



CARVED IN STONE

Some of God's Ways for All of God's People

לא תרצח
לא תנאף
לא תגנוב
לא תענה
לא תחמד

אנכי ה'
לא יהיה
לא תשא
זכור את
עבוד את

*God rescues his people before
he regulates them.*

לא תרצח
לא תנאף
לא תגנב
לא תענה
לא תחמד

אנכי ה'
לא יהיה
לא תשא
זכור את
עבוד את

*God's people are to worship
God alone.*

The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly representing stone or a relief. In the upper center, there is a faint, circular area containing Hebrew text. The text is arranged in several lines and appears to be a translation of the Ten Commandments. The text is: "אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה", "לֹא יִהְיֶה לִּי", "לֹא תִשָּׂא", "לֹא תִגַּב", "לֹא תִתְקַדַּם", "לֹא תִשָּׂא", "לֹא תִגַּב", "לֹא תִתְקַדַּם". The text is in a light, golden-brown color, matching the main title. The overall image has a stone-like border at the top, bottom, and sides, with a dark, textured center.

The RELATEDNESS of the Second Commandment (3, 4-6)

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The first commandment addresses the false gods of worship. The second commandment addresses the false modes of worship.

The RELATEDNESS of the Second Commandment (3, 4-6)

King Jehu did not wipe out "the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan" (2 Kings 10:29). He kept the first commandment but not the second.

אֲנִכִּי הִ' לֹא תִרְצֶנּוּ



The REGULATION of the Second Commandment (4a)

אֱנֹכִי ה'
לֹא יְהִיָּה
לֹא תִשָּׂא
זִכְרִי אֵלֶיךָ
עֲבֹד

The REGULATION of the Second Commandment (4a)

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Temûnāh = a "form," "shape," "likeness,"
or "representation"

The worship of the one true and living God
was never to be directed toward an object.

The REGULATION of the Second Commandment (4a)

Total censure of artistic expression was not the intent; the absolute censure of idolatry and false worship was (cf. Exodus 31:2-5).

אנכי ה' לא תרצח
לא יהיה לא תנאף



The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a stone or metal relief. In the upper center, there is a faint, circular area containing Hebrew text. In the lower left, there is a small, light-colored figure that appears to be a person or a statue. The overall lighting is dramatic, with highlights and shadows that emphasize the texture.

The RADICALNESS of the Second Commandment (4b-5a)

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Yahweh does not want to be represented
by an image of anything in his creation.

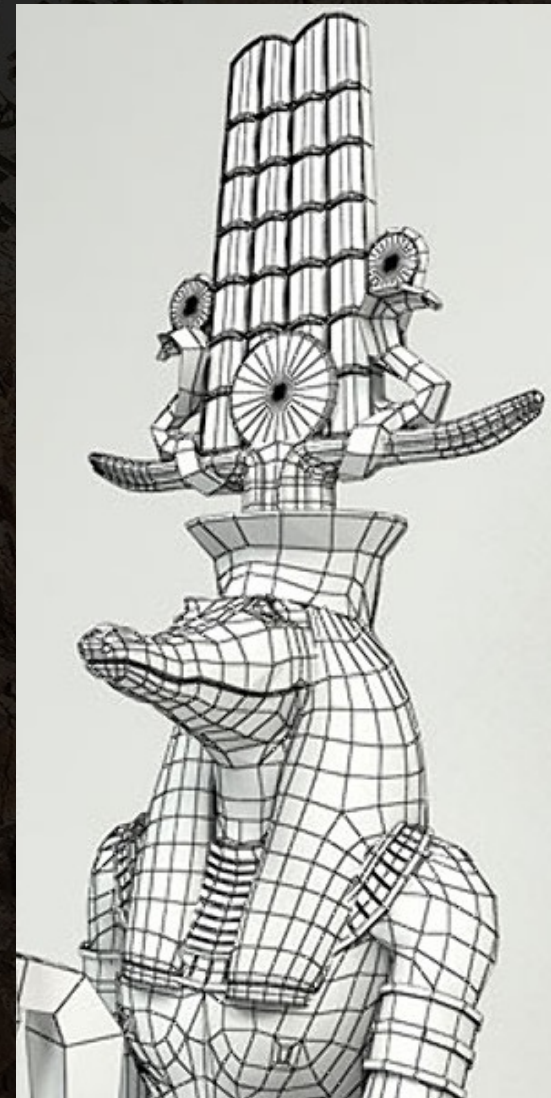
The RADICALNESS of the Second Commandment (4b-5a)

Yahweh does not want to be represented by an image of anything in his creation.

Israel had been rescued from Egypt to serve Yahweh. To serve other gods, then, was not only disloyalty, it was to reverse the exodus and go back to bondage.

אנכי ה' לא תרצה





The RADICALNESS of the Second Commandment (4b-5a)

The second commandment was a revolutionary overhaul of ancient worship and cosmology.

The RATIONALE of the Second Commandment (5b)

אֱנֹכִי ה'
לֹא יְהִיָּה
לִּי תִּשְׁאָה
זִכְרִי אֵלֶיךָ
עֲבֹד

The RATIONALE of the Second Commandment (5b)

Motive clauses are a hallmark of biblical law (unlike other ancient law codes).

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That Yahweh often takes the time to explain his rationale says something about his character, not to mention the value he places upon his people.

The RATIONALE of the Second Commandment (5b)

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God is “jealous” in the sense that he is the one who rights all wrongs—rising up in holy anger if necessary to avenge, vindicate, or undertake for his people.

The RATIONALE of the Second Commandment (5b)

Idols do not and cannot represent and reflect the character of God because God is infinite, perfect, and full of life.

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Deuteronomy 4:15-20

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Idols do not and cannot represent and reflect the character of God because God is infinite, perfect, and full of life.

Deuteronomy 4:15-20

An idol is a lie about God.

The RETRIBUTION of the Second Commandment (5c)

אֵין כִּי הַ
לֹא יִהְיֶה
לֹא תִשָּׂא
זִכְרֵךְ
עֲבֵרָה

The RETRIBUTION of the Second Commandment (5c)

Is God so vindictive and impulsive as to
punish innocent people for their ancestors'
moral crimes?

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The text is not suggesting God punishes three subsequent generations for the sins of the first generation (cf. Deut. 24:16, etc.).

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Punishment falls specifically on “those who hate me” (v. 5), not arbitrarily on those in a family’s future generations.

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The appeal of idolatry is “comfort” and “control.”

The REWARD of the Second Commandment (6)

אֲנֹכִי ה' לֹא יֵהיֶה
לִּי תִּשְׁבָּע לֹא תִּשְׁבָּע
לִּי תִּשְׁבָּע לֹא תִּשְׁבָּע
לִּי תִּשְׁבָּע לֹא תִּשְׁבָּע
לִּי תִּשְׁבָּע לֹא תִּשְׁבָּע

The REWARD of the Second Commandment (6)

God will hold his people accountable for their idolatry, but he is gracious to those who obey him in this regard.

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Families can get unstuck spiritually with *any* generation that is faithful to God.

The REVELATION of the Second Commandment

אֲנֹכִי ה'
לֹא יְהִי־לִי
לֹא תִשָּׂא
זְכוֹר אֶת
עֲבֹד אֶת

The REVELATION of the Second Commandment

God does not want to be misrepresented
by those who claim to belong to him.

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God wants to (and has the right to) define
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by those who claim to belong to him.

God wants to (and has the right to) define
himself.

God has the right to tell us how he wants
to be worshiped.

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God is jealous for his people's highest and best; he wants them to live in sync with reality.

God cannot and will not be controlled by his people.

The REVELATION of the Second Commandment

God confers dignity upon his people.

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God confers dignity upon his people.

God is more eager to bless than to punish.

לא תרצח
לא תנאף
לא תגנוב
לא תענה
לא תחמד

אנכי ה'
לא יהיה
לא תשא
זכור את
עבוד את

*God's people must accept no
substitutes for God.*

The RELEVANCE of the Second Commandment

אֲנֹכִי ה' (I am the Lord)
לֹא יְהִי־לִי (There shall not be)
לֹא תִשָּׂא (There shall not be)
זִכּוּר אֵת (The remembrance of)
עֲבֹד אֵת (The service of)

The RELEVANCE of the Second Commandment

It would be foolish and senseless of me to
create an alternative to God.

The **RELEVANCE** of the Second Commandment

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create an alternative to God.

I need to cast out every false notion I have
of God.

The **RELEVANCE** of the Second Commandment

It would be foolish and senseless of me to create an alternative to God.

I need to cast out every false notion I have of God.

I need to realize my conception of God is influenced by my family of origin.

The RELEVANCE of the Second Commandment

I am not to make God in my own image.

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The RELEVANCE of the Second Commandment

I am not to make God in my own image.

I must keep in mind that Ezekiel 14:7 refers to "idols of the heart."

I must know that while God will hold me accountable for my actions, he is more eager to bless than punish me.

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לא תנאף
לא תגנב
לא תענה
לא תחמד

אנכי ה'
לא יהיה
לא תשא
זכור את
שם ה' אלהיך

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substitutes for God.*



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