

This is a marvelous and wonderful text, in spite of its sharp edges. The historical facts are not hard. Israel was forbidden alliances with Egypt:

I. The Horror of False Trust.

A. The commandments: HC 94, 95

B. Q94: What does God require in the first Commandment?

A94: That, on peril of my soul's salvation, I avoid and flee all idolatry,[1] sorcery, enchantments,[2] invocation of saints or of other creatures;[3] and that I rightly acknowledge the only true God,[4] trust in Him alone,[5] with all humility [6] and patience [7] expect all good from Him only,[8] and love,[9] fear [10] and honor [11] Him with my whole heart; so as rather to renounce all creatures than to do the least thing against His will.[12]

C. Q95: What is idolatry?

A95: Idolatry is to conceive or have something else in which to place our trust instead of, or besides, the one true God who has revealed Himself in His Word.[1]

D. Calvin on Isaiah 30: remarkably pertinent for our day: After citing the prohibition for an Egyptian league ever for Israel: (Exodus 23:32; 34:15; Deuteronomy 7:2.) We are gradually infected, I know not how, by the vices of those with whom we have intercourse and familiarity; and as we are more prone by nature to copy vices than virtues, we easily become accustomed to corruptions, and, in short, the infection rapidly spreads from one person to another. This has happened to our own country, France, in consequence of having intercourse with many nations, which leads her too eagerly to imitate their The second reason was special and peculiar to this nation; for, since the Lord had delivered the Jews out of Egypt, and commanded them to remember so remarkable a benefit, he forbade them to have he forbade them to have any intercourse with the Egyptians. And if they had entered into an alliance with the Egyptians, the remembrance of that benefit might easily have been obliterated; for they would not have been at liberty to celebrate it in such a manner as had

been commanded. (Exodus 13:3, 8,14.) It was excessively base to disregard the glory of God for the purpose of cultivating friendship with an irreligious and wicked nation. Since God intended also to testify to his people that he alone was more than sufficient to secure their safety, they ought to have valued that promise so highly as to exclude themselves willingly from other assistance. It was a very heinous crime to endeavor to gain the favor of heathen nations on all sides, and to deprive God of the honor due to him; for if they had been satisfied with having God’s protection alone, they would not have been in such haste to run down to Egypt. Their noisy eagerness convicted them of infidelity.

E. These commandments pertain to individuals, to families, to every human endeavor, for God is God of the whole earth. Ursinus, one of the author’s of the catechism, in his commentary says that there are several things that are implied by this commandment.

1. God is God

- a. God is God and declares His right to command all of us. We are bound not only because of love, but because of thankfulness, and because of His authority.
 - b. God is our God. We break the covenant when we worship or obey any other rule for our life than His rule and authority.
 - c. Redemption: deliverance from Egypt, a type of ours. 1 Cor. 10
2. From our hearts: Love Him with all our heart’s soul. God cannot be divided, and neither can our devotion to Him.
3. In my sight: before me. Note the attributes: Sovereignty, Unity, Omniscience

4. Righteousness of God.

- a. Knowledge
- b. Faith
- c. Hope
- d. Love
- e. Fear and not contempt
- f. Humility and not arrogance and pride
- g. Patience. Waiting on the Lord.

II. The certainty of God's making all things right according to His own righteousness. The horror of this to the disobedient and idolater. Isaiah 30:8-17

A. What they were: vs. 9-12

1. Rebellious
2. Liars
3. Deaf to the commandment
4. Perverters of the prophets
5. Despisers of the Word
6. Frauds, perverse, and established in these.

B. What God said: vs. 13-17

1. The image of a bulging wall.
2. Walls are for protection, but this one is a great danger. Restraints are for the purpose of preserving you from danger. Sin becomes a bulging opening in the wall of restraint.
3. "he shall break" God shall break the wall so that nothing is left.
4. Their salvation will come from returning and rest and quietness and confidence: all the good things of faith and obedience.
5. Their remedies: 16-17 Frantic casting around for solutions, and their disillusionment.

III. The Amazing Patience of God. Vs. 18-21

A. He waits to show grace in His own Time. He gives His people time.

B. God has other things to do that punish sin and iniquity: He will do that, but only after His purposes for grace and mercy are done.

C. God will exalt His Own Name in mercy and grace, as well as wrath.

D. He has good sense. He in control of Himself.

E. Patience means He has control of Himself and has a priority of values.

F. He will hear your cry.

G. He will restore your teachers.

H. He will send forth His Holy Spirit to teach our hearts.

Conclusion: Isaiah 35, the culmination of this promise is in the kingdom of Christ. This begins now in our hearts, as His sweet Spirit is poured out, and we should pray for that and not trust in our own devices.

Amen and Amen.