

110. Q. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it?

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it, contained in these words, *For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments;* are, besides God's sovereignty over us, and propriety in us, his fervent zeal for his own worship, and his revengeful indignation against all false worship, as being spiritual whoredom; accounting the breakers of this commandment such as hate him, and threatening to punish them unto divers generations; and esteeming the observers of it such as love him and keep his commandments, and promising mercy to them unto many generations.

Commentary

1. What is meant by "God's sovereignty over us, and propriety in us"?
 - a. God's sovereignty is his absolute authority (inherent in the name JEHOVAH)
 - b. God's propriety is his right as the one who owns us. (remember God's reminder to Israel at the beginning of the Decalogue that he is the one who "brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery") God as redeemer for his son Israel is both adoptive Father and conquering King.
2. What is meant by God's "fervent zeal for his own worship"?
 - a. Jehovah is a "jealous God"
 - b. God is jealous for that which he is due. He is due all worship from the creatures he has created.

c. He is jealous not only for worship, but for RIGHT worship; worship as he has commanded it. The second commandment teaches that worship that is not in accordance with God's Word is actually worship of the creature, rather than the creator. He is rightfully jealous that his worship would be given to another. (Isaiah 42:8)

3. What is God's attitude toward all false worship?

a. "revengeful indignation"

b. Wrath poured out on idolators is a consistent testimony throughout the Testaments, Old and New. (Deut. 4:23-28; Psalm 78:58-59; Romans 1:18-25; Revelation 14:9-11)

4. What figure of speech is often used in the Bible to bring out the hateful wickedness of false worship?

a. Idolatry = adultery

b. God represents himself as the husband to Israel, his bride

c. When Israel turns to the worship of idols, as opposed to the worship of God, she is engaging in virtual prostitution. Hosea is an entire book dedicated to this picture of Israel's idolatry (Hos. 2:2-4)

d. We see once again the righteousness of God's jealousy in the face of idolatry. He is jealous just as a husband would rightly be jealous for the covenantal love of his wife.

5. Is it unjust for God to visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generations?

a. The iniquity is visited on those who 'hate him'. God does not judge the righteous for the sins of the unrighteous. (Ezekiel 18)

b. All men are inheritors of the 'generational curse' of their father Adam. As such we are all haters of God and under his judgement.

6. What is the meaning of the promise of God's "showing mercy unto thousands" of those that love him, and keep his commandments?

a. 'thousands' could rightfully be understood as 'a thousand generations'

- b. God indicates a difference in the magnitude of his mercy up against his wrath (3-4 generations vs. thousands)
 - c. This blessing falls upon the generations of Christ (Abraham's spiritual seed)
7. What should be our attitude to the worship of God, in view of the reasons annexed to the second commandment?
- a. We should give appropriate concern and care to worshipping God in the way he has commanded.
 - b. We should worship him in great gratitude, seeing how great the blessing of God has fallen upon us (former haters of God) due to the righteousness of the one man Jesus Christ (the only man to ever truly love God).

Comparison of Old and New Covenants

	Partakers	Blessings	Conditions	Curses	Relation of the Law	Surety
Old Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hebrew Israel - Abraham's physical seed - Circumcised in flesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Destruction of enemies - Inheritance of Canaan - Physical blessings - Theocracy external 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evangelical obedience* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disobedience results in curse - Loss of physical blessing - Exile - Loss of Theocracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External - Declares God as holy - Condemns men as sinful - Demonstrates the need for a savior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No surety given
New Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christian Israel - Abraham's spiritual seed - Circumcised in heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation from sin and Satan - Heavenly Inheritance - Spiritual blessings - Theocracy internal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unconditional** - Predicated on God's promise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All curses removed - Christ becomes our curse - We gain every spiritual blessing - Theocracy is everlasting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written on the heart; God empowers the keeping - Drives the elect to Christ - Demonstrates the perfection of Christ, the severity of the curse he bore, the blessedness of elect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christ is the guarantee - As lamb and priest he insures that Christian Israel will never break his covenant