

## **The Ten: Honor His Powerful Name**

**Dr. John Carmichael**

**[Exo 20:1-2, 7 NASB95] 1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... 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.**

- “Are you a minister?” “No!” “You have just used the ‘God’, ‘Jesus Christ’, and ‘hell’ in one sentence. I am minister and that is hard to do in one sermon, let alone in one sentence.”
- In Exodus 3:14-15, God reveals His name. (Note: Yahweh is a called the tetragrammaton, which is four letters. You will see it as LORD, all capital letters.) It means “I AM WHO I AM” or “I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE.” God is self-existent, self-sufficient, and supremely sovereign.
- According to most scholarly consensus, the pronunciation of the name "Yahweh" was lost following the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD. “Jehovah” is a combination of the consonants of “YHWH” and the vowels of “Adonia” by German theologians, thus the spelling issues in English.
- Warning: The precise punishment is left unspecified, but the severity of the punishment is clear.
  - [Lev 24:16 NASB95] 16 '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.

**What do we need to know about not taking His name in vain?**

**Here are four truths about not taking His name in vain.**

### **I. The Meaning of Taking God's Name in Vain**

- a. Definition: To misuse, dishonor, or make empty the name of God. A literal translation is, “You shall not lift up the name of the Lord your God for nothingness.” It is a legal technical word meaning to take an oath or tie someone to something.
- b. [Lev 19:12 NASB95] 12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.
- c. Matthew 6:9 – Jesus taught us to pray, "Hallowed be Your name," meaning God's name is to be treated as holy. [Mat 6:9 NASB95] 9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- d. Ways People Take God's Name in Vain:
  - i. Using God's name flippantly or in cursing.
  - ii. Using God's name to manipulate others. Politicians, athletes, celebrities, religious people. [Jer 14:14-15 NASB95] 14 Then the LORD said to me, "The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds. 15 "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who are prophesying in My name, although it was not I who sent them yet they keep saying, 'There will be no sword or famine in this land' by sword and famine those prophets shall meet their end!
  - iii. Swear falsely. Leviticus 19:12

### **II. The Power and Authority of God's Name**

- a. God's Name Represents Who He Is
- b. [Pro 18:10 NASB95] 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe.

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- c. [Act 4:12 NASB95] 12 "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."
- d. Martin Luther, ". . . use the very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God."
- e. Calling on God's name brings salvation, protection, and deliverance.
  - i. Salvation. Acts 4:12, [1Jo 5:13 NASB95] 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
  - ii. Baptized. [Mat 28:19 NASB95] 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
  - iii. Ongoing sanctification. [1Co 6:11 NASB95] 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
- f. Misusing His name has consequences.
  - i. [Act 19:13-17 NASB95] 13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." 14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.
  - ii. [Mat 7:21-23 NASB95] 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven [will enter.] 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

### **III. Living in a Way That Honors God's Name**

- a. Honoring God's Name Through Our Actions
- b. [Col 3:17 NASB95] 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
- c. [2Ti 2:19 NASB95] 19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."
- d. Live with integrity—our actions reflect the name of Christ.
- e. Speak words that bring honor to God, not dishonor.
- f. Be bold in sharing the gospel, representing God well.

### **IV. Using the Names of God in Prayer**

- a. God's Name Reveals His Character and Power
- b. [Psa 91:14-15 NASB95] 14 "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him [securely] on high, because he has known My name. 15 "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.
- c. [Jhn 14:13-14 NASB95] 13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do [it.]
- d. Praying Using God's Names:

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- i. Yahweh (YHWH)-Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness) – Pray for holiness and guidance (Jeremiah 23:6).
  - ii. Yahweh (YHWH)-Rapha (The Lord Our Healer) – Pray for healing (Exodus 15:26).
  - iii. Yahweh (YHWH)-Jireh (The Lord Our Provider) – Pray for God's provision (Genesis 22:14).
  - iv. Yahweh (YHWH)-Shalom (The Lord Our Peace) – Pray for peace in troubled times (Judges 6:24).
  - v. Yahweh (YHWH)-Nissi (The Lord Our Banner) – Pray for victory in spiritual battles (Exodus 17:15).
  - vi. Yahweh (YHWH)-Shammah (The Lord is There) – Pray for God's presence (Ezekiel 48:35).
  - vii. Jesus (Yeshua – The Name Above All Names) – Pray in His name for salvation, power, and answered prayers (Acts 4:12).
- e. Start incorporating God's names into personal and corporate prayer.
  - f. Speak God's names with faith, knowing He responds to His name.
- **His name will be truly praised. [Phl 2:9-11 NASB95] 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**
  - **God wants us to only use His name in line with Who He is and What He does.**