

### **TEACHING GOAL**

To study the reasons for the second commandment.

### **DOCTRINAL STANDARDS**

- Q. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?
- A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he has to his own worship.

S.C. 52, L.C. 110, W.C. of F. XIX, Savoy 19, Young 82

### **SCRIPTURAL BASIS**

**Study Passage:** Psalm 115

**Support Passages:** Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 4:24, 5:9, 6:14-15, Exodus 34:10-17, James 4:5

### **BIBLE STORY**

John 2:13-17: Jesus cleanses the temple which shows us His own zeal for proper worship.

### **MEMORY ASSIGNMENT**

"The dead do not praise the Lord, nor do any who go down into silence. But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 115:17-18, ESV)

### **APPLICATION**

The zeal of God for His own worship is unparalleled. Therefore the worship of YAHWEH is not to be eclectic or ecumenical but based on scripture and directed to Him alone. He owns us. He alone is our sovereign King.

## SUMMARY

God is said by scripture to be jealous. What an interesting concept! Jealousy, of course, can be a great sin when it issues in distrust or hatred. However, this cannot be true of YAHWEH whose very name is said to be jealous.

The Hebrew word *khanah* (jealousy), when used as an adjective is, in scripture, only used in connection with God. The noun form can mean ardor, zeal or jealousy and the verb form takes the meaning to be zealous or to be jealous. For God to be jealous means that He is intolerant of unfaithfulness or rivalry and this is His prerogative being the sovereign Lord of all. It is not evil or sinful; rather, it is His right to demand loyalty or faithfulness. He who issues the crown of life can require us to be faithful until death to receive it.<sup>1</sup>

God owns His people and therefore is jealous for them. *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own."*<sup>2</sup> James writes, *"Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us."?*<sup>3</sup> That is to say, God demands submission from what is His.

Jesus demonstrated this jealousy for what is His when He drove the money-changers and animal-vendors from the temple. He was consumed by zeal (jealousy) for the house of God and exercised His sovereignty over it.<sup>4</sup> He was intolerant of infidelity and brought judgment to those evil people by forcibly evicting them.

History is replete with examples of God's intolerance of infidelity. Shiloh, the ancient place of worship, was destroyed due to the wickedness of Israel.<sup>5</sup> Jerusalem also was destroyed because she housed vessels made for Baal, for the Asherim, and for all the host of heaven.<sup>6</sup> God brought judgment upon Constantinople, the chief seat of the Eastern Empire for the same reason. India is continually plagued with famine and Africa with upheaval and chaos, not primarily due to racial bias but because they are idolaters and Marxists. God visits all such iniquity with judgment. The temples of Satan will not be tolerated because we deal with a jealous God who visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and fourth generation of those who hate Him.

As we leave this subject then, let us remember that the second commandment is enforced by a visitation of God's anger upon generations of idolaters and by the fact that God is jealous.

## Exodus 34:10-17 (ESV)

### The Covenant Renewed

<sup>10</sup> And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

<sup>11</sup> "Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>12</sup> Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. <sup>13</sup> You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim <sup>14</sup> **(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God)**, <sup>15</sup> lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice, <sup>16</sup> and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore after their gods and make your sons whore after their gods.

<sup>17</sup> "You shall not make for yourself any gods of cast metal.

Verse 14 above should be read as follows:

For you shall worship no other god, for YAHWEH, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 2:10

<sup>2</sup> I Corinthians 6:19, ESV

<sup>3</sup> James 4:5, ESV

<sup>4</sup> John 2:13-22

<sup>5</sup> Jeremiah 7:12

<sup>6</sup> 2 Kings 23:4