

Love the Lord your God

Deuteronomy 6

Slides from Caleb Howard's sermon
at the evening service, Sunday 19th July 2026

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Even the gods took fright at the Deluge!
They withdrew, they went up to the heaven of Anu.
The gods curled up like dogs, lying out in the open.
The goddess, screaming like a woman in childbirth,
Bēlet-ilī, the sweet-voiced, wailed aloud:

“Indeed the past has truly turned to clay,
because I spoke evil in the assembly of the gods.
How was it I spoke evil in the assembly of the gods,
(and) declared a war to destroy my people?
It is I that gave birth (to them)! They are my people!
(Now) like so many fish they fill the sea.”

The gods, the Anunnaki, were weeping with her,
wet-faced with sorrow, they were weeping [with her],
their lips were parched, being stricken with fever.

(SB Gilgamesh XI 114–127)

7 Listen, my people, and I will speak;

I will testify against you, Israel:

I am God, your God.

8 I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices
or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before
me.

9 I have no need of a bull from your stall
or of goats from your pens,

10 for every animal of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.

11 I know every bird in the mountains,
and the insects in the fields are mine.

12 If I were hungry I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.

13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?

14 Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,

15 and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.

(Psalm 50:7–15)

13 As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
14 for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

(Psalm 103:13–14)