

Title: Idolatry and Golden Boys

Rise & Shine, March 7th

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

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. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Commentary by Facilitator, the Rev. Melanie W. J. Slane:

This Sunday at Rise & Shine, we will discuss the complexities of idolatry. What is it? How can we recognize it when we see it? And how can we avoid it? Together we will investigate the influence of the Covenant with Moses in Exodus 20 on American society politics. We will interrogate the ties between the pro-Israel policy with Anti-Semitic sentiments; and we will ask, “What does all of this have to do with idolatry?” Join us Sunday to unearth the gold hidden beneath the surface.

In the News

At CPAC, a Golden Image, a Magic Wand and Reverence for Trump

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tommy Zegan was appalled by the few sculptures of Donald J. Trump in existence — the life-size nude statue that popped up in major cities in America, the golden toilet in London. So in 2018, he got to work.

Mr. Zegan, a Trump supporter who had recently moved to Mexico from the United States, created a six-foot-tall fiberglass mold of the former president and painted it gold. Mr. Zegan's Trump carried a magic wand in his left hand, a reference to Barack Obama's quip in 2016 about Mr. Trump's needing one to bring back manufacturing jobs. The sculpted Trump wore his customary suit jacket and red tie, American flag shorts — and flip-flops — “because technically he should be retired,” Mr. Zegan explained, “but he chose to be a servant.”

The final product, titled “Trump and His Magic Wand,” was among the more popular attractions at this year's Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Fla. On Saturday, attendees flocked to the event's merchandise hall for photos with the golden sculpture, the scene an almost literal rendering of the Republican Party, which continues to reserve its reverence not for ideas or elected officials but for one man.

“It's definitely not an idol,” Mr. Zegan insisted. (“I was a youth pastor for 18 years,” he noted.) “An idol is something somebody worships and bows down to. This is a sculpture. It's two different things.”

Continue reading *At CPAC, a Golden Image, a Magic Wand and Reverence for Trump* by Elaina Plott in The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/28/us/politics/cpac-trump-statue.html>