

“The LORD’s Name”

Exodus 20:7

THE 3rd COMMANDMENT EXPLAINED

1. What is the significance of *the LORD’s name*?

- Hebrew name YHWH (4 letters in Heb, vowels unknown) English: “Jehovah” or “Yahweh” written as LORD. -Yahweh is God’s ‘personal’ name. “I AM WHO I AM” (Ex 3:13-15)

2. What does it mean to *not take* the LORD’s name in vain? Meaning: ‘to pronounce’ or ‘to speak’ something

3. What does it mean to *not take* the LORD’s name *in vain*? Meaning: to treat something ‘as if not real.’

- As if it had no value, worth; empty, insignificant.

→ 2nd Command.: Don’t treat idols as if they are real. 3rd Command.: Don’t treat the LORD as if He is NOT real.

THE NAME OF THE LORD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Worship. Abraham called upon the name of the LORD. Gen 12:8; 13:4

2. Prayer. Hagar... called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, ‘The God Who sees.’ Gen 16:13

3. Service. Priests and Levites served ‘in the name of the LORD’. Deut 18:7

4. Invoked in battle. 1 Sam 17:45: David to Goliath...

5. Proclaiming God’s Word. “When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD...” Dt 18:22

6. Blessing. Num 6:22-27: So they shall invoke My name on the son of Israel, and I then will bless them.

7. Judgment. 2 Ki 2:24: “Elisha... cursed them in the name of the LORD”

8. God’s presence. 2 Sam 6:2: the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of the LORD

9. Often synonymous with the LORD Himself. Ex 33:19: I Myself will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you

3RD COMMANDMENT APPLIED

1. We break the 3rd Commandment when we call on God’s name in a way we should not.

- Using His name in a derogatory, irreverent way. Abusing His name (as a cuss word or flippant phrase)

2. We obey the 3rd Commandment when we call on God’s name as we should.

- Believing God is who He says He is—in the Bible
- Acting, living, emoting in the reality that God is indeed who he says he is (present, protecting, providing)

3. We break the 3rd C. when we give too much authority and influence to other ‘names’ in our life.

- Giving a greater allegiance to any other name, identification, experience, etc.

4. We break the 3rd Commandment through neglect.

- Neglect of God—our daily relationship with Him. (daily devotions, prayer, worship, thanks, dependence)
- Neglect of His Word—the Bible. Neglect of His body—the church.
- Neglect of His gospel—living in the full application of all the truths of the Gospel.

3rd COMMANDMENT FULFILLED IN JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus fulfills the 3rd Commandment by His name and His mission. Matthew 1:21

- Jesus = “the LORD is salvation”

2. Jesus is the incarnate fulfilment of the name of God. Matthew 11:28

- John 8:58: Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.

3. Jesus fulfills the 3rd Commandment by introducing a new name for God: Father.

- In the OT God is sometimes compared to a father. Dt 32:6; Mal 1:6
- In the NT, Jesus says God IS our Father. Mt 6:9: “Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”

4. Jesus fulfills the 3rd Commandment through His followers.

→ When we are born again, we take HIS name as our own. Acts 4:12

- When we fulfill his great commission in HIS name. Matthew 28:19-20
- When we do his works in HIS name. Peter and John healing the lame beggar. Acts 3
- As we submit ourselves to him as King and Lord. Philippians 2:8-11; 1 Corinthians 6:11