

Trees of Olive

Photographs, and Taking of Pictures of Oneself, and Images and Graven Images

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There have been religious groups, individuals, and people who have been taught that to take a picture, or to have a picture made of oneself, was wrong, and a violation of God's Holy Laws of Commandments. Let us take time and thoroughly examine the Holy Laws and Holy Scriptures of the Great Yehovah Elohim.

In Exodus 20:1-6 it is written: "And Elohim spake all these words, saying, I am the Yehovah your Elohim, which have brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have **no other gods** before me. You shall not **make unto you any graven image**, or any likeness of any thing that is in Heaven above, or that is in the Earth beneath, or that is in the water under the Earth: **You shall not bow down yourself to them**, nor serve them: for I the Yehovah your Elohim am a jealous Elohim, 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."

In Exodus 20:1-6, it plainly shows that the Holy Laws of the Great Yehovah were referring to the making, and having, and worshiping of "**false gods**," including to the bowing down to and worshiping of "**graven images**" of false gods. In the ancient world all of the many people and nations had all sorts of false gods, and in that they had all sorts of "**graven images**" of their false gods for the masses of the people to bow down to and worship. Even in this present time there are people and nations who still make and worship all sorts of graven images of their false gods.

All throughout the Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament - the Tanakh, it is greatly stressed to not making, nor to having, nor to worshiping of any false gods, nor to worshiping the images - graven images of any type of false god. Do a Bible Search on the words "**false gods**," and thoroughly read and see the examples of the various Holy Scriptures concerning the making, having, and worshiping of false gods, and the images - graven images of various false gods.

Commanded to Make Images - The Tabernacle, and the Ark of the Covenant, and the Clothing of the High Priests - with Images

“Images” were fully allowed, and even “commanded” of the true God of the Universe. Everyone must read, examine and know that there is absolutely no sin in the making of images - graven images, nor in the taking of photographs, nor in the having of photographs made of oneself.

In examining the Holy Scriptures concerning the construction and design of the Tabernacle, and the Ark of the Covenant, and the Candlestick, and also of the making of clothes-garments for the High Priests, it is shown how that the true and Great Yehovah “commanded images - graven images” to be made in the construction of these various items.

Thoroughly read and understand the Holy Scriptures commanding “images - graven images” to be made. Thoroughly read: Exodus, Chapters 25 to 28; and Exodus, Chapters 35 to 39.

a) The Ark of the Covenant

The Great Yehovah commanded “images - graven images” of two Cherubims of gold to be made, and to be placed upon the Ark of the Covenant. These two Cherubims were “graven images of Angels” with their wings spread over the Ark of the Covenant.

b) The Candlestick - The Menorah Light

The Great Yehovah commanded “images - graven images” of “almonds,” and also of “flowers” to be engraved onto the Candlestick (the Menorah Light).

c) The Curtains of the Tabernacles

The Great Yehovah commanded “decorative needlework” of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen (white) to be made into the “Curtains of the Tabernacles.” Question: Did the decorative needlework consists of images of almonds and flowers?

d) The Holy Garments for High Priests - Clothes for Glory and Beauty

~ The Robe of the Ephod - The Great Yehovah commanded “images - graven images” of “pomegranates,” and “bells” to be engraved all about the hem of the garment of the High Priest.

~ The Girdle of the Garment - The Great Yehovah commanded “decorative needlework” of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen (white) to be made into the girdle of the High Priest. Question: Did the decorative needlework consists of images of almond and flowers, or even of pomegranates?

By thoroughly reading and examining the Holy Word of the Old Testament - the Tanakh, we can see and understand that the Great Yehovah does “NOT” restrict the making of images, nor the using of images - as long as the images - graven images are “NOT” involved in the worship of false gods, nor of the making of images - graven images of false gods, which is the worship of false religious beliefs.

The Construction of the First Temple - by King Solomon

King David desired to build a House of Worship for the Great Yehovah Elohim, which was the First Temple. It is very interesting to know that the design (the blueprint) of the First Temple was by the Holy Spirit of God, and this blueprint was given to King David years earlier.

Read: I Kings, Chapters 5 to 7; and also II Chronicles, Chapters 2 to 5

In examining the Holy Scriptures concerning the construction and designing of the First Temple - King Solomon’s Temple, it is shown how that there were many “**images - graven images**” involved.

- a) The Two Cherubims in the Holy of Holiest - These two Cherubims were very large, graven images of Cherubims of Angels, that were made of olive trees, and were overlaid with pure gold.
- b) The Walls of the Doors of the Temple - Onto the walls of the Temple there were made “**carved images**” of “**Cherubims,**” and of “**palm trees,**” and also of opened “**flowers.**”
- c) The Two Pillars of the Temple - The chapters of the Pillars of the Temple were made with decorative images of “**pomegranates,**” and of “**lily flowers.**”
- d) Twelve Oxen Upholding the Molten Sea - There were craved, graven images of “**twelve oxen**” that upheld the Molten Sea (the pool of water) of the Temple.
- e) The Molten Sea (the Pool) - On the outside of the Molten Sea (the pool) were carved images of “**flowers of lilies**” designed on the outside of it.
- f) Ten Bases of Brass - On the borders of these bases of brass there were “**graven images of lions,**” and of “**oxen,**” and also of “**Cherubims**” carved onto these ten bases of brass.
- g) The Plates of the Ledges (of the Bases) - The Plates of the Ledges (of the bases) were with “**graven images**” of “**Cherubims,**” and of “**lions,**” and also of “**palm trees.**”

King Solomon's Royal Palace - the Throne of King Solomon

King Solomon made his **Throne of Ivory**, and on this throne there were six steps to his throne, and “**two lions**” standing by the throne, as well as “**twelve lions**,” consisting of “**six lions**” of each sides (one lion on each of the six steps), on each side of the throne.

In II Chronicles 9:17-19 it is written: “Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays: And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.”

In summary, truly there is absolutely “**NO Sin**,” nor wrong in the taking of photographs, nor in the having of photographs made of oneself, nor wrong in the making of images - graven images - as long as these things “**do not involve**” the making and worshiping of any type of false god, nor any type of false worship.

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