



# NO IDLE, IDOL WORSHIP

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EXODUS 20:4-6 BIBLE STUDY

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## EXODUS 20:4 CONTEXT

- 1 Then God spoke all these words, saying: 2 I am the LORD [YHWH] your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 You shall not have any other gods before Me! [more lit. before my face] (Ex 20:1-3, AT)
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EXODUS 20:4  
NO IDOLS

- You shall not make for yourself a [carved] idol in the form of anything that is from the heavens above, or that is from the earth below, or that is from the waters below the earth. (Ex 20:4, AT)
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EXODUS 20:4  
NO IDOLS

- 22 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: 23 Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold. (Ex 20:22-23, NIV)
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## EXODUS 20:4 NO IDOLS

- 16 Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.
  - 17 “Make an atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. 18 And make **two cherubim** out of **hammered gold** at the ends of the cover. 19 Make **one cherub** on one end and the **second cherub** on the other; make the **cherubim** of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. 20 The **cherubim are to have their wings spread upward**, overshadowing the cover with them. The **cherubim** are to face each other, looking toward the cover. 21 Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law that I will give you. 22 There, **above the cover** between the **two cherubim** that are over the ark of the covenant law, **I will meet with you** and give you all my commands for the Israelites. (Ex 25:16-22, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:4  
NO IDOLS

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- Then **God spoke** all these words, saying: (Ex 20:1, AT)





EXODUS 20:4  
NO INTERMEDIARY

- 18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But **do not have God speak to us or we will die.**” (Ex 20:18-19, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:4  
NO PAGAN THINKING

- **He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Mt 5:45b, NIV)**





## EXODUS 20:4 NO PAGAN THINKING

- 2 The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was **defeated** by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. 3 When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, “Why did the LORD bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? **Let us bring the ark of the LORD’s covenant** from Shiloh, **so that he may go with us and save us** from the hand of our enemies.” (1 Sam 4:2-3, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:4  
NO PAGAN THINKING

- 4 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they **brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD Almighty**, who is **enthroned between the cherubim**. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. 5 When the ark of the LORD's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. (1 Samuel 4:4-5, NIV)
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## EXODUS 20:4 NO PAGAN THINKING

- 6 Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, “What’s all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?” When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp, 7 the Philistines were afraid. **“A god has come into the camp,”** they said. “Oh no! Nothing like this has happened before. 8 We’re doomed! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness. 9 Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!” (1 Sam 4:6-9, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:4  
NO PAGAN THINKING

- 10 So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were **defeated and every man fled** to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost **thirty thousand foot soldiers**. 11 **The ark of God was captured**, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died. (1 Samuel 4:10-11, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:4  
COMPREHENSIVE  
COMMAND

- 15 You saw **no form** of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb [a.k.a. Mount Sinai] out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, 16 so that you **do not become corrupt** and **make for yourselves an idol**, an **image** of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, 17 or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, 18 or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the **waters below**. (Dt 4:15-18, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:5  
DON'T BOW DOWN  
OR WORSHIP THEM

- You shall not bow down to them nor worship them. For I the LORD [YHWH] your God am a jealous God, punishing the sin of parents on their children, and on the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, (Ex 20:5, AT)
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EXODUS 20:5  
DON'T BOW DOWN  
OR WORSHIP THEM

- 7 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. 8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have **made themselves an idol** cast in the shape of a calf. They have **bowed down** to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘**These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.**’ (Ex 32:7-8, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:5  
DON'T BOW DOWN  
OR WORSHIP THEM

- When Moses went and told the people **all the LORD's [YHWH] words and laws**, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD [YHWH] has said **we will do.**” (Ex 24:3, NIV)



EXODUS 20:5  
DON'T BOW DOWN  
OR WORSHIP THEM

9 You shall have **no foreign god** among you;  
you shall not **worship any god other than me.**

10 I am the LORD your God,  
who brought you up out of Egypt.

Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

(Ps 81:9-10, NIV)





EXODUS 20:5  
DON'T BOW DOWN  
OR WORSHIP THEM

- 23 My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. 24 Do not **bow down** before their gods or **worship** them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. (Ex 23:23-24, NIV)
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## EXODUS 20:5 JEALOUS GOD

- 10 Then the LORD said: “I am making a **covenant with you**. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you. 11 Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 12 Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. 13 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. 14 **Do not worship any other god**, for the LORD, whose **name is Jealous** [𐤒𐤒𐤓 | *qannā* ’], is a **jealous** [𐤒𐤒𐤓 | *qannā* ’] **God**. (Ex 34:14, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:5  
JEALOUS GOD

- 23 Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. 24 For the LORD your God is **a consuming fire, a jealous** [קַנָּאָן | *qannā'*] God. (Dt 4:23-24, NIV; cf. Dt 5:9, 6:15)
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EXODUS 20:5  
JEALOUS GOD

- 32 “ ‘You **adulterous wife!** You **prefer strangers to your own husband!** 33 All **prostitutes** receive gifts, but you give gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from everywhere for your illicit favors. 34 So in your **prostitution** you are the opposite of others; no one runs after you for your favors. You are the very opposite, for you give payment and none is given to you. (Eze 16:32-34, NIV)
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## EXODUS 20:5 JEALOUS GOD

- 35 “ ‘Therefore, **you prostitute**, hear the word of the LORD! 36 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you **poured out your lust** and **exposed your naked body** in your **promiscuity** with your **lovers**, and because of **all your detestable idols**, and because you gave them your **children’s blood**, 37 therefore I am going to gather all your **lovers**, with whom you found pleasure, those you loved as well as those you hated. I will gather them against you from all around and will strip you in front of them, and they will see you stark naked. 38 I will sentence you to the punishment of women who **commit adultery** and who shed blood; I will bring on you the blood vengeance of my wrath and **jealous anger** [ *qin’â*]. (Eze 16:35-38, NIV)
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## EXODUS 20:5 JEALOUS GOD

- 5 He did away with the **idolatrous** priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who **burned incense to Baal**, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. 6 He took the **Asherah** pole from the temple of the LORD to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem and burned it there. He ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves of the common people. 7 He also tore down the quarters of the **male shrine prostitutes** that were **in the temple of the LORD**, the quarters where women did weaving for **Asherah**. (2 Ki 23:5-7, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:5  
JEALOUS GOD

6 For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.





## EXODUS 20:5 JEALOUS GOD

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The **zeal** [ קִנְיָה | *qin 'â*] of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this. (Is 9:6-7, NIV)





EXODUS 20:5  
CORPORATENESS?

- Parents are **not** to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; **each will die for their own sin.** (Dt 24:16, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:6  
COVENANTAL LOVE

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- but showing unfailing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. (Ex 20:6, AT)





EXODUS 20:6  
LOVE FOR GOD =  
LOYAL OBEDIENCE

- 12 And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to **walk in obedience** to him, **to love him**, to **serve the LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to **observe the LORD's commands and decrees** that I am giving you today for your own good? (Dt 10:12-13, NIV)
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EXODUS 20:6  
LOVE FOR GOD =  
LOYAL OBEDIENCE

- “If you **love me, keep my commands.** (Jn 14:15, NIV)
  - In fact, **this is love for God: to keep his commands.** And his commands are not burdensome, (1 Jn 5:3, NIV)
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## NO IDOLATRY

- Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, **which is idolatry**. (Col 3:5, NIV)
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