

sides, worshipping God under form of image often led to worshipping images themselves. (Read Exod. xxxii. 1—8.) Show carefully difference between this and first commandment. That forbade worship of other gods—this forbids worshipping God under outward forms. This the sin of Jeroboam in making golden calves. Perhaps think no temptation to us to this sin—how can we break this commandment? Yet often do so. What is the sin? Putting outward things in place of God. Do so when trust to “saying our prayers” instead of really praying—or to mere attendance at worship instead of real worship—drawing nigh to God with lips instead of heart. Both forms of this sin equally displeasing to God. Punished Israelites by slaying 3,000. (Ex. xxxii. 28.) Refuses to hear prayers merely uttered with lips. (Isa. i. 14, 15.)

II. DUTY COMMANDED. (Read Dan. vi. 16—26.) *Worship*. Question on the well-known story. Daniel the King's prime minister—praying three times a day—threatened with the lions—continuing to pray with windows open, so that all might see—trusting to God to deliver him, and therefore not afraid. Teaches how to draw near to God in *worship* and *prayer*. Must worship God in right way, as He has appointed. Gave Israelites Tabernacle with solemn services, sacrifices, yearly festivals, etc. Christ set example of keeping these. Went to Passover feast always during His three years' ministry—went to service at Tabernacle every Sabbath. But has warned us to worship in spirit and truth. (John iv. 24.) St. Paul tells us to “pray with the understanding.” Therefore must take care *whom* we worship—*how* we worship—*why* we worship. Then may expect God's blessing. He will show mercy to thousands (of generations) of those who love Him and worship Him aright.

LESSON. *God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.*

NO. 4. THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.

INTRODUCTION. Children to repeat Commandment carefully. Teacher explain “taking in vain” as using God's Name lightly, irreverently, without thought. Those who do so will be counted as guilty. Should not allow a parent's or friend's name to be held in dishonour before us—still less the holy Name of God.

I. SIN FORBIDDEN. (a) *Perjury*, or false swearing. (See Lev. xix. 12.) As an example of such, remind of Jezebel's false witnesses against Naboth (1 Kings xxi. 13), or of the Jews against Christ (Matt. xxvi. 60.) Great deal such heard even in English law-courts. Such form of lying especially bad—calling God to witness to what is false. Remind how Ananias and his wife were punished with death (Acts v. 9); (b) *Blasphemy*, or using God's Name lightly or with contempt. (Read Lev. xxiv. 10—16.) How severely this sin was punished among the Jews—how little it is thought of among Christians. Nothing commoner than to hear God's Name lightly used both in blessing and cursing; (c) *Irreverence*. (Read 2 Sam. vi. 3—7.) What was the Ark? Outward sign or symbol of God's presence. Who had charge of it? Levites specially appointed. Now being taken in solemn manner from Philistines. What did Uzzah do? Forgot how holy it was, and treated it in common manner. How his death would warn Israelites against irreverence.

See how this comes home to us. Forbids all use of God's Name, except in proper way and at proper times—irreverent manner of reading Bible—jesting about holy things—irreverence in worship—idle words and thoughts, etc.