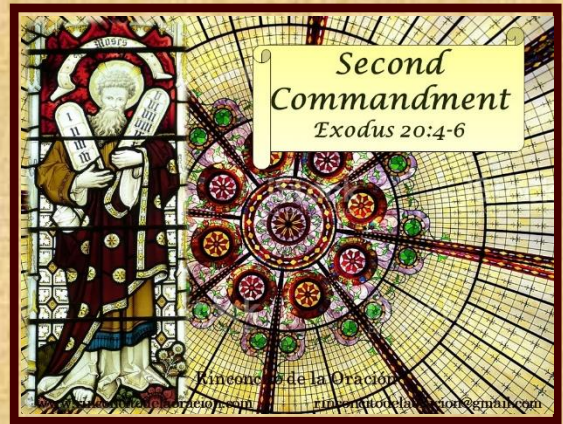


According to Exodus 20:4-6 the Second Commandment says: *“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”*



What is the order of this commandment?

This second commandment not only forbids idolatry to false gods, but also forbids making images of anything created with the purpose of worship. God does not permit being represented with any type of image, nor does He permit being replaced with any image with purposes of worship.

Deuteronomy 32:46 – Matthew 28:20 – Deuteronomy 12:32

According to this Second Commandment, what is it that is forbidden?

It forbids that we worship God through images or by any other means that is not determined by Him.

Deuteronomy 4:15-16 – Colossians 2:18

What reasons are given by the Second Commandment?

The reasons established by the Second Commandment are: God’s sovereignty and domain over us and the jealousy He has for His own worship.

Psalms 95:2-3 – Psalms 45:11 – Exodus 34:14

Conclusion: we should neither bow down to any image nor worship it in any way. We must remember the experience that the people from Israel had at the Sinai, when Moses wrote: *“... and Jehovah spoke in the middle of the fire; you heard the voice of His words, but for the exception of hearing His words, you did not see any figure.”* (Deuteronomy 4:12)

This established the principle by which God is to be worshipped; it must be based on words through prayer and not on images. God won't permit any type of image representation, for "God is a Spirit ..." (John 4:24). No image may neither hold His holiness nor His greatness. If we should want to worship Him, there is no better way of doing so than by prayer from words that flow from one's heart surrendered to Him.

Let's analyze a practical example so it is easier to understand. Given the case that we had a beloved person living far away or who may not be physically present with us, it is not necessary to have a picture or image of that person to say how much we love him/her, how much we need him/her or how much we miss him/her. That person is already in our heart and totally within us and we love him/her with all our might. In the same way, God is far too large to be had in a simple image, given that God is a spirit. We find God when we observe nature or through his Word.

No image or small stamp is necessary to represent our Deity. Nothing may represent Him; given that He is a spirit, we do not know how God is. But there will be a time when we shall be with the Lord and see his face (Revelation 22:4), in the same way that Moses spoke face to face with God (Exodus 33:11), "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face". (I Corinthians 13:12)

God lives within us and the most efficient way of approaching Him is through prayer and worship, while Jesus Christ who sits on the right hand of the Lord (Hebrews 10:12), is the only one who mediates before God for us all (I Timothy 2:5).

For those who love and follow his commandments, great and immense is the mercy of the Lord.

Blessings and until next Commandment!

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