

Exodus #53

The Moral Law

Lesson #5

“The Third Commandment – No Vain
Use of God’s Name”

Exodus 20:7

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“⁷ 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.”

The negative is expressed in the commandment. It emphasizes that we must not take God's name in vain.

The affirmative is expressed in that we should take care to reverence and honor his name.

YHWH



J

V

Yahweh Yireh

The Lord will provide

Yahweh Rophe

The Lord who heals

Yahweh Nissi

The Lord my banner

Yahweh Shalom

The Lord of peace

Yahweh Tsidkenu

The Lord our righteousness

El Shaddai

God Almighty, or Sovereign Lord.

We speak lightly and irreverently
of His name.

Deuteronomy 28:58

“⁵⁸ If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the LORD your God....”

Psalm 50:1

“¹ The Mighty One, God, the LORD, has spoken, and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.”

Psalm 83:18

“¹⁸ That they may know that Thou alone, whose name is the LORD, art the Most High over all the earth.”

We profess God's name,
but do we live as if we are
answerable for it?

Titus 1:16

“¹⁶ They profess to know God, but by {their} deeds they deny {Him} being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.”

When we use God's
name to advance our
own agenda.

“In truth, there is probably no country in the Western world where people use God’s name quite as much, or quite as publically, or for quite as many purposes, as we Americans do – the Third Commandment notwithstanding. Few candidates for office are able to end their speeches without asking God to bless their audience, or the nation, or the great work we are undertaking, but everybody is sure that the other side is insincere. ... Athletes thank God, often on television, after scoring the winning touchdown, because, like politicians, they like to think God is on their side. Churches erect huge billboards and take out ads in the paper. ... God’s will is cited as a reason to be against gay rights. And a reason to be for them. God is said not to tolerate poverty. Or abortion. Or nuclear weapons. ... Everybody who wants to change America, and everybody who wants not to, understand the nation’s love affair with God’s name, which is why everybody invokes it.” – Steven Carter cited by Ryken, p. 586.

When we use God's name
in idle discourse.

When we worship Him with
our lips, but not our hearts.

When we trifle over oaths by
invoking God's name (lawful
before a magistrate Deut. 6:13).

**We must get it through our
heads that what we do and say
reflects upon God's name.**

**Remember the beginning
of “The Lord’s Prayer.”**

**We have the duty to use
God's name with reverence
and to deem it holy.**

Be thoughtful about His name.