

YAHWEH AND THE OTHER GODS

Exodus 20:2-6

The first and second commandments

2. I am the LORD [Heb. YHWH] your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

3. you shall have no other gods before [or *beside*, or *besides*] me.

4. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

5. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a **jealous** [Heb. *qanna*']* God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,

6. but showing steadfast love [Heb. *chesed*] to the thousandth generation [or *to thousands*] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

* Some modern scholars translate this word as *zealous*, or *passionate*. I prefer *passionate*, and I associate that word with **compassionate**: in other words (the Gospel according to Ulrich) Yahweh feels strongly **with** us.