

“I am the LORD; that is My Name”

Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources

Introduction:

A. In the Taurus Mountains of southern Turkey, lives a species of crane that tends to cackle a lot, especially while flying. All of that noise gets the attention of eagles that swoop down and seize them for a meal. The experienced cranes avoid this threat by picking up stones large enough to fill their mouths. This prevents them from cackling and becoming lunch for eagles.

B. People have a problem with their mouths, too. On the front of every face is a large opening called a mouth. In each mouth is a little organ called a tongue. The tongue, though relatively small when compared to the whole body, is one of the most powerful forces in the universe. We can split atoms, walk on the moon, construct weapons to destroy this world hundreds of times over, yet we cannot seem to control the tongue.

1. James 3:8, 1-12; Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:8

C. Alex Dunlap published a tract titled Ten Reasons Why I Swear:

1. It pleases my mother so much.
2. It is a fine mark of manliness.
3. It proves I have self-control.
4. It indicates how clearly my mind operates.
5. It makes my conversation so pleasing to everyone.
6. It leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to my good breeding.
7. It impresses people that I have more than an ordinary education.
8. It is an unmistakable sign of culture and refinement.
9. It makes me a very desirable personality among women and children of culture and refinement.
10. It is my way of honoring God, who said, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain."

D. God's name has been holy in every dispensation

1. Mosaic - Isa. 42:8; Mal. 2:2 - "I am the LORD" 162 times in scripture
2. Patriarchal - Gen. 32:29; Ex. 3:15
3. Christian - Col. 3:17

E. A little girl, attending Bible class as a visitor for the first time, eagerly listened as the teacher told of the birth of God's Son. She loved hearing of the angels, wise men, the star, and the gifts. Then the teacher added, "And they shall call His name Jesus." She looked over at the person who invited her and asked, "Why did they call that little baby a swear word?" It was the first time she had ever heard His Name used in a context other than a curse.

1. Children often repeat what they hear. "The boy's mother was furious. `Young man, where did you learn to talk that way?' "The boy hesitated, looked at his father, and asked, `Dad, should I tell her?'"
2. We are engulfed in profanity. The average American says 90 swear words per day.
3. Using absolute totals, across all networks use of profanity on prime-time broadcast entertainment programming increased 69.3% from 2005 (22,064 incidents in five major networks per year) to 2010 (37,388).

- a. Considering all networks, the estimated number of incidents could be as high as a quarter million incidents in prime time alone per year (Parents' Television Council, 2010)

I. GOD'S NAME IS A VENERABLE NAME

A. Venerable - "sacred, holy, worthy of respect and reverence"

B. The announcement of God's Holy Name

1. Names in the Bible usually reveal something about the person. This is especially true in regard to the Name of God.
2. God revealed Himself to man through His Names (over 300 in the Bible)
3. LORD – When you see this word in the Bible, it is the English translation of the Hebrew word "Jehovah."
 - a. It describes God as the self-existent, eternal One.
 - b. It is the Name, "I AM."
 - c. The name God used to reveal Himself to Moses - Ex. 3:14.
 - d. This Name is used to declare God's nature, unchanging and eternal - Mal. 3:6; James 1:17.
 - e. Jehovah is combined with other words to form compound names for God to reveal more about His nature:
 - 1) Jehovah-Jireh – "The LORD will provide" – Gen. 22:14.
 - 2) Jehovah-Nissi – "The LORD is my banner." – Ex. 17:15.
 - 3) Jehovah-Shalom – "The LORD is peace" – Judges 6:24.
 - 4) Jehovah-Shammah – "The LORD is there" – Ez. 48:35.
 - 5) Jehovah-Tsebaoth – "The LORD of Hosts" – 1Sam. 1:3
 - 6) Jehovah-Rohi - "The LORD is my Shepherd" - Psalm 23:1
4. God – El or Elohim – Refers to the One Supreme, faithful God in three Persons. Literally, "The Strong and Faithful One!"
 - a. Used over 2,000 times in the Old Testament.
 - b. It is the name by which God first revealed Himself to man.
 - c. Ex. 6:3 - El Shaddai (God Almighty) and Jehovah
 - d. Uses in the Old Testament
 - 1) El – God (250 times)
 - 2) Elohim - God in the plural form
 - 3) El Shaddai – God Almighty
 - 4) El Elyon - God Most High
 - 5) Elah-avahati, God of my fathers, (Daniel 2:23)
 - 6) El Elahin - God of gods (Daniel 2:47)
 - 7) El Yerushelem - God of Jerusalem (Ezra 7:19)
 - 8) El Yisrael - God of Israel (Ezra 5:1)
 - 9) El Shemaya - God of Heaven (Ezra 7:23)
 - 10) El Olam - Everlasting God
 - 11) El Hai - Living God
 - 12) El Ro'i - God my Shepherd
 - 13) El Gibbor - God of Strength
 - 14) El elohe abika - the God of your fathers

e. Adonai – Plural form for “My Lord, my owner” (when in singular form, Adoni, it refers to a human lord)

C. The adoration of God’s Name – Psalm 111:9

1. The scribes would, when they came to the Name of God in the writing, stop writing, thoroughly wash themselves, change pens, then write the Name of God. Afterwards, they would throw the pen away so that it could never be used to write another word.
2. Beginning in the Hellenistic period, Jews would not even say the Name Jehovah or Yahweh. Instead, they used the word for Lord, Adonai. Conservative Jews today still maintain that tradition
3. God name must be held in reverence - Psalm 66:2, 34:3, 29:2; Matt. 6:9

II. GOD’S NAME IS A VIOLATED NAME

A. When we use it as a curse

1. God’s name is not an expletive or an expression of surprise, and Christians sin every time they use it that way
2. Euphemisms for God and Jesus’ names are not acceptable substitutes; they are cowardly little substitutes for God’s names, and Christians sin when they use them

B. When we use it casually

1. When we worship or talk about spiritual matters without sincerity or regard for the God we are worshiping or discussing

C. When we use it as camouflage

1. Breaking our word - when we pray and promise God to do one thing and in turn do another. When we take a vow and break it
2. Using our faith to deceive someone into believing we are spiritual people; God’s name is not to be used as fake ID
3. God’s name reveals his character; our poor example shows the world a false image of God
4. "The hypocrisy of the church is far worse than the profanity of the street." – Greg Laurie - Luke 6:46

III. GOD’S NAME WILL BE VINDICATED

A. There will be punishment for the violator

1. The person who uses God’s Name in vain can never be fully right with God and in position for His blessing until that sin is repented.

B. There will be a path for the Christian

1. After the Welsh revival of 1904, foul mouthed miners who answered the denominational altar call returned to the mines and were faced with the task of retraining their mules. It seems that the animals were unable to understand the commands of the miners when no profanity is used.
2. God wants His people to guard their tongues and that when we use His Name, we do so with reverence and respect.
3. James 5:12; Matt. 12:35-37