

Timeline of Truth – Commandment #3: No Misuse of God’s Name (Exodus 20:7)

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:	
² "I <i>am</i> the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.	
³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.	Nothing / No One But God Directing My Life
⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of <i>anything</i> that <i>is</i> in <u>heaven</u> above, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>earth</u> beneath, or that <i>is</i> in the <u>water</u> under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, <i>am</i> a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth <i>generations</i> of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.	No Self-Defined Version of God
⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold <i>him</i> guiltless who takes His name in vain.	Not Misusing God’s Name (Words, Actions)

1. The Prohibition: Taking God’s Name in Vain

- **The Meaning of the Name of God**

- *His actual name*
- *What God’s name represents as He has revealed Himself to be.*

- **The Meaning of “Vain”**

- *Empty*
- *Worthless*
- *Common*

- **Other Translations**

- *Holman Christian Standard Bible: “Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God...”*
- *Youngs Literal Translation “Thou dost not take up the name of Jehovah thy God for a vain thing”*
- *NIV1984 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,”*

2. MY WORDS: What I Say

- **As an oath (Deut 6:13)**

- a. **Swearing by God’s name something to be true when it is not**
- b. **Swearing by God’s name for trivial matters**
- c. **God’s Command – Speak the Truth Always**

Matt 5:33-37 ³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴ "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ "nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ "Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

- **As a condemnation**

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

- **As a triviality or filler**

3. MY ACCURACY: Who I Am Talking About, and How I Talk About Him

- **Not a facade of fakery**
- **Not an excuse for unbiblical actions**
- **As an accurate statement of Who God is by how I talk about Him**

4. **MY ACTIONS: Who I Represent**

- **Understanding that all that I do represents God**
- **As a central focus of my life, thoughts, and actions**

^{NKJ} "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

^{NET} So pray this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored,

^{CSB} "Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy.

Psalm 29:2, 66:2, 96:8, 115:1

5. **The Penalty: Punishment**

New American Standard Bible 1995 " for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

Youngs "for Jehovah acquitteth not him who taketh up His name for a vain thing."

Phil 2:9-11 ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.