

## Idolatrous Elders Condemned ~ Ezek. 14:1-11

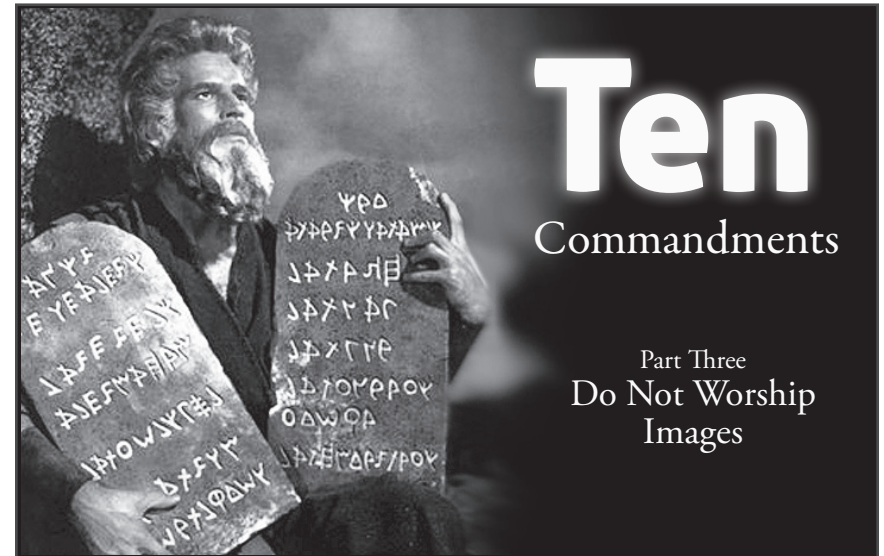
Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. <sup>2</sup>And the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>3</sup>“Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let myself be consulted by them? <sup>4</sup>Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols, <sup>5</sup>that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from me through their idols.

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations. <sup>7</sup>For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the LORD will answer him myself. <sup>8</sup> And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of my people, and you shall know that I am the LORD. <sup>9</sup> And if the prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I, the LORD, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. <sup>10</sup> And they shall bear their punishment—the punishment of the prophet and the punishment of the inquirer shall be alike— <sup>11</sup> that the house of Israel may no more go astray from me, nor defile themselves anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be my people and I may be their God, declares the Lord GOD.”

### Suggested Questions for Small Groups

1. In what areas of life do you tend to consider all your options before making a commitment?
2. What message was Ezekiel instructed to give the elders about their duplicity? (14:4)
3. What did God hope to accomplish by answering the elders Himself? (14:5)
4. What did God desire from His people? (14:11)
5. When can we inquire of God and receive an answer?
6. What did the elders fail to take into account when they consulted God in the presence of Ezekiel?
7. What are some practical ways to discover whether you have set up any idols in your heart?

Next Sunday, May 9th, 2010: Ten Commandments  
Part 4 Lord's Name



### This Morning's Scripture Reading:

*Paul Addresses the Areopagus*

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’;  
as even some of your own poets have said,  
“ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” -- Acts 17:22-31

If the first commandment focused on \_\_\_\_\_ we worship, the second commandment focuses on \_\_\_\_\_ we worship.

I. True worship is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exodus 20:4**

<sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

**Deut. 4:15-19**

<sup>15</sup>“Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, <sup>16</sup>beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, <sup>17</sup>the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, <sup>18</sup>the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. <sup>19</sup>And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

II. True worship is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ex. 20:5**

<sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, ...

**Westminster Confession of Faith Larger Catechism**

**Question 108:** What are the duties required in the second commandment?

**Answer:** The duties required in the second commandment are, the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God has instituted in his Word; particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the Word; the administration and receiving of the sacraments; church government and discipline; the ministry and maintenance thereof; religious fasting; swearing by the name of God, and vowing unto him; as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing, all false worship; and, according to each one's place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry. (Deut. 32:46-47; Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 6:13-14; Phil. 4:6; Eph. 5:20)

III. True worship \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ex. 20:5b-6**

... visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

**Deut. 4:25-29**

<sup>25</sup>“When you father children and children's children, and have grown old in the land, if you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, so as to provoke him to anger, <sup>26</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. <sup>27</sup>And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. <sup>28</sup>And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. <sup>29</sup>But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Deut. 32:46**

He said to them, “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law.

IV. True worship reveals our \_\_\_\_\_.

**1John 5:20-21**

20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.