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﻿Are you carving idols and  breaking the second commandment?

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I bet you are and you don't even know it. We're  gonna dive into the ancient Hebrew and find

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out the real meaning of the second commandment.  And find out just how relevant it is for today.

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I'm Jim Staley with Passion for truth ministries,  and welcome back to the real meaning of the

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commandment’s series, where we're going to be  talking about commandment number two. This is a

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very serious topic because if we don't understand  the true meanings of these commandments,

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then we might be offending God  all along, unintentionally. So

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let's dive in and find out exactly what the  second commandment means. Let's read it first.

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Exodus chapter 20, verse four, through six, it says this, you shall not make for yourself a

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carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that's in the earth beneath,

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or that it's in the water under the earth.  Before we go into verse five and verse six,

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I want to talk about verse four, and really  unpack this because the first two commandments

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are connected to one another. Right? So the  first commandment was, I am the Lord your God,

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and you shall have no other gods before me.  We learned that that literally means judges,

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You shall have no other judges before me because God says, I'm the only judge. So how do we relate

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this to the second commandment? Because most of us feel like we're not serving other gods. But we

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learned that we do let other people judge us and we even let our past still be over our head. And we

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try to impress people that we don't like and don't even know we're breaking the first commandment by

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doing that. So is it possible that we could be doing the same thing in the second commandment?

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I submit to you the answer is yes. Because  as we walk through the second commandment,

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we're going to learn that is far more relevant for us today than what we originally thought,

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because most of us are going to interpret the second commandment as, "hey, I'm not carving little

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wooden idols. I'm not serving other gods." But the question becomes, what's God's original intent?

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What is the purpose and meaning behind what He's saying? So in the original context, in Israelite

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times, in ancient times, yes, the issue was  they would take and mold little ‘teraphim’,

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it's what it's called. And we'll talk about  that in just a minute the little household gods,

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they would decorate them with silver and gold and  carve them and, and what have you, and most of

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them are about the size of your hand or smaller,  many of them were actually the size of a palm of

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a hand so they can put them in their pockets.  So let me explain what teraphim actually are.

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And you'll see just how relevant the second  commandment is, for today. The Teraphim

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are small carved images to look at, to rely on to  trust to gain confidence from, independency from,

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what they would do is they would carve these  household idols, and they would place them

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either like on their fireplace mantel or have  a special place, like a shrine where they would

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place these images that represented different  gods over that particular topic. For example,

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they would have a God of thunderstorms or god  of the sun, or a god of the harvest, right?

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And then every god in between the god of the soil,  the god of hunting, and if they wanted success

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in a particular area, they would rely on or pray  to that particular god, they would even take

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that teraphim, that idol, put it in their pocket,  almost like a good luck charm. And they would use

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that in connection while they're harvesting while  they're plowing and so on and so forth. Every

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time they wanted success in a particular area of  their life, they would beseech these idols and

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they would begin to create a dependency on this  particular teraphim. Not today, you might say,

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well, we don't really do that. But we do in a lot  of different areas where we put our trust and our

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dependency in something that is not God, Yahweh  related, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is

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a jealous God. He says, he says he does not want  us to turn our dependency, our self worth our

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identity, and hand it over to anything or someone else. Anytime someone has the ability to influence

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you to such a degree that it is affecting your identity, and who you are in your self-worth,

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then you've replaced God with that person  breaking the first commandment. And now because

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we've created the idol in our life, the absolute teraphim that we are absorbing appreciation and

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value from higher than we are from him. Then we're breaking the second commandment; well this gets

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serious ladies and gentlemen, because the power  of the living God only works through those who

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keep His commandments. We know that from scripture  that we prove our love by keeping His commandments

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turned to First John chapter five, verse  three, and you'll see that as plain as day

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right in the New Testament, not from the Old Testament. The New Testament is absolutely

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just the Old Testament revealed, as much as the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed. So

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in first John five, three, it says, For this is  the love of God, that we keep his commandments,

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and His commandments are not burdensome. This is absolutely the only way for us to prove

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our love for God is to keep His commandments. I've got six daughters. And the only way that I know

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that my children love me is if they do what we ask as parents; if they disrespect us, if they're

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rebellious. If they don't do what we ask, then that is an indication that they don't love us.

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And so to create love, we create a symbiotic relationship where they're receiving from us,

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we're receiving from them, and everybody grows as a result. But if we go back to even the

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story of Rachel, we'll see the dependency on these idols in ancient times, if you remember

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the story of Rachel, and, and Laban, her  father, and how when she left the house,

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with her husband, Jacob, and everything that they had, after 21 years of being in his household,

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and they left. What did Rachel do? The daughter of Laban took the household idols, Jacob didn't

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know it was a total secret, and she hid them, remember, underneath the pillows in her tent,

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and then when her dad came along, freaked out that someone had stolen the idols, because

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to steal them out of the household idols was in the ancient culture's mindset to remove the ability

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for success. There is no way to be successful in anything, from relationships to the harvest

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to their work, or career, it didn't matter, there was no way to have success. This is their mindset.

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And Rachel was so angry at her father, that she wasn't taking the household idols for herself.

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She was basically, totally corrupting and  (what's the word?) cutting him off at the knees,

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destroying his destiny from his perspective,  by stealing what his good luck charms were

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or what he was depending on. And she  almost got killed over it. Because Jacob said,

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whoever you find them, these idols with, will kill them. And luckily, she was smart enough

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to move her way around there where no  one ever found out. Today, my friends,

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we don't have household idols, but we have things that we are so dependent on for our success

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in life. For instance, today, the terrafim would be called Facebook, would be called Instagram, how about

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someone that spends too much time on YouTube or social media? It can even be a spouse that we put

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so much dependency on for value, that God is not even hardly in the picture. You see, I love this

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definition right here. An idol is anything that we depend upon to meet the deep needs of the heart,

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love, security, worth, or significance. It is  anything that we utilize in our life to meet the

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deep needs of the heart. You see, there's nothing wrong with having your spouse meet the needs

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of your heart, and the value and appreciation. It needs to be there. But the deep needs, the

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foundational needs, the needs that supersede everything else. In other words, with everybody

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else is gone. And they don't give you any value appreciation, the foundation stones of your heart

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that your life is dependent on, those are met by God Himself. And see, that's why when your

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spouse doesn't meet your needs, you can absolutely live a fulfilled life because the Messiah himself

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came, bled, died, rose again, for  your foundational needs to be set.

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He is the foundation stone. He's the  Rock from which we build our house.

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John Calvin said it this way: "The human heart is an idle factory."

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I believe that with all my heart, mind,  soul and strength, our hearts are just

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built for idolatry. It's not that the ancient  Israelites or the people of the East,

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ancient East, were just, you know, some sort of archaic people who would carve little idols,

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and worship them. But we have the exact  same motive today. We just call them different

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names. You see, I'll prove it to you take the  phone away from your teenager or junior higher,

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and see what happens to their countenance as it contorts to the strangest of shapes.

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What about you, maybe you're on social media so much that if you fasted from it for a week,

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you wouldn't even know what to do. Because today, people are relying on the value that they received

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from the things that they put online, the  perception of their own reality that they

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put online. That's what they're receiving, how many likes they get, how many shares they get,

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how many views they get, determines the value of who they are as a person, that is idolatry,

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because it fills the deep need of the heart of value that Yahweh is only supposed to be in.

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When He sent his only begotten Son to die, He did so at the greatest extent, and the greatest risk,

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it is our responsibility to keep  Him in that superior position,

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when we're in the highs, and when we're  in the lows, and everything in between.

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So now let's take a look at the last part  of this verse, because we've only really,

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truly gone to the first part. So let's go  through the last part. Exodus 20, verse five,

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says, You shall not bow down to them, nor serve them, For I the LORD your God am a jealous God,

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visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the  children to the third and fourth generations of

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those who hate me, but showing mercy to 1000s to those who love me and what, keep my commandments,

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do you see that blessing, and love and everything that we want the prosper

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victory, the breakthrough victory in our life is totally dependent on keeping His commandments.

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And we're only on the second one. And we're discovering that the majority of believers out

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there are breaking them, and they don't even know it. They believe that God is centered in their life.

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But if you really had the ability of God  could map out your life and put it on a graph,

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the most important things in your life, would they be Him? Because of the deep recesses of

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your heart, what are they fed by? Why do we care so much about what people think about us,

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and we don't really care what God thinks about us, because we refuse to do the very things.

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He's asking us to do Bible things, in Bible ways. We're redefining the Bible to fit around

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the lifestyle that we live. What I want to focus on here is this whole back half of the second verse

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of the second commandment is all about the children. It's all about the next generation.

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This is all about the next generation. What we do as parents, parents listen up. This is critical,

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especially with a father of six daughters  and a granddaughter. Yeah, all daughters,

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all females in my house, for sure, even my  dog is a female. But when you as a parent,

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are in idolatry, whatever your value is, you're  automatically teaching that to your children

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and your grandchildren. You can't get away from it. It's default. It's automatic. God built it

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into the system for children to follow in the ways of their parents. It's difficult for them to break

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out of those molds that way, that's why when you see a parent that is angry children will typically

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be angry when parents are abusive children will be abusive. When parents fall into addictions,

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children will volunteer addictions,  because the teraphim that you carve,

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you are putting in the children's pockets. Let me say that, again, the idols of your life,

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that are fulfilling the deep recesses of your  heart, you are putting those idols inside,

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inside the pockets of your children. They  may not know it, but they're holding on to

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the value system that you created.  Is your value come down to how well

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you keep God's commandments and the details? Or does it come down to the love and image of the Messiah

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because you got to have both? It's not  about just keeping God's commandments.

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And it's not just about the image  of God, it's the image of God

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is completely dependent on how well you  keep His commandments, through faith by

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the Spirit of the Living God. It is spirit and  in truth and there's nothing else in between.

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There's no credit on judgment day for just walking in the Spirit but breaking his commandments,

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and there's no way to keep his commandments and not walk in the Spirit. They're all the same.

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So brother and sister listen carefully as  we walk through these commandments and discover

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the real meaning. What we are really trying to do is set up the next generation for success.

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And in order to do that, we have to be successful. First, knowing what the commandments are,

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so that we can make intentional moves, to keep them and put them on the doorposts of our house

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and on our gates, I feel led to pray today.  Father, thank you so much for your word,

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I pray that you would keep the idols of our  hearts far from us and that we would repent,

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Father, for the addictions that we have with our phones, with the internet, and with a value system

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that's been corrupted by society today. I pray that we would remove those value systems and put

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you back in the center place where you need to be. Father, I pray that you would, across this land,

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reorganize, reestablish and restore  you as the only God, the only Elohim,

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and the only one that we worship and depend on for everything. Amen. If this video has blessed you,

15:59

I encourage you to watch this video, and this video is well, and make sure you subscribe to our

16:04

YouTube channel and turn on those notifications. So you don't miss a single video that we put out

16:09

here at Passion for Truth. Until then, I'm Jim Staley, and I'll see you in the next video.