

The 2nd Command—

⇒ *“commands given in order to protect it, seal it, and define it”*

Deuteronomy 5:8--

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the 3rd & 4th generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to 1000's of those who love Me & keep My commandments”

Greater clarification in Deut 4:15:

“Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly & make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, any animal that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish in the water beneath the earth. And take heed, lest you lift up your eyes to heaven, & when you see the sun, the moon, & the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship & serve them, which the Lord your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.”

Thos. Watson said—**“Our nature is deeply prone to wishing for the visible.”**

Philip Ryken: *“[God] does not want us to look, but to listen.”*

Make some observations about the command:

The finite will not be allowed to define the infinite—“an idol makes the infinite finite, the invisible God visible, the omnipotent God impotent, the all present God local, the living God dead, & the spiritual God material. Thus the whole idea of idolatry rests on the absurdity of human beings trying to make a true image of God.”

(Ryken)

1. Exodus 32—the Golden Calf

What was the stated reason for making the calf?

What does this say about their thinking/hearts before God?

How does God respond?

2. Psalm 115

What do we learn about graven images?

How is the Lord described in contrast to the idols?

3. Exodus 31:1-11

How did God gift artisans?

For us, the fullness of the 2nd command is to worship the One whom He has sent—

- + “the brightness of His glory” (Heb 1:3)
- + “the express image of His Person” (Heb 1:3)
- + “the fullness of Deity in bodily form (Col 2:9)
- + “the image of the invisible God”, (Col 1:15)

why is this issue relevant today? (4 thoughts)

what are the ways you are impacted visually in your faith?

“The real true God cannot be portrayed or rendered with human hands;
the reality of the one & true God *is so much better* than any human contrivance.”
For old theologians, the direct perception of God is an experience of ultimate Beauty

2 textbooks from Psalm 19