

# THE CONTROVERSIAL 10 COMMANDMENTS?

- There is NO such title in the Bible as “The 10 Commandments”
- **Mitzvah** also does NOT appear in Exodus 20
- **Mitzvah** = ruling
- **Dabar** = word
- Original 1<sup>st</sup> commandment is:
- “***I am Yehoveh your God who brought you out of Egypt....***”





# Two Versions of 10 Commandments

- JEWISH version uses original Biblical numbering of commands.

1<sup>st</sup> commandment is “*I am Yahweh your Elohim, who brought you out of Egypt...*”

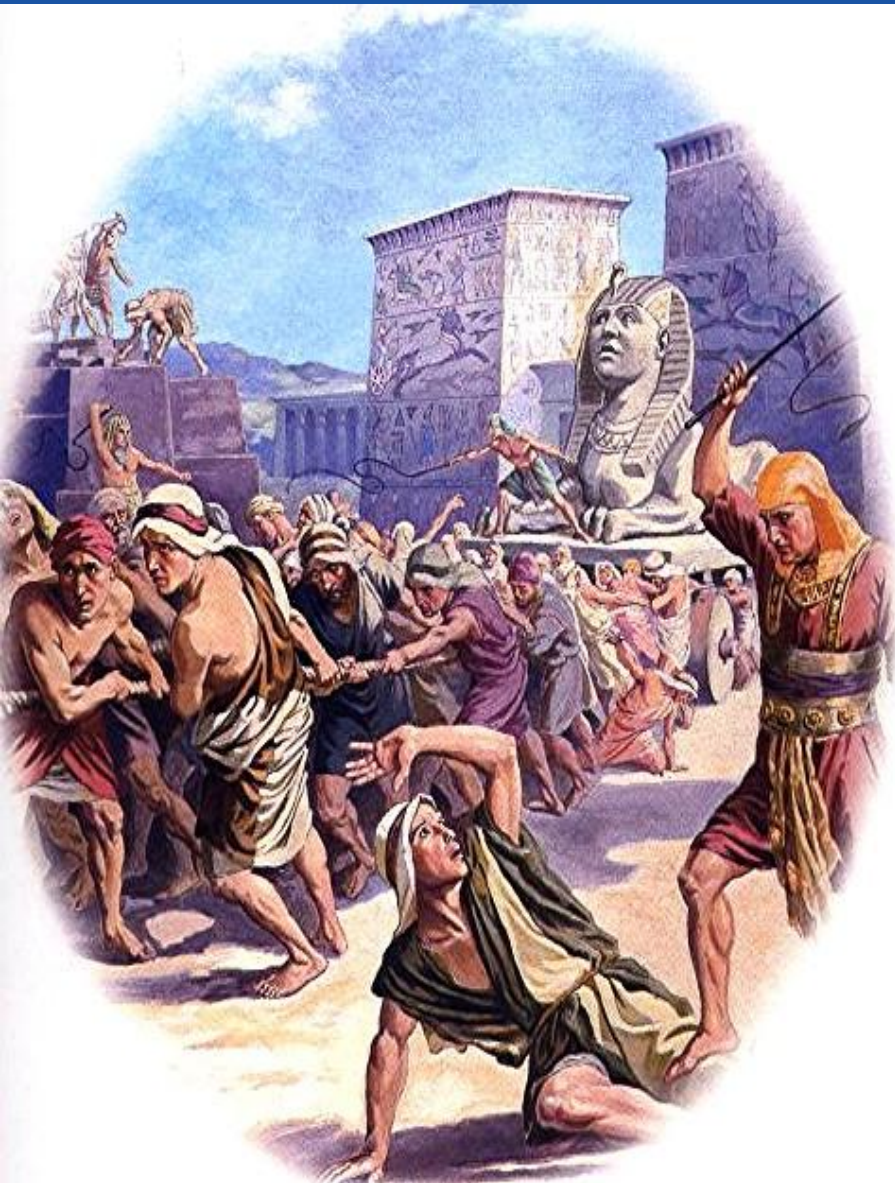
Traditional CHRISTIAN version does NOT use Biblical numbering, therefore our 1<sup>st</sup> command is the Biblical 2<sup>nd</sup> Command:

“*You shall have no other gods before me..*”





# 1<sup>st</sup> WORD EX. 20:2



- ***"I am YHWH your God..."***
- Yehoveh makes clear it is HE who is speaking
- HE is the God of Israel, the same God who delivered Israel from Egypt
- The Mosaic Covenant is with ISRAEL, and all who join themselves to Israel
- Our redemption brings obligations
- FIRST redemption, THEN obligations



# 2<sup>nd</sup> WORD

# EX. 20:3-6

- ***“You are to have no other gods....”***
- 4 principles within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word:
  - a) NO other gods
  - b) NO making symbols of deity
  - c) NO worshipping of symbols
  - d) Punishment for violation





# THE KEY to THE 2<sup>nd</sup> WORD



- Prohibition against making symbols of deity INCLUDES YHWH
- Reasonable to view 2<sup>nd</sup> Word as referring PRIMARILY to YHWH
- Vs. 20 deals more specifically with prohibition against “other gods”.
- YHWH cannot be adequately represented in image
- He is NOT part of all things, He is ABOVE all things



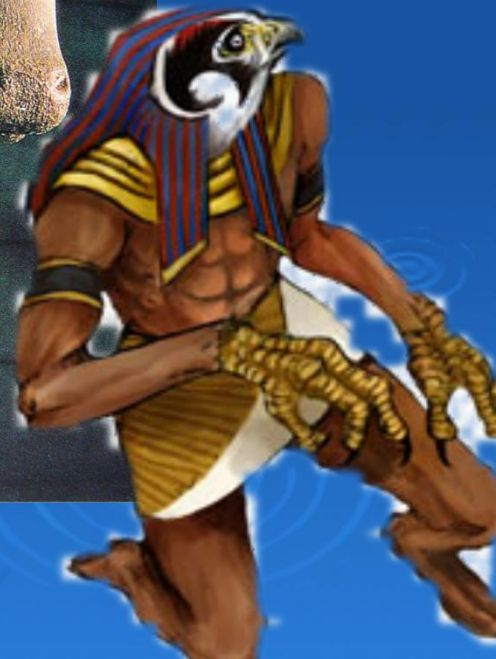
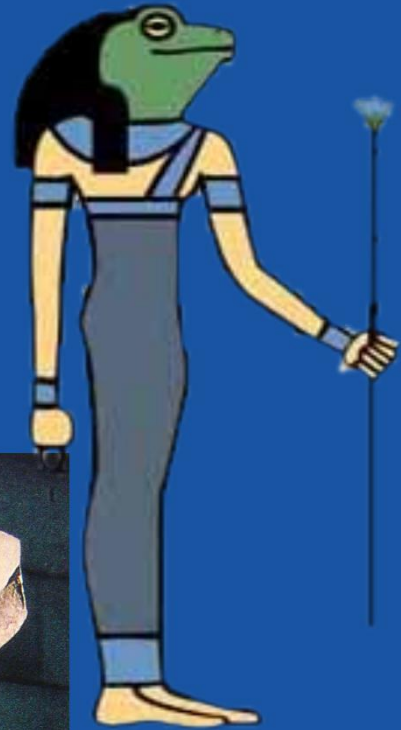
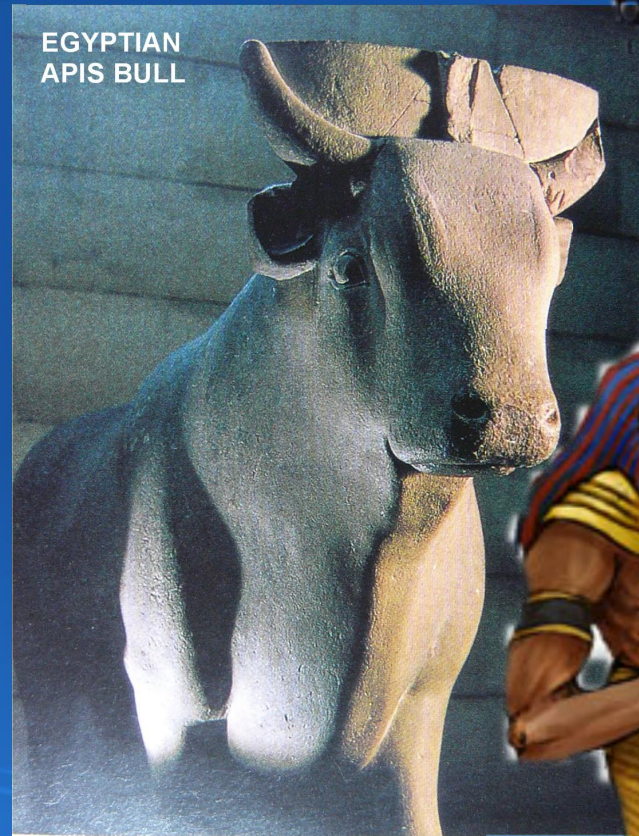
# Symbols, Images, Representations

- Concept of NO images is new
- Stars, Sun, Moon, animals, humans, and hybrid animal/human
- Some symbols were “likenesses”, while others represented attributes
- Most symbols were “borrowed”, copied, renamed and used by other cultures



# ***NOTHING*** ***from the Heavens, the dry earth,*** ***or beneath the sea***

- ALL gods had some kind of visible representation
- Without an image, how was worship even possible?!
- Hebrews did NOT know how to take this command
- Gods used creatures as images of their various attributes





# PROHIBITION AGAINST GOD-IMAGE IS REVOLUTIONARY

ISHTAR

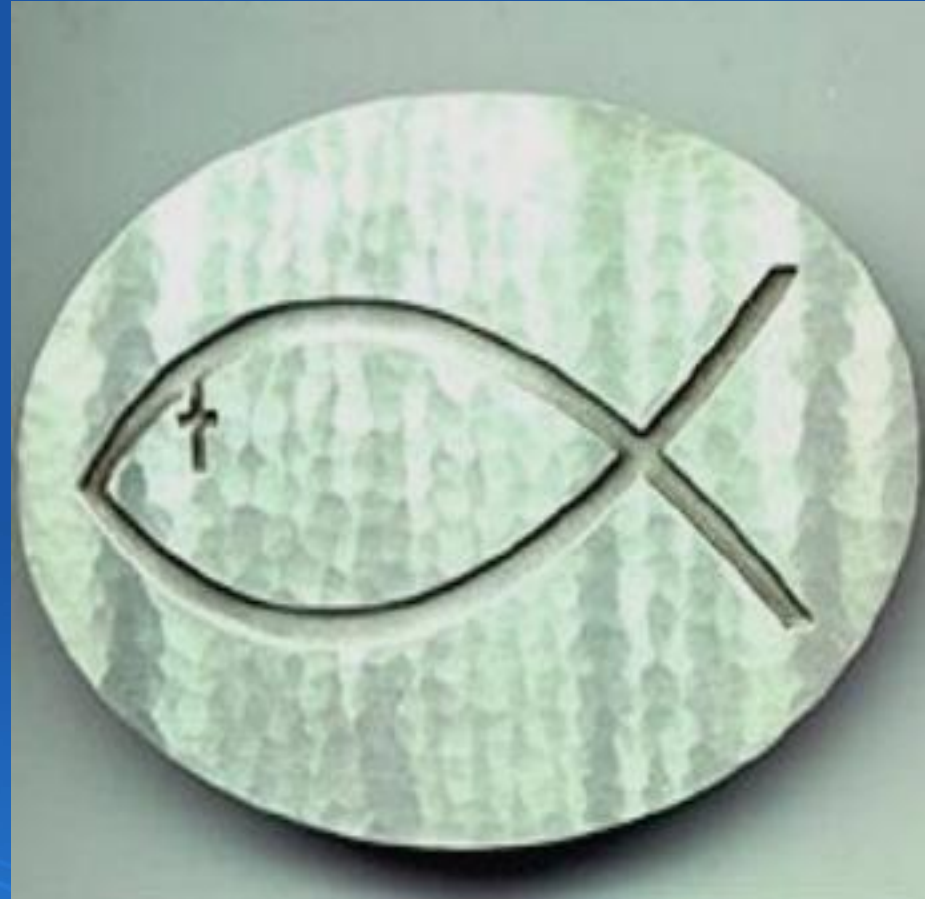


- Most “new” symbols are OLD symbols adopted and renamed
- Ishtar, goddess of fertility
- Astarte, Western European name for Ishtar
- Ashtoreth, Bible era name for Ishtar



# HOW ABOUT OUR CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS?

- Is not a fish a *sea animal*?
- Yet....we don't WORSHIP the fish symbol, do we?
- Does this violate the letter or the spirit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment?







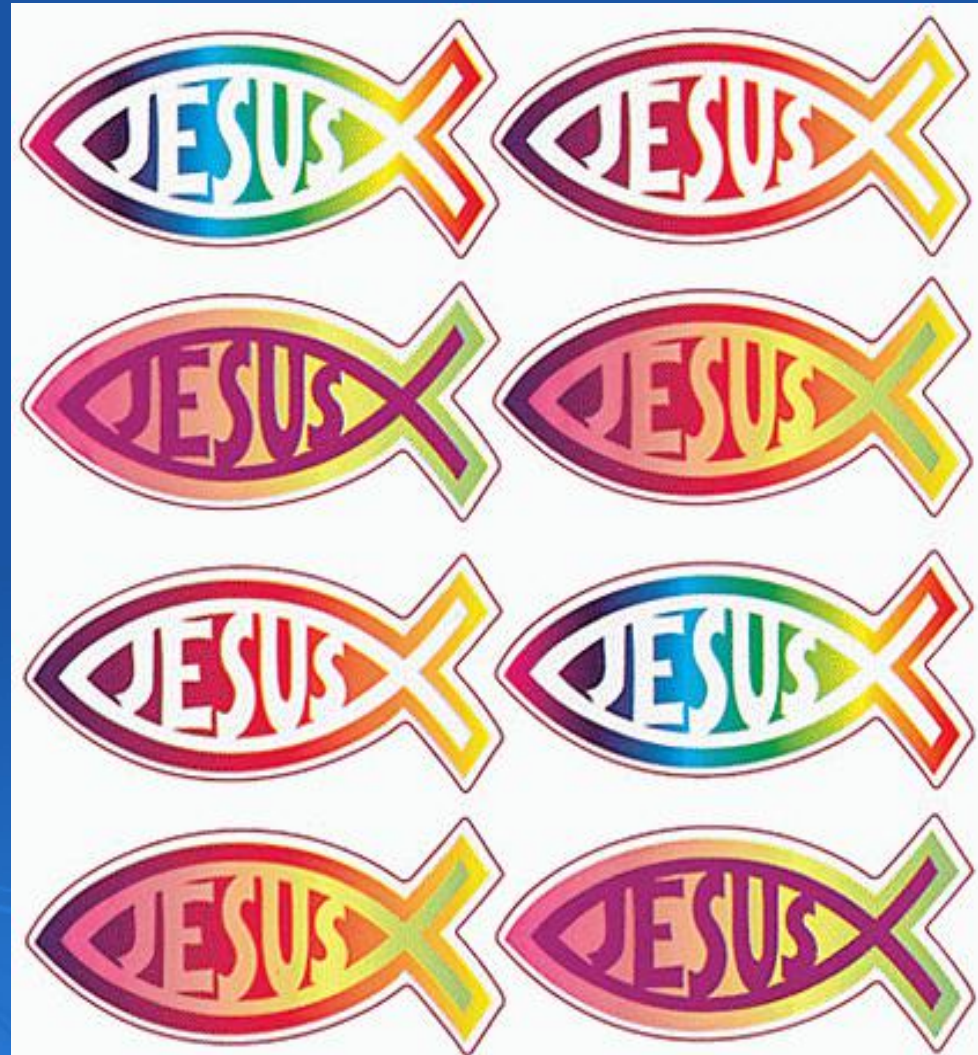






# IS NOT YESHUA, GOD?

- Some say the fish symbol represents Christianity and NOT Jesus...apparently not so with many Believers!
- We are ALWAYS comfortable with our OWN symbols, we just have a problem with OTHER people's symbols!
- We may have a justifiable meaning about those symbols...but what does it represent to OTHERS?







FISH = IXΘUS  
(IN GREEK)

I	=	JESUS
X	=	CHRIST
Θ	=	GOD'S
U	=	SON
S	=	OUR SAVIOR

JESUS CHRIST • GOD'S SON • OUR SAVIOR

# WILDERNESS TABERNACLE

- None of the items were designed to represent the Godhead
- YHWH ordained the design of the items and NONE violated His principles
- Israel could NEVER stop slipping back into idolatry as they at time adopted symbols of their pagan neighbors





# TWO Instructions about symbols

*WORSHIPPING a symbol is NOT the only issue*

## Instruction #1:

DO NOT MAKE SYMBOLS of DEITY  
(particularly of Yahweh)

## Instruction #2:

DO NOT WORSHIP ANY SYMBOLS

**ANALOGY:** Making anything more important than God  
is making those things “gods”...IDOLATRY!

# EXODUS 20 vs. 5

*“...for I, YHWH your God, am a JEALOUS God...”*

TWO words in Hebrew often translated as “jealous”

- 1) Qanna used EXCLUSIVELY in reference to God.  
NO rivals, NO sins acceptable. More means  
“Passionate” or “Impassioned”
- 2) Qinah used in reference to HUMANS.  
Petty. Rival lovers. Envy of wealth.



# EXODUS 20 vs. 6

- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations is Hebrew expression...means “for some time, but not forever”
- 1000<sup>th</sup> generation is Hebrew expression...means “forever”
- Yahweh sees violation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Word as “HATING” Him
- Also sees obedience of 2<sup>nd</sup> Word as “LOVING” Him

# 3<sup>rd</sup> WORD EX. 20:7

***“You are not to use lightly (in vain) the NAME of Yahweh your God...”***

- **“GOD”** is NOT God’s name!
- GOD’S NAME IS **YHWH**
- In Hebrew, “in vain” is shav. Means false, or worthless, or careless
- Jews will often write the word as G-d
- Hebrews pronounced and wrote YHWH until sometime between 500 – 300 B.C

