



The 10 Commandments

No Other Gods

The First Commandment

Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 [Also see Matt 22:34-40]

A. Who Will You Choose? [See John 14:15]

Choosing for the Lord always means making a choice that excludes every other possibility!

1. **What is your epistemology?** Epistemology refers to a persons source of truth and how they test truth. Your epistemology will determine your world view. *John 8:31-32*
2. **A Biblical world view:** The source of truth is the Word of God which has been faithful and true through the ages.
3. **All or nothing: With God, it is all or nothing!**
It was this way...
 - a. With Moses on Mount Sinai [Ex 20:3]
 - b. When Joshua renewed the covenant [Josh 24:14-15a]
 - c. On Mount Carmel when Elijah defeated Baal [1 Kings 18:21]
 - d. With Jesus: "...you cannot serve two masters." [Matt 6:24]
4. **Choosing God is choosing love:** *Deut 6:4-7* This passage forms the Shema—the central prayer of Orthodox Jews. It summarizes the law and the first commandment.
 - a. A loving covenant relationship: The law, like marriage is based on a love relationship. In marriage we choose to 'exclusively' love 'one' person and choose NOT to love another. God has chosen to love us 'exclusively' and we likewise choose to love Him exclusively. [Also see Matt 10:34-39]

B. Who/What Should You Not Choose?

Those who do not know the truth about God, cannot know the truth about man!

1. **Do not be deceived by new age gods: *Baal*** was a god that the Israelites often worshiped and is an example of New Age spirituality. **Who was Baal?**
"He was the personification of the fertility of the field. Baal was the god of rain, thunder, and fertility. Baal did not really exist, because this idol was nothing but a human projection: However the power of new life coming from a barren earth is real. It is just as real as the human yearning to control this life and the benefits flowing from it." [The 10 Commandments J. Douma pp16-17]
2. **Do not accept modern day pluralism!** Religious pluralism says that all religions worship the same 'God' in different ways. In OT times it was expected that everyone would worship their own gods—the same pluralism/political correctness continues.
3. **Do not choose false forms of power:** *1 Cor 8:4-8* These so called gods have no power—except to enslave. Rachel could not leave her father's household gods. *Gen 31:19* Household gods represented food, pleasure/fertility, finances/wealth.

What stands between you and God?

Exodus 20:1-17 (NKJV)

(Intro) :1 And God spoke all these words, saying: :2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

(1) :3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

(2) :4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; :5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, :6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

(3) :7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

(4) :8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. :9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, :10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. :11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

(5) :12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

(6) :13 "You shall not murder.

(7) :14 "You shall not commit adultery.

(8) :15 "You shall not steal.

(9) :16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

(10) :17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."