

Sermon Handout
“Consequences of Idolatry”
Exodus 20:3-6

I am YHWH: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Is 42:8

- I.** Preliminary considerations vv. 3-5a
- A.** “I . . . am a jealous God” v. 5
God holds to himself that which belongs only to him.
See Dt 6:14-15 – lest God’s anger be kindled against you
- B.** Connected to the 1st Word
Are these a single commandment?
1st Word – the singularity of God
2^d Word – a distinction between Creator & creation
God is not visually known Ex 19:7-9; Is 6:2
God is not a creation and has but one image
Jn 1:18; Col 1:15 (*cf.* Heb 1:1-3)
- C.** Is the 2d Word a prohibition on all images/depictions, all the time?
This cannot be. See Ex 25:18ff; Ex 25:33
It applies to images as objects of or aids to worship v. 5a
“Heavens, earth & sea” – references the past and the future
- II.** A multi-generational matter vv. 5b-6
- A.** “Visiting the iniquity of the fathers . . .”
The sin, not the penalty
Unto the 3^d and 4th generation
- B.** “Showing mercy to thousands . . .”
Many generations, not many people
The chain is broken by repentance and obedience
- C.** Cursing and blessing Lev 26:1-45
1. Starts with the 2^d Word vv. 1-2
 2. Promised blessing for obedience vv. 3-13
 3. Promised curse for disobedience vv. 14-33
 4. Exile, suffering and restoration vv. 34-45

But isn’t this just about Israel under the Law? No.
See I Cor 10:6-15; Heb 3:7-19