

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2025**  
**EXODUS 20:7**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The Ten Commandments were the foundation of the Law of Moses.
  - a) The Law of Moses was written by Moses himself. (Ex. 24.3,4,7; 34.27; Deut. 31.9)
  - b) The Ten Commandments were written by “*the finger of God*” (Ex. 31.18; 32.16; 34.1,28).
  - c) All of God’s laws come out of a single commandment: Love (Matt. 22.30; Rom. 13.8)
2. The Ten Commandments were written exclusively to the children of Israel.
  - a) Are we expected to observe the Ten Commandments today? (Heb. 7.18,19; 8.7-9,13)
  - b) The moral law vs. the ceremonial law. (Col. 2.14-16)
3. The third of the four commandments which regulate our relationship with God is in reference to how we treat the name of God. (Ex. 20.7)

**I. BREAKING DOWN THE COMMANDMENT**

- A. **EXODUS 20.7:** “*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain*”
1. Take (Tis-sa’): “carry, lift up, raise” [Mouce] (cf. Isa. 5.26-28)
    - a) The word never has the meaning of speech.
    - b) It is employing the name of God in empty endeavors such as swearing and prayer.
  2. What is the name of the Lord? (Ex. 6.2,3; Isa. 42.8)
  3. Vain (saw – “shav”): “worthless, futile, inconsequential” [Lexham]
    - a) The meaningless of hard work without God. (Ps. 127.2)
    - b) The futility of taking medicine without God. (Jer. 46.11)
    - c) Is worship a worthless endeavor? (Mal. 3.14)
  4. God’s name was not to be abused by employing His name in worthless ways.
- B. **EXODUS 20.7:** “*for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*”
1. Guiltless (y’naq-qeh’): “be innocent, be released, go unpunished.”
  2. Sixty-nine times in the Old Testament, the command is given to put to death one who breaks God’s commandments. (Num. 15.32-36; Deut. 21.18-21)
  3. God takes the use of His name very seriously. (Hos. 4.1,2; Lev. 24.10-16)

**II. TWO WAYS WE TAKE THE NAME OF GOD IN VAIN**

- A. We take the name of God in vain verbally.
1. False oaths: Employing His name as witness. (Lev. 19.12; Jer. 4.2)
  2. Blasphemy of His name. (Lev. 24.16)
  3. People use phrases that invoke the name of God but do not apply its true meaning.
    - a) “*O my God*” is a biblical phrase, but how do we use it today? (Ezra 9.6)
    - b) Jews revered the name of God substituting “Yahweh” with “Adonay”
- B. We take the name of God in vain by our lifestyle.
1. Christians hold up the banner of God through our lifestyle. (Matt. 5.12-16; Titus 1.16)
  2. **PROVERBS 30.8,9:** “*...lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.*”
  3. Through his acts of adultery and murder, David gave “*great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme*” (2 Sam. 12.14)
  4. The Jews were known as the people of God, but they did not live as His people.
    - a) They condemned the Gentiles and practiced the same thing. (Rom. 2.1)
    - b) They caused the name of God to be blasphemed. (Rom. 2.17-23)
  5. Israel profaned the name of God by “*their own ways and deeds*” (Ezek. 36.16-21)