

No Disrespect

Exodus 20:7

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,
for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

I. What Did This Mean to Them?

A. What's in a name?

1. Names meant more in ancient times.

- We use names today only to identify who a person is; no more than that.
- In ancient times there was a vital connection between a name & the one it identified.
- Unger's Bible Dictionary: "The name was almost the same as the person it identified. They generally expressed some personal characteristic, some incident connected with the birth, some hope or wish or prayer of the parent; & henceforth the child embodied it, & for the parent's sake, felt it like a personal vow & made his life an effort to realize it."
- Names were given during ceremonies like circumcision. (Lk 1:59-3)

2. Names had meaning.

- Isaac** (יִצְחָק) = "laughter"; because Sarah laughed because he was born to her in her old age (Gen 21:6).
- Esau** (עֵשָׂו) = "hairy"; because of his appearance (Gen 25:25). Hairy = שָׁעָר
- Jacob** (יַעֲקֹב) = "supplanter": because he grasped his brother's heel when he was born (Gen 25:25-26).
- Moses** (מֹשֶׁה) = "drawn out"; because he was drawn out of the water of the Nile (Ex 2:10).
- Jesus** (Ἰησοῦς) = "savior"; because he would save his people from their sins (Matt 1:21).
- Emmanuel** (Εμμανουήλ) = "God is with us"; because Jesus was God in flesh (Matt 1:23).

B. What's the Lord's name?

- Yahweh (יְהוָה) = transliterated "Jehovah" in KJV & ASV meaning "I Am Who I Am" (Ex 3:14); actually the verb "I Am" in both Hebrew "tenses".
- God always was & always will be! He is unique, majestic & beyond all human understanding!

C. How do the Jews respect this name?

- v7 – **Misuse** (נִשְׁאַ) KJV "Vain", deception, false, or empty. Using it in a context that may empty it of its meaning!
- The Jews, therefore, to play safe, would never pronounce it! ILL: **Worshipping in the Jerusalem synagogues.**

II. What Should This Mean to You?

A. How about swearing; using vulgarity in your speech?

1. Your words carry more power than you realize.

- a. Jam 5:14-15 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of him.
- b. Matt 17:20 - He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

2. Your words must not be used flippantly.

- a. Jam 3:10 - Out of the same mouth comes praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.
- b. Col 3:8 - But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.
- c. Matt 12:36.37 - But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."
- d. Eph 5:6 - Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

B. How about putting the Lord's name in a vulgar context; lightly as a figure of speech.

- 1. Do you ever use "God" - "Oh God" - "Jesus" - "Jesus Christ" as an exclamation?
- 2. Lady who said, "Oh Lordy" all the time.

God's name is so sacred, but we use it so lightly.
Let's decide from now on to respect God's Holy Name.