

Go Deeper . . .

Use these questions for further study individually or in a small group

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.” Ex 20:2-3

This command sets a clear expectation that YHWH is the only “elohim” (a god or spiritual being) Israel is allowed to worship and serve. While the idea of other gods existing is a strange one for many in the modern West, it was the assumed reality of the scriptures and of the people living in ancient times.

Why is it important to recognize that other spiritual beings and powers (elohim) exist in the world?

What are the potential dangers of ignoring this reality?

Why would humans be tempted to worship spiritual beings other than YHWH God?

What distinguishes YHWH from all the other supernatural powers and spiritual beings in the world? (see Psalms 95 & 135)

Why is it more important to be in full submission to YHWH than to simply understand that YHWH is the greatest elohim?

The first command (Ex 20:2-3) and the Greatest command (Duet 6:4-5) both teach that God demands our total loyalty. Nothing else and no one else is to compete with our love, worship, service, and devotion to Him.

Is it right for God to demand this level of exclusivity? Why/Why not?

Anything can become an idol or false god in our life, even good things like work, family, sex, security, prosperity, love of country, nature, art, music, sports, and more.

- How do we know when our loves are becoming disordered and approaching the level of idolatry?

- How can we actively guard against this?

Take time to carefully and prayerfully consider if there is anything in your life that is competing with God for your love, loyalty, and service. Pay careful attention to those things you give significant energy, thought, praise, money, and time to.

If there is anywhere you need to repent, take time to do so.

Additional Resources: To learn more about what the scriptures teach on Elohim and spiritual beings watch the following videos:

bibleproject.com/explore/video/intro-spiritual-beings/
bibleproject.com/explore/video/elohim/

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