

## Exodus 20:4

לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל־תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם  
מִמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת וְאֲשֶׁר  
בַּמַּיִם מִתַּחַת לָאָרֶץ:

You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth  
(RSV)

**לֹא (lo)**

Negates the action of the following verb - no or not.

**תַּעֲשֶׂה (ta-a-seh)**

The base word is עָשָׂה (a-sah), a common verb meaning to "do" often in the context of to "make." The prefix ת (ta) identifies the subject of the verb as second person, masculine, singular and the tense of the verb as imperfect. This word would be translated as "you will do" or "you will make." Because of the word לֹא preceding this verb it would be translated as "you will not do," or "you will not make."

**לְךָ (le-kha)**

The ל (le) is the prefix meaning "to" or "for." The ך (kha) is the suffix meaning "you." Combined these meaning "to you" or "for you."

**פֶּסֶל (pe-sel)**

This noun is derived from the verb pasal (same spelling) meaning to "hew" in the sense cutting and carving to create a shape. This noun is what is carved into shape or an idol.

**וְכָל (ve-khol)**

The word כָּל (khol) means "all." The prefix ו (ve) means "and."

**תְּמוּנָה (te-mu-nah)**

This noun means a "representation," something that resembles something else.

**אֲשֶׁר (a-sheh)**

This word means "which" or "who."

**בְּשָׁמַיִם (ba-sha-ma-yim)**

The noun שָׁמַיִם (sha-ma-yim) means "skies." The prefix ב (ba) means "in the" or "with the."

**מִמַּעַל (me-ma-al)**

The base word מַעַל (ma-al) is a noun meaning "above," "on top" or "upper." The prefix מ (me) means "from."

**וְאֲשֶׁר (va-a-sheer)**

The word אֲשֶׁר (a-sheer) means "which" or "who." The prefix ו (va) means "and."

**בְּאֶרֶץ (ba-a-rets)**

The word אֶרֶץ (e-rets) means "land." The prefix ב (ba) means "in the" or "with the."

**מִתַּחַת (me-ta-hhat)**

The base word תַּחַת (ta-hhat) is a noun meaning "under," "below" or "lower." The prefix מ (me) means "from."

**וְאֲשֶׁר (va-a-sheer)**

The word אֲשֶׁר (a-sheer) means "which" or "who." The prefix ו (va) means "and."

**בְּמַיִם (ba-ma-yim)**

The noun מַיִם (ma-yim) means "water." The prefix ב (ba) means "in the" or "with the."

**מִתַּחַת (me-ta-hhat)**

The base word תַּחַת (ta-hhat) is a noun meaning "under," "below" or "lower." The prefix מ (me) means "from."

**לְאֶרֶץ (la-a-rets)**

The word אֶרֶץ (e-rets) means "land." The prefix ל (la) means "to the" or "for the."