

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# Commandment # 1 – No Other Gods

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Exodus 20:3

**<sup>1</sup> The Ten Commandments were the foundation values God provided for His chosen people. Keeping them provided the moral separation between Israel and the rest of the world's cultures. The rest of the Law of Moses was built on these commands. The Old Covenant (the Old Testament) made God's people morally superior to everyone else.**

**When Jesus died on the cross, the Old Covenant, the system of obedience to a set of regulations to have a relationship with God, was made obsolete. <sup>1</sup>Lord Jesus fulfilled it!**

**At the cross your relationship to your Creator became personal. His death made it possible for you to be completely forgiven for everything you have done wrong. The spiritual door, the way to God, is now open for anyone to chose Jesus as Lord. As a result, you can have an abundant life with Him in this life and an eternal home with Him in heaven. A personal**

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**<sup>1</sup> Please see my message "What Keeping the Ten Commandments Does for You"  
– <https://biblelifemessages.org/contents/06%20-%20Romans/Rom%207.7-25/rom7.7-25.html>**

**relationship with God replaced the blind obedience to a bunch of rules, ceremonies and regulations. He can now live in you providing power and direction for your life. This is the New Covenant (the New Testament)!**

**Now, as a saved person, you want to please the loving Lord Who paid that wonderful price for you. These Ten Commandments, then, become foundation values for you to implement in your Christian life. They, now, become a way to draw closer to the Lord and His way for your life.**

**So, let's look at these commandments, one by one, to see what they can imply for your life. <sup>2</sup>**

**Exodus, chapter 20, verse 3, has Command #1, **You shall have no other gods before me.** <sup>3</sup>**

**So, what's your God?**

**Maybe it's nature! <sup>4</sup>**



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**Maybe it's family! 8**



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**Maybe it's recreation! 11**



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**The commands were given to the people who had been rescued from Egyptian slavery. They were camped out at the foot of Mount Sinai when Moses descended from the mountain with tablets in hand. 13**

## I. What Did This Mean to Them?

What did this mean to them? <sup>14</sup> When this scripture says “gods”, what does that mean? Here are the possibilities. <sup>15</sup>

The Bible talks about **Sons of God**.

Genesis, chapter 6, verses 1 and 2, **When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.** <sup>16</sup>

The popular belief among biblical scholars is that these “Sons of God” were supernatural beings which may have been fallen angels or demons. In fact, the Living Bible paraphrase in this passage called them “spirits from the spirit world”. They believe that giants resulted from these marriages! <sup>2</sup> <sup>17</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Job 1:6 - One day the angels (Hebrew: the sons of God) came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.



Job states that angels were called the sons of God.<sup>3</sup> 18

Another possibility of what “gods” here might mean, is **images**. Here are some scriptures that point this out. 19

Genesis, chapter 31, verse 34, says, **Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel’s saddle and was sitting on them.** 20 Another passage stating this is Exodus, chapter 20, verse 23, **Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.** 21 Again, in chapter 32, verse 31, **So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold.”** 22

Another possibility concerning the word “god” here, is **people**. 23

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<sup>3</sup> I personally believe these “Sond of God” were actually men from the lineage of Seth, Adam’s and Eve’s third son, marrying the daughters of Cain, their oldest son. He was banished by God providing an ungodly lineage apart from Seth’s godly lineage. These marriage unions corrupted the human race.

**The Pharaoh of Egypt was considered by the Egyptians to be a god. When he was alive and ruled, he was considered the son of Ra, the sun god, who was the incarnation of Horus. When he died, he supposedly became Osiris, the god of the underworld. Incidentally, the ten plagues God inflicted through Moses were believed to be pointed at each of the false gods of the Egyptians! <sup>24</sup>**

**Then, there was the King of Babylon. He had a statue of himself built and required all his government leaders worship it as a god! <sup>4</sup> As a consequence of his arrogance he was driven insane! <sup>5</sup> <sup>25</sup>**

**What does “Before Me” mean?**

**Almighty God, Creator of the universe, is the greatest and most powerful being in existence! Because He created you and redeemed you, you belong to Him. He**

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<sup>4</sup> Daniel 3:1-30 & 4:28-37.

<sup>5</sup> I personally believe the “other gods” here are the supernatural demons of Satan. They have supernatural, but limited, power. They can indwell people, and possibly, things. They may have indwelt enough idols, and performed enough supernatural acts through them, to give momentum to the worshipping of idols.

can rightfully demand your absolute allegiance; your focus above anything else! <sup>26</sup>

So, the next question this command looking at this command needs to ask is . . .

## II. What Should This Mean to You?

What should this mean to you? I believe this command speaks two things to us. <sup>27</sup>

**Avoid the occult!** <sup>28</sup>

The Apostle John urgently pleaded with you, **Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit**

of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. <sup>6</sup> <sub>29</sub>

Why is rebellion like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry? <sup>7</sup> <sub>30</sub> It's because divination (witchcraft) <sub>31</sub> and idolatry (the worship of other “gods”) are the supreme rebellions against God!

It's not so much the false fortune tellers (psychics) that bother me. They are simply con people – crooks. It's the real ones that are the threats to loyalty to God!

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So, what do you do? Stay away from Ouija boards, automatic writing, witchcraft or any other supernatural activity not honoring the Lord or connected to your Christian faith! <sub>33</sub>

The second thing to do is **Avoid putting your focus on your modern-day idols!** <sub>34</sub>

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<sup>6</sup> | John 4:1-3.

<sup>7</sup> | Samuel 15:23.

**What do you focus on most in your life? <sup>35</sup>**

**Is it your employment, your business or money? Is it the status and power these can provide? <sup>36</sup>**

**Is it your social life, your family, your home, your children, your spouse? Are they the relationships that mean so much to you? <sup>37</sup>**

**What possessions possess you? What do you devote most of your time, effort and resources to? <sup>38</sup>**

**To forsake the idols in your life, **surrender your life to the Lord Jesus!** Lord Jesus said, **So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>8</sup> <sup>39</sup>****

**Lord Jesus is your Creator and Redeemer! He has the right to your decisions, your companionship and your**

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew 6:31-33.

**devotion. <sup>40</sup> He is jealous of the other “gods” you have  
set before Him! <sup>41</sup>**

**He wants your full allegiance, focus and loyalty!**

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