

# The First Commandment

By Tim Czapiewski

**Lesson:** As we spend significant time with any person, we become aware of their likes and dislikes. Mankind has been created by God and all are part of the Creator's family by HIS choice. As we become aware of our place as His children, we discover how He teaches us right from wrong like a father.

1. Does God alter the consequences for anyone who ignores His Commandments? (Galatians 6:7-8).  
\_\_\_\_(Yes) or \_\_\_\_ (No)

2. What is the First Commandment? (Exodus 20:3)

3. What two sins did the Israelites commit after they reached the Promised Land? (Judges 2:8-13)

4. What circumstances occurred that alerted the Israelites of God's displeasure? (Judges 2:12-15)

- God is our true source of happiness -

5. "He that hath the \_\_\_\_ hath \_\_\_\_; and he that hath not the \_\_\_\_ of God hath not \_\_\_\_" (1 John 5:12).



**Note:** Your soul is like a rechargeable device that must be replenished on a daily basis. It is Satan's constant work to create false outlets that promise to refresh the soul. Sadly, these false outlets leave man powerless, frustrated, and empty. Because God desires us to experience the greatest amount of happiness in life, He commands us to abandon every false source of power.

6. What two instruments does God use to help His children to abandon trust in false gods? (Isaiah 30:20-21)

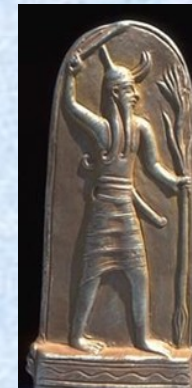
7. Why does God allow trouble to arise within the lives of His children?  
"As many as I \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Revelation 3:19).

8. By submitting to God's discipline, how will we feel about the false outlets of happiness that have separated us from him? (Isaiah 30:22)

- The false god's of the Israelites -



Hundreds of years before the arrival of the Israelites to the area we call Palestine lived the Canaanites. This agricultural society attributed their prosperity through their faithful devotion to a mysterious goddess claiming to be mother of god. **Ashteroth (Star)** was the name commonly used to describe her by the Israelites. This legendary figure was venerated much to the same degree as Catholics venerate Mary today as queen of heaven.



It was believed that - **Baal** - (god of thunder and rain) was the holy child of Ashteroth. Both Ashteroth and Baal were historical figures who had rebelled against God's authority soon after Noah's flood. After the rebellion, Baal was killed. His followers claimed that he had gone to heaven and as long as they kept Baal's commandments, he would send the rains upon the earth at the proper time.

The life of a Baal worshiper was a life filled with constant anxiety. To ensure temporal prosperity, men and women would consent to anything the priests of Baal required, often submitting themselves to degrading sexual acts, even sacrificing their own children in order to make Baal happy. By constantly exposing themselves to the violent and sensual nature of this worship, the attributes of God were purged from their hearts. For this reason, the Israelites were forbidden to have close association with Baal worshipers.

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