



The LORD's Name in Vain

Exodus 20:7

(cf. Deuteronomy 5:11)



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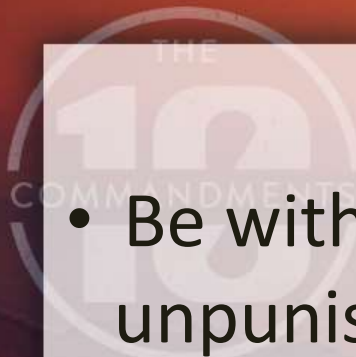
“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”

(ESV)



1. Guiltless

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.” (7)



Guiltless (נִקְיָה, *nq̄h*)

- Be without guilt, innocent, remain unpunished, be exempt from punishment.



2. Name

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.” (7)



Proverbs 22:1

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.” (ESV)

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NAME (שֵׁם, *shem*)

- Name, standing, reputation

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Blasphemy

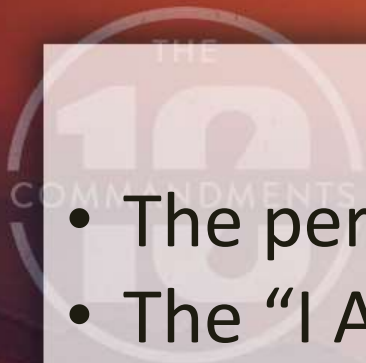
- Takes two forms:
 - **Diminishing God.** Bringing God down to the level of man.
 - **Glorifying man.** Elevating man to the status of God.

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3. LORD

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.” (7)



LORD (יהוה, *YHWH*)

- The personal name of God. Yahweh.
- The “I AM THAT I AM.”

THE

10
COMMANDMENTS

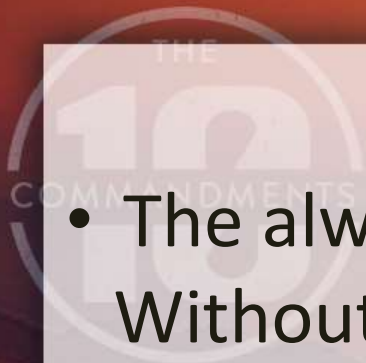
The Eternal Name of God

- The Alpha and the _____
- The Beginning and the _____
- The First and the _____

“The Lord’s Name in Vain”

The Gospel of John

- I am the bread of life (6:35, 48)
- I am the light of the world (8: 12, 9:5)
- I am the door (10:9)
- I am the good shepherd (10:11)
- I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
- I am the way, the truth, and life (14:6)
- I am the true vine (15:1)
- Before Abraham was, I am (8:58)



The Great “I AM”

- The always existent one. Eternal. Without beginning or end. Without equal. The Creator God—distinct from his creation. A holy and unrivaled God. Infinite, unchangeable, and unlike anything or anyone that ever was, is, or will be.



4. Take

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”



Take (נָשָׂא, *nasa*)

- To lift up, raise, or carry.

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Carrying the Name in Vain

- It is using God's name for your own advantage. It is deliberately acting in a contrary way to what you profess, or professing to believe something you don't really believe. It is lifting up the name of God for your own benefit.

Modern Day Examples

Calling yourself a follower of Christ for personal advantage:

- to gain a contract,
- for a business deal,
- for appearances,
- for a dating relationship,
- to qualify for a scholarship
- to swear an oath you don't plan to fulfill
- Name dropping "God's name"
- Doing evil under the guise of godliness

"The Lord's Name in Vain"

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

(ESV)

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Misuse of God's Name

- **As a curse** (God *#+@*)
- **As an exclamation point** (OMG)
- **As a cliché** (a flippant “praise Jesus”)
- **As a weapon** (God told me to tell you ...)
- **As an endorsement** (using God to prop up your reputation)
- **As an act of evil** (doing wrong while wearing his name)



The LORD's Name in Vain

Rather than asking God to serve me and my purposes, I will ask God how I can serve him and his purposes.