



THE COVENANT FRAMEWORK

One God. One King. One Allegiance.

Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7

Theme:

Absolute allegiance to YHWH, the covenant King — no divided loyalty, no rivals, no false worship. This is the core identity marker of God's people. Everything else in the Torah flows from this command.

Positive Mitzvot (Do's)

- Know that God exists – Exod. 20:2
- Acknowledge God's absolute unity – Deut. 6:4
- Love the LORD with heart, soul, strength – Deut. 6:5
- Fear/Revere the LORD – Deut. 10:20
- Serve Him (through prayer, obedience, wholehearted devotion) – Exod. 23:25
- Cling to Him – Deut. 10:20; 11:22
- Swear by His Name truthfully – Deut. 6:13; 10:20
- Walk in His ways – Deut. 28:9; 11:22
- Sanctify His Name – Lev. 22:32
- Purge idolatry from your sphere – Deut. 12:2–3
- Burn the 'city led astray' (ancient Israelite theocracy) – Deut. 13:12–18

Negative Mitzvot (Do Not's)

- Do not have/accept other gods – Exod. 20:3; Deut. 5:7
- Do not make carved images for worship – Exod. 20:4; Deut. 5:8; Lev. 26:1
- Do not bow to or serve idols – Exod. 20:5
- Do not worship in pagan ways – Deut. 12:30–31
- Do not turn to idols – Lev. 19:4
- Do not keep or benefit from idolatrous objects – Deut. 7:25–26
- Do not erect a pillar or plant an Asherah – Deut. 16:21–22
- Do not make a figured stone to prostrate on – Lev. 26:1
- Do not pass children to Molech – Lev. 18:21; 20:2–5
- Do not inquire, 'How do these nations serve their gods?' – Deut. 12:30
- Do not imitate the customs of the nations – Lev. 18:3; 20:23



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- Do not listen to a false prophet – Deut. 13:1–5
- Do not love or spare the enticer to idolatry – Deut. 13:6–11
- Do not prophesy falsely in His Name – Deut. 18:20
- Do not make covenants with idolaters – Exod. 23:32; Deut. 7:2
- Do not let them remain to make you sin – Exod. 23:33
- Do not test the LORD – Deut. 6:16
- Do not blaspheme His Name – Lev. 24:16
- Do not practice occult/divination/necromancy – Deut. 18:10–11
- Do not swear by an idol or invoke its name – Exod. 23:13

Word Study Snapshots

Elohim acherim (אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים): 'other gods' — anything treated as ultimate.

Avodah Zarah (עֲבוֹדָה זָרָה): 'foreign service/worship' → idolatry.

Deveq/Devequt (דִּבְקָה): 'cling, adhere' → covenant attachment (Deut. 10:20).

Kiddush Hashem / Chillul Hashem: sanctifying vs. profaning the Name (Lev. 22:32).

New Covenant Alignment

Matthew 22:37 — Greatest commandment: love God with all.

1 Corinthians 10:14 — 'Flee from idolatry.'

1 John 5:21 — 'Keep yourselves from idols.'

Modern Idols to Name

- Self-exaltation & platform
- Sexual autonomy
- Money/consumption
- Politics-as-savior
- Tech/attention addiction
- Tribal identity
- Ministry-as-idol

Practices that Re-form Loyalty

- Daily Shema morning/evening



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- Weekly Sabbath as anti-idolatry
- Prayer of renunciation
- Fast from the idol you're tempted by
- Household purge (Acts 19:18–20 pattern)