**Research on: 1st Commandment**

Ex 20:1-3

And God spake all these words, saying,

2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

“Israel was surrounded by people who worshipped other gods. Israel must not follow this practice, but must worship Yahweh only. While originally a device for preventing the mixing of cults and the degradation of religious rites, there is profound truth in the doctrine that no man can worship more than one god. A god cannot remain a god worthy of worship if he has to step down occasionally from his throne to allow another god to reign for a few moments . . . To worship one God is to have one supreme loyalty in one’s life which all one’s instincts and passions and vagaries obey” (IB 1.981).

“The first commandment states the unconditional and exclusive claim of Yahweh upon his Covenant people. The existence of other gods is not called into question, but they are to count for nothing with the people of Yahweh. The expression translated ‘before me,’ or ‘besides me,’ might better be rendered ‘in opposition to me.’ Yahweh will tolerate no rivals to his authority” (*IDB* 4.570).

“Yahweh is to be the only God Israel recognizes and worships. Israel was surrounded by people who worshipped other gods. Israel must not follow this practice, but must worship Yahweh only” (*IB* 6.980).

SHEMA: The Greatest Commandment – total commitment (Deut. 6:4,5).

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

“Jesus taught that Deut 6:4-5 constituted the first, the greatest, and the most important commandment, and that by obeying it one would live (Matt 22:37-38; Mark 12:29-30; Luke 10:27). So what was to be Israel’s relationship to the Lord? They were to love him totally. The exhortation to love ‘with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength’ is not a study in faculty psychology. It is rather a gathering of terms to indicate the totality of a person’s commitment of self in the purest and noblest intentions of trust and obedience toward God” (*EBC* 3.64).

**Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer, Founder, and Leader of Christian Science, expands and amplifies the deeper meaning and importance of the First Commandment. No other biblical commentary interprets this commandment better than she does.**

S&H 340:15-20

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” (Exodus

xx. 3.) The First Commandment is my favorite text.

It demonstrates Christian Science. It inculcates the tri-unity

of God, Spirit, Mind; it signifies that man shall

have no other spirit or mind but God, eternal good, and

that all men shall have one Mind.

S&H 340:20

The divine Principle of the First Commandment bases the Science of being, by

which man demonstrates health, holiness, and life eternal.

One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; constitutes

the brotherhood of man; ends wars; fulfils the

Scripture, “Love thy neighbor as thyself;” annihilates

pagan and Christian idolatry, — whatever is wrong in

social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes;

equalizes the sexes; annuls the curse on man, and leaves

nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed.

My 5:12-15

The First Commandment

of the Hebrew Decalogue, “Thou shalt have

no other gods before me,” and the Golden Rule are the

all-in-all of Christian Science.

**References for studying the First Commandment:**

Deut 4:39 S&H 340:20

Deut 6:4,5,14 S&H 361:6

Deut 10:20 Mis 21:1

Deut 30:17,18 Mis 23:14-19 (to .)

Deut 5:7 Mis 28:20-28

Matt 4:10 Mis 123:3

Matt 6:33 Mis 197:23

Matt 22:37,38 Pan 6:26

Mark 10:18 Pan 8:21

Mark 12:32-34 ‘00 5:17-22 (to 2nd .)

Eph 4:5,6 ‘02 4:19-21

Gal 3:20 ‘02 5:9-11

I Cor 8:6 My 5:12-15

My 221:16

My 279:11-13

S&H 301:20-24