



LET'S DO IT GOD'S WAY "Who Is Number One?" Exodus 20:3

No. 5519

Stuart Briscoe

The Lord introduced His rules for living with the dramatic statement, "You shall have no other gods before me"! This meant He was placing Himself above and beyond all human speculations about deities and establishing His claim to be #1.

I. The Competition: "Other Gods."

A. Man's religious instinct.

1. "Man is by his constitution a religious animal." (Edmund Burke)
2. "A seed of religion is planted in all men." (Calvin)
3. Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1-4

B. Man's perverted ingenuity.

1. Observation of natural forces.
2. Identification of deities.
3. Polytheism of Canaanites, etc.
4. "Canaanite religion...no pretty picture...extraordinarily debasing form of paganism." (John Bright)

II. The Commandment: "No Other Gods."

A. The revelation.

1. The Lord is one. Deuteronomy 6:4
 - a. Unique—greater than Egyptian gods.
 - b. Unity—unlike contradictory pagan pantheon.
2. The Lord is God. Exodus 10:1-2
 - a. Speaks with authority.
 - b. Acts in supremacy.
3. The Lord is gracious. Exodus 20:2
 - a. Brought you out.
 - b. Freed from slavery.

B. The reasons.

1. The problem of syncretism.
 - a. Local deities for each town.
 - b. Personal deities transferred in marriages.
2. The problem of sensualism.
 - a. The nature of paganism.
 - b. The nature of man.

III. The Choice: "Choose You This Day..." Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21

A. The initial decision.

1. Who is Lord?
2. What does He desire?
3. What does He deserve?
4. What does He demand?
5. Who do you serve?

B. The continual evaluation.

1. Is He Lord?
2. Do I serve Him faithfully?
3. Do I love Him deeply?
4. Do I worship Him exclusively?