

## Timeline of Truth – Commandment #2: No Carved Image (Exodus 20:4-6)

<p><sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying:</p> <p><sup>2</sup> "I <i>am</i> the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.</p>	
<p><sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before Me.</p>	<p><b>Nothing / No One But God Directing My Life</b></p>
<p><sup>4</sup> "You shall <b>not</b> make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness <i>of anything</i> that <i>is</i> in <u>heaven</u> above, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>earth</u> beneath, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>water</u> under the earth;</p> <p><sup>5</sup> you shall <b>not</b> bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, <i>am</i> a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth <i>generations</i> of those who hate Me,</p> <p><sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.</p>	<p><b>4a – The Prohibition</b> No Carved Image</p> <p><b>4b – The Description</b> <sup>CSB</sup> Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.</p> <p><b>5a – The Explanation</b> Ex 20:23 "You shall not make anything to be with Me <u>gods of silver or gods of gold</u> you shall not make for yourselves. Ex 32:8 "They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and <u>worshiped it and sacrificed to it</u>, and said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" Ex 34:17 "You shall make no molded gods for yourselves. Lev 19:4 "Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molded gods: I am the LORD your God. Lev 26:1 "You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, <u>to bow down to it</u>; for I am the LORD your God.</p> <p><b>5b – The Truth</b> Is 42:8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My <u>glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.</u></p> <p><b>5c – The Warning</b> Jealous for them, not of them</p> <p><b>6 – The Promise</b> Deut 7:9-10 It does not represent an assertion that God actually punishes an innocent generation for sins of a predecessor generation, contrary to Deut 24:16 ("Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin"; cf. 2 Kgs 14:6). Rather, this oft-repeated theme speaks of God's determination to punish successive generations for committing the same sins they learned from their parents. In other words, God will not say, "I won't punish this generation for what they are doing to break my covenant because, after all, they merely learned it from their parents who did it too." Instead, God will indeed punish generation after generation ("to the third and fourth generation"<sup>35</sup>) if they keep doing the same sorts of sins that prior generations did. If the children continue to do the sins their parents did, they will receive the same punishments as their parents. (Stuart, D. K. (2006). <i>Exodus</i> (Vol. 2, p. 454). Nashville: Broadman &amp; Holman Publishers.)</p>
<p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p><b><u>God Is a Spirit</u></b> Deut 4:15 "Take careful heed to yourselves, for <u>you saw no form</u> when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, Act 17:29 "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, <u>we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.</u> John 4:21-24 <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> "God <i>is</i> Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."</p> <p><b><u>Idols Have No Power</u></b> Is 44:9 Those who make an image, all of them are useless, And their precious things shall not profit; They are their own witnesses; They neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed.</p>	
<p><b>No <u>False Form of God</u></b> <b>No <u>Self-Defined Version of God</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn the nature of God to our understanding.</li> <li>• Person or thing, creed or group, lists, artist, celebrity</li> <li>• Bring God Down to Our Level (see/touch/understand) to be manipulated, changed, and defined by us.</li> <li>• Predictable, controllable.</li> <li>• Rabbit's foot, genie, etc. Superstition or magic</li> </ul>	
<p>Romans 1:18-32 <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown <i>it</i> to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible <i>attributes</i> are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, <i>even</i> His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify <i>Him</i> as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.</p>	