

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:7
Deuteronomy 5:11

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. *You shall have no other gods before Me.*
2. *You shall not make idols.*
3. *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
5. *Honor your father and your mother.*
6. *You shall not murder.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet.*

(see Exodus 20:3-17)

The 10 commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai were no more important than the other commands of God, but we give them special emphasis because they were written on tablets of stone ***“by the finger of God.”***
(Exodus 31:18)

Let us consider THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”

Exodus 20:7/Deuteronomy 5:11

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

What is “the **name** of the Lord your God?”

Hebrew words used in the Old Testament to identify God:

Elohim: a plural pronoun, usually translated “God.”

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
(Genesis 1:1)

Adonai: a plural pronoun, meaning master or ruler, usually translated “Lord.”

“Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’” (Genesis 15:2)

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What is “the **name** of the Lord your God?”

Hebrew words used in the Old Testament to identify God:

EI Shaddai (translated “God Almighty”)

“Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless ...’”
(Genesis 17:1)

YHWH (meaning “I Am,” the name God gave to Moses, translated “LORD,” “Jehovah” or “Yahweh”)

“These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh God made earth and heaven.” (Genesis 2:4 - LSB)

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"Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am about to come to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." And they will say to me, "What is His name?" What shall I say to them?' And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "**I AM** has sent me to you.'" And God furthermore said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, "Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name from generation to generation. Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, "Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, 'I indeed care about you and what has been done to you in Egypt.'" (Exodus 3:13-16 - LSB)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

Isaiah prophesied of the coming of Christ and His name:

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

Jesus claimed the name of God:

"Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.'" (John 8:58)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

Jesus understood His identity as "I AM" and communicated it to His disciples in a way they could believe:

"**I am** the bread of life" (John 6:35, 41, 48, 51)

"**I am** the light of the world" (John 8:12)

"**I am** the door of the sheep" (John 10:7, 9)

"**I am** the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25)

"**I am** the good shepherd" (John 10:11, 14)

"**I am** the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6)

"**I am** the true vine" (John 15:1, 5)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

"**I am** the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)

"... Do not be afraid; **I am** the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, **I am** alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." (Revelation 1:17-18)

"Then He said to me, "It is done. **I am** the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end ..." (Revelation 21:6)

"**I am** the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:13)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

Jesus Christ

Jesus from the Hebrew "Yeshua" means "Savior."

Christ from the Hebrew "Messiah" means "Anointed One."

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,' which translated means, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:21-23)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

Jesus Christ

"I and the Father are One." (John 10:30)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-3, 14)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

Jesus Christ

"For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything."
(Colossians 1:13-18)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

Jesus Christ

"... looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus ..."
(Titus 2:13)

"Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ ..."
(2 Peter 1:1)

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
(Acts 4:12)

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What is "the **name** of the Lord your God?"

Jesus Christ

"For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
(Philippians 2:9-11)

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Practically speaking, the most common English words used to identify God are:

God
Lord
Jesus
Jesus Christ

(Spanish: Dios, Señor, Jesús, Jesucristo)

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What is taking or using His name "**in vain**"?

Webster's defines vain as

1. having no real value or significance; worthless, empty, idle, hollow, etc.
2. without force or effect; futile, fruitless, unprofitable, unavailing, etc.

It is possible to use His name in vain in many ways, and we cannot escape hearing and seeing it everywhere in the world in which we live (stores, restaurants, parks, movies, television, radio, popular music, podcasts, social media, etc.). To be pleasing to God we must not allow the world to affect our devotion to Him.

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What is taking or using His name "**in vain**"?

If we use the name of God and we are not talking either **to Him** or **about Him**, we are taking His name in vain.

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Several ways people use His name in vain:

Profanity: Using the name of God in blasphemy and cursing, calling on Him to damn someone or something.
(See Luke 6:27-28)

Frivolity: Using the name of God in a superficial, careless way, without regard to its sacred meaning.
(See Matthew 12:33-37)

Hypocrisy: Professing to wear the name of Christ but acting in a way that disgraces Him.
(See Matthew 7:21-26; 15:7-9)

Covenant-breaking: Making vows or promises in God's name and not keeping them. (See Matthew 5:33-37; 19:4-6)

Swearing: mentioning the name of God in the form of an oath, but as a by-word, to no purpose at all, or false swearing – calling God as a witness to a lie.
(See James 5:12)

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One popular way people use His name in vain:

OMG!

"O my God" is found in the scriptures 25 times, "O God" is found 102 times, in every single instance, the words are used in prayer to God.

The only time the words "O my God" or "O God" should be on our lips is in prayer to our Father. Otherwise, we are using His name in vain.

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If we don't have the proper reverence for the name of God, we have become His enemies.

*"For they speak against You wickedly, and Your enemies take **Your name** in vain."* (Psalms 139:20)

*"How long, O God, will the adversary revile, And the enemy spurn **Your name** forever?"* (Psalms 74:10)

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If we have the proper reverence for the name of God, we must be thankful, glorify, bless, and praise His name.

*"Surely the righteous will give thanks to **Your name**; The upright will dwell in Your presence."* (Psalms 140:13)

*"I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify **Your name** forever."* (Psalms 86:12)

*"I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless **Your name** forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, And I will praise **Your name** forever and ever."* (Psalms 145:1-2)

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When Jesus taught us how to pray, His prayer began with:

"... Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name."
(Matthew 6:9)

"Hallowed" is defined as Holy, Consecrated, Sacred, Revered. (Merriam-Webster)

"... Holy and awesome is His name." (Psalms 111:9)

God's nature and attributes, the totality of His being, and especially His eternal glory are reflected in His name. We must show reverence and respect for His holy name to be able to approach Him in prayer with confidence.

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

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David prayed with the proper perspective:

"O LORD, our Lord, How majestic is Your name in all the earth, Who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens! From the mouth of infants and nursing babes You have established strength because of Your adversaries, to make the enemy and the revengeful cease. When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalms 8:1-9)

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The Israelites were not even allowed to mention the names of false gods because to do so would be to acknowledge their existence and give credence to their power and influence over the people.

"Now concerning everything which I have said to you, be on your guard; and do not mention the name of other gods, nor let them be heard from your mouth." (Exodus 23:13)

What does "... the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain" mean?

"You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.'" (Leviticus 24:15-16)

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In the New Testament, we are offered forgiveness for sins of the tongue, even the sin of blasphemy.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 1:12-14)

If we have become enemies of Christ, our end is destruction.

"For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ..." (Philippians 3:18-20)

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Therefore, we are instructed to bridle our tongues.

"If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless." (James 1:26)

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." (Ephesians 4:29)

"He who guards his mouth and his tongue, guards his soul from troubles." (Proverbs 21:23)

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Let us not be deceived into thinking **abbreviations** (such as OMG) or **euphemisms** are acceptable to God.

Euphemism is defined by Webster as "the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant."

Examples

Gosh; Golly (for God)
Gee; Geez (for Jesus)
Lordy (for Oh, Lord)

Hearing a euphemism takes the mind immediately to the word being substituted, and its use doesn't fool God.

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"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain." (Exodus 20:7/Deuteronomy 5:11)

Remember, if we use the name of God and we are not talking either **to Him** or **about Him**, we are taking His name in vain. Let us always show reverence and respect for His holy name in the way we think and the way we communicate.

HOW TO BE SAVED

HEAR THE WORD

(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

REPENT OF SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

CONFESS JESUS CHRIST

(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

BE BAPTIZED FOR FORGIVENESS

(Acts 2:38, Mark 16:15-16, Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:26-27)

REMAIN OBEDIENT

(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10)