

Lordship.

Deuteronomy 5:1-7 *And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. ² The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³ Not with our fathers did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴ The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire, ⁵ while I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain. He said: ⁶ "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ⁷ "You shall have no other gods before me.*

Exodus 20:1-3 *And God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me.*

Truths

- God's rules reveal His heart – Deut. 5:1b *Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.*
- God's rules reflect Reality – Deut. 5:6 *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*
- God first – Deut. 5:7 *You shall have no other gods before me.*

Q&A

- 1) Are there other gods?
 - a. There is only one God.

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

Ephesians 4:6a *one God and Father of all,*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is **one God**, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*

b. But there are evil spirits “behind” false “gods.”

Deuteronomy 32:17 *They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.*

Psalms 96:5 *For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.*

Psalms 106:36-38 *They served their idols, which became a snare to them. ³⁷ They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; ³⁸ they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood.*

Prayer of King Hezekiah – Isaiah 37:18-20 *Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, ¹⁹ and have cast their gods into the fire. **For they were no gods**, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. ²⁰ So now, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the Lord.*

1 Corinthians 10:20a *No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God.*

“Those who worship false gods are, wittingly or unwittingly, pledging their allegiance to evil spirits who desire to usurp God’s rightful place in our hearts.”¹

Q: Why would anyone be attracted to these “gods?”

A: No judgment. False gods don’t call out our sin. They feed and justify our sin.

A: Appearance of power and success.

“There was another serious factor causing disunity during these years. This was the tendency of many to follow the religion of the Canaanites. This declension of the Israelites may have been due in part to the subtle attraction of the wealth to the Canaanites. They had fine homes, splendid art, fine literature, good trade connections around the east, and an apparent superiority in every way over the people of Israel. The unthinking Israelite may have been inclined to associate this wealth with some imagined favor of the gods of Canaan, and as a result he may have forsaken the simpler non-sensuous faith of Israel.” – J. A. Thompson²

2) Why does “First Place” matter for our relationships?

a. Every relationship is grounded on something.

Q: Right now, what are your most important relationships grounded upon?

b. Every relationship needs a refilling station when the levels get low.

3) How does “First Place” start?

a. For our relationships to flourish as designed, we need a relationship with the Designer.

b. Repent and say “Yes” to Jesus Christ.

4) How to live it out: Lord Jesus, I want you to have first place in...

a. My thinking – Romans 12:1-2

b. My dating or marriage – Ephesians 5

c. My children: How I raise and relate to them – Ephesians 6:1-4

d. My job and finances – Colossians 3:17

e. My connection with my church family – Hebrews 10:25

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/idols-demons.html>

² J. A. Thompson, *The Bible and Archaeology* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1962), 91. In Koffi, *Language and Society in Biblical Times*, 70.