

in the 8th century you had on the one side those who wanted to venerate the images and some of them went to a very great extreme, like so many in the churches in Greece and Rome today and on the other hand there were others who said that we should not worship images, this is idolatry, the second commandment says thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image or any likeness of any thing in heaven above or in earth beneath or under the earth, thou shalt not bow down to them or serve them and they said, it is wrong to have any images, any idol, any pictures in the churches, let us tear them all out and so they were the extremest on both sides and many think that the iconoclastic controversy started as a result of Mohammedanism. I don't know whether how can say that but I do know that we can state Mohammedanism entered into the forces which produced it. It entered into it this way. The Mohammedans take the second commandment literally. They make no pictures, they make no likenesses of anything. They put up no statues, they have marks and only geometrical figures as their designs and here was a Mohammedan claiming to believe in one god, to believe in one holy god and they said that you Christians are covering up your belief in god with a whole lot of tradition and a whole lot of superstitious ideas and unbelief too, that many professing Christians do and when the professing Christians try to deny this, in talking with the Moslems, they say, why look, you even worship idols, you are not so much better than these heathens, you bow down and serve these images, images of Christ, images of the Virgin, images of the saints, you are no better than a heathen and the true Christians said, they do not worship them and some of them as they thought about this said, this is a false that has come into their church let us pull out the images and get away with the pictures and completely destroy them and so iconoclasy does not simply mean not worshipping, it means destroying them, the iconoclastic controversy is the controversy over the destruction of the images

(end of record)