds of gods. They gave their lives and their love to all sorts of manmade gods represented by idols and animals. The Egyptians had a sun god, a water god, a moon god, a snake god, a frog god, a fly god, and on and on and on. When God delivered Israel from that country, He also delivered them from the influence of that pagan system of worship.

When these commandments we have read today were given, Israel was on their way to a place called Canaan. When they arrived there, they would encounter a race of people who also worshiped many gods. If Israel was not settled on the idea that God alone was God, they would be in trouble at the very heart of their spiritual lives.

Of all the nations on the earth in those days, only Israel was monotheistic. That is, they had one God and His name was Yahweh, or Jehovah. That was to be their primary identification. They were to be the people of God, serving Him and worshiping Him alone!

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: ⁵ And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

When God tells them to have “no other gods”, it does not mean that God recognizes any other deity beside Himself. He knows there are no other Gods. He is alone

in His position, His rank and His glory as God. God is not making room in the universe for other gods, He is simply declaring that He is God alone!

The word “god” in our text means, “ruler, judge, or lord.” The true God knew that no other gods existed, but He also knew that anything that received the supreme love, adoration, worship and service of the people would eventually become their lord. It would, in essence, become their god.

That is why He says “thou shalt have no other gods before me.” The phrase “before me” literally means “over against me, or before My face.” In other words, God wanted no other love, no other allegiance, no other authority to come between Himself and His redeemed people. Our gaze is to be on His face alone, and not on the face of another god. God is a jealous God, and He will tolerate no other gods in the lives of His people, Ex. 20:5!

We have the same tendency! We need to understand that anything that rules us is a god in our lives. Martin Luther said, “Whatever thy heart clings to and relies upon, that is properly thy God.” The Puritan Thomas Watson said, “To trust in any thing more than God, is to make it a god.” Anything that is allowed to control any part of our lives is a god. It might be pleasure, family, work, dreams, possessions, money, sports, people, or anything else you can name. If it is ever allowed to

come before your relationship with God Almighty it is a god to you!

The first part of this commandment is negative. Nothing in life is to be allowed to become a competitor with God for first place in our hearts and lives. He is God and He is God alone!

Isaiah 45:18

¹⁸For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else.

2. A DIVINE RIGHT (VS. 2)

Exodus 20:2

²I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

The reason God possesses the right to make such a demand of His people is found in verse 2. He says, “I am the Lord thy God.” In that statement, God declares His identity.

The word “Lord” identifies Him as “Sovereign, Almighty, and Supreme.” It identifies Him as “the self-existent One.” It reminds us that He is the “I AM”. It declares Him to be the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present God of creation, revelation and salvation.

Because that is Who He is, no mere god of human origin should ever be allowed to supplant Him in our lives. There is no god ever devised by the wisdom of man that can do any of the things He can do.

Psalm 115:1-8

¹ Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth's sake. ² Wherefore should the heathen say, Where *is* now their God? ³ But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. ⁴ Their idols *are* silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: ⁶ They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: ⁷ They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. ⁸ They that make them are like unto them; *so is* every one that trusteth in them.

Isaiah 46:5-7

⁵ To whom will ye liken me, and make *me* equal, and compare me, that we may be like? ⁶ They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, *and* hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship. ⁷ They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, *one* shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

Jeremiah 10:1-6

¹ Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: ² Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. ³ For the customs of the people *are* vain: for *one* cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. ⁴ They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. ⁵ They *are* upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must

needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also *is it* in them to do good. ⁶ Forasmuch as *there is* none like unto thee, O LORD; thou *art* great, and thy name *is* great in might.

God has the right to make this demand of His people because of His identity as God, but He also possesses the right because of His investment in His people.

He delivered them from Egypt and from their slavery in that land, Ex. 3-14.

He purchased them to Himself through the blood of the innocent Passover Lamb, Ex. 12:1-13.

He owned them and He had the right to do as He pleased with them. He also delivered them from the influence of the false gods of Egypt.

The same reason stand today; God is the same God He has ever been, He is still “the Lord thy God.”

He has the right to demand absolute obedience to His will and His Word because He owns us.

He purchased us to Himself through the blood of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

He owns us, and He possesses all rights to our lives.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Titus 2:14

¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Galatians 4:8

⁸ Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

One more quick thought here, when the Lord says, “I am the Lord thy God,” that phrase is in the second person singular. That statement speaks of God as being in a personal relationship with each and every one of His redeemed people. He is “the Lord thy God.” If that is true, we must never allow anything to come before Him and become a god in our lives.

3. A DIVINE REALITY

The whole point I have been trying to get to today is this: when we maintain the spirit of this first commandment, we will not break the other nine. When the first commandment is the controlling force of our daily lives, our primary goal in life will be to glorify God with our lives.

Notice how the Lord Himself condensed this thought.

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ Master, which *is* the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

When we love the Lord with all our heart and being, there will be no danger of our having any other god before Him. When He is first in our love, our life, and our affections, the spirit of the Law will be lived out in every thought and action of our lives.

- The second commandment is about worship, v. 4. When we love the Lord supremely, we will worship Him correctly!
- The third commandment is about honoring God's name, v. 7. When we love Him as we should, we will never do anything that will bring dishonor to His name!
- The fourth commandment is about honoring God's right to control even the daily events of our lives, v. 8-10. When He is the primary love of our hearts, we rest because He rested, and we will worship Him in all of life because He demands it.
- The fifth commandment is about respecting authority, v. 12. When God holds the proper

place in our hearts, we will honor the authorities God has placed over us in this life.

- The sixth commandment is about the sanctity of human life, v. 13. When God is first in our lives, we will love others like He loves them and we will have no room for hatred or murder in our hearts.

- The seventh commandment is the sanctity of the marriage relationship, v. 14. When God is first in our hearts, we will not use our bodies in a way that dishonors Him or our spouse. When God is first in our affections, sexual sin will not be a problem.

- The eighth commandment is about the sanctity of the property of others, v. 15. When God is first, we will not take that which belongs to another..

- The ninth commandment is about the sanctity of truth, v. 16. When God is first, we will be like Him and since He is a God who cannot lie, we will also be marked by the truth.

- The tenth commandment is about contentment, v. 17. When God is first in our hearts, we will be content with the things He brings into our lives, and we will not seek look upon the blessings of others with jealous and lust.

When God is demoted in our hearts, and we love other things and other people more than Him, we set those things up as gods in our lives. When we do, we are in violation of the first commandment and we stand guilty before the Lord. When I allow anything to take His place as number one, I have essentially set myself up as god, and not only am I not qualified for the job, I have stolen glory from God. I am in sin!

This commandment comes before the others, because they all flow from this one. Everything must flow from God or it will fail. Everything must flow from God, or it will end in sin. Everything must flow from God, or He will not be able to bless it. Here is how Jesus said it:

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Close:

We can worship any god we please. We can serve self. We can serve sin. We can serve pleasure. We can serve greed. We can serve the god of false religion; but, if we are going to live lives that are blessed by God, then there must “be no other gods before” Him. He must be first, because He will not be second. He must be first, because He will bless those who do not allow others gods to come before Him.