

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

“The Image of God”

Exod 20:4-6

- 4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.
- 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them: for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,
- 6 but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. (NIV)

Israel’s idolatry is proverbial. Not that the nations are any better. It’s just that Israel was called to worship the one true God. You will recall that even as Moses was getting the first set of tablets to take down to the people, they had already made a molten calf to worship!

A story of Israel’s early history in the land gives us an example of their proclivity towards idol worship.

Judg 17:1-4

- 1 Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.
- 2 And he said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears—here is the silver with me; I took it.” And his mother said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!”
- 3 So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, “I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you.”
- 4 Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved and molded image; and they were in the house of Micah. (NKJ)

A strange household indeed! Forget the theft for the moment (after all, Micah did confess and make restitution). The mother commissioned the casting of an idol to worship the Lord! This is truly the pathway to hell paved in good intentions! Furthermore, she says she had consecrated the whole to the Lord for her son. The whole was 1100 (11 is the number of lawlessness, 100 of absolute fruitfulness; 11 x 100). She took 200 and had an idol made.

Judg 17:5-6

- 5 The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.
- 6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was in his own eyes. (NKJ)

One false god is usually not enough. Micah set up idols and his own system of worship (otherwise known as a religion). The refrain of verse 6 is a major theme in Judges, “there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

Judg 17:7-13

- 7 Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.
- 8 The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn wherever he could find a place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.
- 9 And Micah said to him, "Where did you come from?" So he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay."
- 10 Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.
- 11 Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him.
- 12 So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah.
- 13 Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!" (NKJ)

Had Israel been following the law with regard to tithes, it is doubtful that this young Levite would have had to go searching for sustenance. It is interesting to note Micah's sentiment in verse 13. Even when setting up false worship, it is helpful to have the right pedigree for a priest. Oblivious to the offence of his idol worship, he believes that the Lord will bless him because he now has a Levite priest. Would this qualify as "having the form of godliness but denying the power thereof?"

Judg 18:1-2

- 1 In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.
- 2 So the children of Dan sent five men of their family from their territory, men of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and search it. They said to them, "Go, search the land." So they went to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.

A little background on Dan's predicament:

Judg 1:34

The Amorites confined the Danites to the hill country, not allowing them to come down into the plain. (NIV)

Josh 19:40-47

- 40 The seventh lot came out for the tribe of Dan, clan by clan.
- 41 The territory of their inheritance included: Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh,
- 42 Shaalabbin, Aihalon, Ithlah,
- 43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron,
- 44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,
- 45 Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon,
- 46 Me Jarkon and Rakkon, with the area facing Joppa.

47 (But the Danites had difficulty taking possession of their territory, so they went up and attacked Leshem, took it, put it to the sword and occupied it. They settled in Leshem and named it Dan after their forefather.) (NIV)

The tribe of Dan lacked faith to walk into their inheritance. Instead of taking on the “ites” of the plains as directed by God, they sought after and occupied easier prey.

Judg 18:3-6

3 While they were at the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. They turned aside and said to him, “Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?”

4 He said to them, “Thus and so Micah did for me. He has hired me, and I have become his priest.”

5 So they said to him, “Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous.

6 And the priest said to them, “Go in peace. The presence of the LORD be with you on your way.” (NKJ)

The Danites are on a mission that is not within the will of God. Their inheritance was already marked out. Not satisfied with the destiny given to them by God, they seek fulfillment by some other means. In their journey, they recognize the voice of the Levite. Here is our first clue that this young Levite is no ordinary Levite. Dan’s assigned place was south of Judah. The Levite had moved out of Judah north into the country of Ephraim. He confesses to the spies that he is a bought priest and that he serves at an idol shrine. Their response? Ask the Lord if He is going to bless our journey! He says the Lord is with them. Why?

Ezek 14:1-11

14:1 Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me.

2 Then the word of the LORD came to me:

3 "Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?

4 Therefore speak to them and tell them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry.

5 I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.'

6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!

7 "'When any Israelite or any alien living in Israel separates himself from me and sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet to inquire of me, I the LORD will answer him myself.

8 I will set my face against that man and make him an example and a byword. I will cut him off from my people. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

9 "'And if the prophet is enticed to utter a prophecy, I the LORD have enticed that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and destroy him from among my people Israel.

10 They will bear their guilt-the prophet will be as guilty as the one who consults him.

11 Then the people of Israel will no longer stray from me, nor will they defile themselves anymore with all their sins. They will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Sovereign LORD." (NIV)

I believe this is the sort of situation that we see in I Kings 22 with King Ahab of Israel, King Jehoshaphat of Judah and Micaiah the Prophet. The kings had been answered in accordance to the idol in their hearts (success in battle is what they wanted to hear) [Do we want to from the Lord or do we want to hear what we want to hear?] in order to entice them to their judgment.

Judg 18:7-20

7 So the five men departed and went to Laish. They saw the people who were there, how they dwelt safely, in the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure. There were no rulers in the land who might put them to shame for anything. They were far from the Sidonians, and they had no ties with anyone.

8 Then the spies came back to their brethren at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brethren said to them, "What is your report?"

9 So they said, "Arise, let us go up against them. For we have seen the land, and indeed it is very good. Would you do nothing? Do not hesitate to go, and enter to possess the land.

10 When you go, you will come to a secure people and a large land. For God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth."

11 And six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war.

12 Then they went up and encamped in Kirjath Jearim in Judah. (Therefore they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. There it is, west of Kirjath Jearim.)

13 And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

14 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, "Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do."

15 So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite man — to the house of Micah — and greeted him.

16 The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.

17 Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, they took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image. The priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war.

18 When these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

19 And they said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?"

20 So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people. (NKJ)

The young man had sold his services before for sustenance. Now he does so for prestige. With a glad heart, he steals the idols of his employer and heads out with the tribe of Dan.

Judg 18:22-27

- 22 When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan.
- 23 And they called out to the children of Dan. So they turned around and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?"
- 24 So he said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. Now what more do I have? How can you say to me, 'What ails you?'"
- 25 And the children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry men fall upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household!"
- 26 Then the children of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house.
- 27 So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure [NIV –peaceful and unsuspecting people]; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire. (NKJ)

Dan moves from unbelief (not taking their inheritance), to idolatry, to theft, to the threat of murder, to the unnecessary genocide of a peaceful and unsuspecting people.

Judg 18:28-31 (NIV)

- 28 There was no one to rescue them because they lived a long way from Sidon and had no relationship with anyone else. The city was in a valley near Beth Rehob. The Danites rebuilt the city and settled there.
- 29 They named it Dan after their forefather Dan, who was born to Israel-though the city used to be called Laish.
- 30 There the Danites set up for themselves the idols, and Jonathan son of Gershom, the son of Moses, and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan until the time of the captivity of the land.
- 31 They continued to use the idols Micah had made, all the time the house of God was in Shiloh.

This priest was none other than Moses' grandson! His pedigree gave prestige to their pretentious worship of idols. All the while, the house of God was in Shiloh. The tribe of Dan, unable to please the true God by faith took unto themselves false gods to walk into an inheritance not granted to them. A land that was good, but not the best that the Lord had intended them to have.

1 Chron 23:14-16

- 14 The sons of Moses the man of God were counted as part of the tribe of Levi.
- 15 The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer.
- 16 The descendants of Gershom: Shubael was the first. (NIV)

As Dan loses his place in Revelation 7, so Jonathan is not mentioned in the Levitical genealogy. Following after idols causes us to lose our inheritance and the very remembrance of our names. Dan's idolitry led them to the north country, first in the line of judgment and captivity. Not only were the images that Micah had cast a snare unto them, their own plans were a snare to them as well, an idol of their heart.

In our culture, fulfillment of the second commandment would seem to be simple enough. How often in America do you see people bowing down to statues? But we have a more insidious problem.

Num 33:51-53

51 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into Canaan,
52 drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you. Destroy all their **carved images**² and their **cast**³ **idols**¹, and demolish all their high places.

53 Take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given you the land to possess. (NIV)

Brown, Diver, Brigg's definition-

4906 **maskiyth**²- a show-piece, a figure, an imagination, an idol, a picture

a) a show-piece, a carved figure (of idols)

b) imagination, conceit

Ps 73:7 "These fat cats have everything their hearts **could ever wish for**²!" (TLB)

Ps 73:7 "Their eye bulges from fatness; the **imagination**² of {their} heart run riot." (NAS)

Prov 18:11-12

11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, And like a high wall in his own **esteem**².

12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility. (NKJ)

Prov 18:11-12

11 The rich man thinks of his wealth as an impregnable defense, a high wall of safety. **What a dreamer**²!

12 Pride ends in destruction; humility ends in honor. (TLB)

Prov 18:11

The rich man's wealth is his strong city, And as a high wall in his own **imagination**². (ASV)

Ezek 8:12

12 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.'" (NIV)

*These uses of **mashiyth** in Scripture clearly show that the imaginations of the heart are idols sure as carved images are idols. In our culture, the idols of the heart are the most subtle groves of spiritual adultery.*

Strong's definition-

4541 **maccekah**³ (mas-say-kaw'); from **5258**; properly, a pouring over, i.e. fusion of metal (especially a cast image); by implication, a libation, i.e. league; concretely a coverlet (as if poured out): KJV—covering, molten (image), vail.

5258 nacak (naw-sak); a primitive root; to pour out, especially a libation, or to cast (metal); by analogy, to anoint a king: KJV—cover, melt, offer, (cause to) pour (out), set (up).

Isa 25:6-8

6 On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines.

7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the **sheet**³ that covers all nations; [KJV- the veil that is spread over all nations.]

8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. (NIV)

The Lord uses the same word used to describe the molded idols as the veil that covers all nations. A veil obscures (as in 2 Corinthians 3, it hides the glory of God) and smothers. This veil, says He, is none other than death. How can death be an idol?

Heb 2:14-15

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil-

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (NIV)

*That to which you are a slave you serve. One of the highest terms of Christian devotion is the Greek word **doulos**, a bondsman, one bound to serve. The term “slavery” here in Hebrews is a form of this word. When we willingly sell ourselves out to the service of the Lord, we are **doulos**. That would be a lifestyle of worship. What is it when we are bound to the fear of death? We make decisions that serve fear, i.e. worship it.*

Fear is a major ingredient in worship.

Ex 20:19-20

19 and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." (NIV)

In Genesis 31:42,53, Jacob describes God as “the Fear of Isaac.”

Ps 119:120

120 “My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.” (NIV)

Eccl 12:13-14

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (NIV)

Ps 5:7

7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. (NKJ)

Ps 2:11-12

11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. (NIV)

Prov 9:10

10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (NIV)

Ps 90:11-12 [A psalm of Moses]

11 Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

12 Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (NIV)

The above is a correct sentiment with regard to fear, death, and the fear of the Lord. Death is not to be feared. He who we meet on the other side of death is the One we should fear.

Matt 10:28

28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (NIV)

Jer 32:38-40

38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God;

39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them.

40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me. (NKJ)

Part of the everlasting covenant is to have the fear of the Lord in our hearts, for the purpose of departing from God. The blood for the everlasting covenant wasn't the blood of bulls as with the old covenant (Ex. 24:3-8). It was the blood of the Lamb of God.

Heb 13:20-21

20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (NKJ)

As we read in Hebrews 2, it was through this blood (the death of Jesus) that we were set free from the fear of death. Seeking release from this fear by any other means is idolatry.

Isa 28:15-19

15 You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place."

16 So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

17 I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.

18 Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the grave will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it.

19 As often as it comes it will carry you away; morning after morning, by day and by night, it will sweep through." The understanding of this message will bring sheer terror. (NIV)

Isa 30:1-3

1 "Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise **plans**³, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;

2 Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have not asked My advice, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt!

3 Therefore the strength of Pharaoh shall be your shame, and trust in the shadow of Egypt shall be your humiliation. (NKJ)

To devise plans without the Spirit of God is to have an idol of the heart. In contrast, when we heed the leading of the Spirit, we defile our idols.

Isa 30:19-22

19 O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.

20 Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.

21 Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

22 Then you will defile your idols overlaid with silver and your **images covered**³ with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, "Away with you!" (NIV)

By following the leading of the Holy Spirit we can defile the idols of the heart (and any graven images as well!).

2 Cor 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (NKJ)

If we walk after the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The letter of the law brings death, as does disobedience to it. Our only road is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the spirit of the law in our lives. For our lives to be changed, they must be forfeit.

Mark 10:17

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (NIV)

This rich young man was very pious. He is seeking the Lord. He falls down on his knees and in apparent desperation, asks what he must do to receive eternal life.

Matt 19:17-19

17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony,

19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" (NIV)

Mark 10:19

19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" (NIV)

Doing good without knowing or considering the only One who is good and what His Requirements are is useless. Note, Jesus directs the young man to consider the horizontal laws [Jesus puts honor your father and mother with these]. Defrauding (keeping back that due to others) is a manifestation of greed and covetousness. The rich young ruler wanted to know what commandments he had to fulfill. The law is an all or nothing proposal!

Mark 10:20-22

20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. (NIV)

Matt 19:20-21

20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?"

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (NIV)

Both Jesus and the man knew that he had a lack in his life. He was devout in religious matters, behaving toward his fellowman in accordance to the law of God. But full maturity eluded him. In love, Jesus exposed the idol of his heart, his great wealth. Interesting how the Lord moved up through the law. He began with the six relational laws and moved up to the devotional laws. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength is encapsulated in his counsel to the young man to sell all he had and give it you the poor and follow Jesus. But his love of his riches was greater than his hunger for God. He was sad, knowing what he had to do, but unwilling to yield.

Mark 10:23-31

- 23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"
- 24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!
- 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
- 26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"
- 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
- 28 Peter said to him, "We have left everything to follow you!"
- 29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel
- 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields-and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.
- 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first." (NIV)

None of our relations or possessions can come ahead of our devotion and following the of the Lord Jesus. He demands our full affection. He also rewards full devotion.

Matt 16:24-27

- 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.
- 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.
- 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?
- 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. (NIV)

The deceitfulness of riches choke out the word of God and cause it to be unfruitful (Matt.13:22). This young man was deceived. He considered himself devout, sold out to God and blessed by Him. Then the Lord put his finger on that which he truly loved. Because we have been set free from the fear of death, we can live our lives for him.

Rev 12:11

- 11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (NIV)

To understand and believe the law of Moses is to have our faith increased:

John 5:46-6:1

- 46 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.
- 47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?" (NIV)

Rom 10:17

- 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. (NIV)

The Lord strictly forbids the fabrication of images of worship. He has provided his own image for us to bow down and worship.

Num 12:8

8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the **form**² of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" (NIV)

Moses saw the form of the Lord, as in a shadow or shape.

Deut 4:12-19

12 Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no **form**²; there was only a voice.

13 He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets.

14 And the LORD directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

15 You saw no **form**² of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully,

16 so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an **image**² of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman,

17 or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air,

18 or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below.

19 And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars — all the heavenly array — do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the LORD your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. (NIV)

Since the Israelites had seen no form, it was useless of them to try to represent God by a visible image. In idolatry, the image is supposed to be the contact point between the spirit and physical realm. The Lord had only given them His Word.

John 1:1-3, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NIV)

This word later became flesh, the full expression of the image of God.

John 14:6-10

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"
10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. (NIV)

Gen 1:27

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (NIV)

Adam was created in the image of God, but he was just a figure or pattern for Christ.

Rom 5:14

Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a **pattern**³ of the one to come. (NIV)

Strong's definition-

5179 **tupos**³ (too'-pos); from 5180; a die (as struck), i.e. (by implication) a stamp or scar; by analogy, a shape, i.e. a statue, (figuratively) style or resemblance; specifically, a sampler ("type"), i.e. a model (for imitation) or instance (for warning): KJV—en- ex-) ample, fashion, figure, form, manner, pattern, print.

Thayer's definition-

5179 **tupos**³-

- 1) the mark of a stroke or blow, a print
- 2) a figure formed by a blow or impression
 - a) used of a figure or image
 - b) used of the image of the gods

3) form:

the teaching which embodies the sum and substance of religion and represents it to the mind, the manner of writing, the contents and form of a letter

4) an example:

- a) in the technical sense, the pattern in conformity to which a thing must be made
- b) in an ethical sense, a dissuasive example, a pattern of warning; used of ruinous events which serve as admonitions or warnings to others
- c) an example to be imitated; used of people who are worthy of imitation
- d) in a doctrinal sense; used of a type, that is, a person or thing prefiguring a future (Messianic) person or a thing

Heb 8:5

They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." (NIV)

The pattern was the plan for the building of the tabernacle. If Moses had actually drawn up blue prints, the actual tabernacle was greater than the print. Both the print and the tabernacle were but a shadow of the real thing in heaven. In such a way was Adam just a shadow of Christ.

Heb 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (NIV)

Jesus is not simply the image of God. He is the exact representation of his being. He who has seen Jesus has seen the father. It is a principle that we become like that which we worship.

Ps 115:3-8

3 Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.

4 But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men.

5 They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see;

6 they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell;

7 they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats.

8 Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. (NIV)

Jer 2:5

5 This is what the LORD says: "What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. (NIV)

Hosea 9:10

"When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree. But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved. (NIV)

This is why we must worship God and not idols. We must behold his glory to be changed into his glory.

2 Cor 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)