

“thou shalt have none other Gods, but me.”—That is that we shall have him only for our God, by paying to him alone all the duties which are due to him as an eternal creator, and an Almighty Governor.—Believing in him, trusting in him, hoping in him, loving him, obeying him, fearing him.—We shall worship no God with him or exclusive of him.—This we do by avoiding Polytheism or the idolatry of the Heathens or any superstitious worship. But this is so much more fully entered into in the 2d commandment, that without further comment I shall proceed to the consideration of it—“Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in Heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth—thou shalt not bow down to them nor worship them, for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy unto thousands in them that love me and keep my commandments.

In this commandment which relates to the worship of God, several sins are forbidden which were practiced by all the Heathen nations and into which the Jews themselves had frequently fallen. The appointment of any kind of image for religious worship is strictly forbidden.—This command is repeated in Leviticus, “ye shall make no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up any standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it”—and also in Deuteronomy where the whole decalogue is repeated. The worshipping of such an image or any other creature is also forbidden in this commandment—this is proved by St. John when he says; “and when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the Angel which shewed me these things—Then he saith unto me, see thou do it not; for I am thy fellow servant and of thy brethren the Prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book—worship God.” The neglect of the worship of the true God is also forbidden—and thus we find St. Paul, when speaking of the causes which induce God to give men up to follow their own bestial inclinations, says, among other things, because “they worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator who is blessed forever.” The worshipping of God after a false manner is also here forbidden—“Ye hypocrites (says Christ) well did Esaias prophecy of you saying this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.—But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”—And this is forbidden because the Lord is a jealous God and a severe punisher of idolaters.—“I am the Lord, that is my name, and my glory will I not give to another neither my praise to graven Images.”—“And it shall be