



Section 2: Concerning The Godhead (Cont.)

Question 4: Is the name of God special?

Answer 4: Yes! The name of God is holy, and is not to be taken in vain.

Memory Verse: **Exodus 20:7**

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Support Verses: **Psalm 8:1**

O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Proverbs 30:8-9

8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Discussion Points:

1. What does it mean to take the name of the Lord "in vain?"

- The word "vain," according to the Complete Word Study New Testament means, "emptiness, evil, ruin, uselessness, deception, worthless, without result, fraud or deceit."
- And according to Webster's 1828 dictionary it means, "Empty, worthless, having no substance, value or importance... not effectual, having no efficacy."
- To take the name of God in vain is to deny the very character of God.
- To take the name of God in vain is to deny the power of God.
- To take the name of God in vain is to deceive those in earshot of the nature of God; in essence, to lie about God.
- To take the name of God in vain is to use His name, which is high and holy, and excellent in a way that is profane or common.
- To take the name of God in vain is to use His name irreverently.
- To take the name of God in vain is to question His worth.
- We ought to take great care to reverence the name of God appropriately.
- Though it is not necessary to abstain completely from uttering the name of the LORD as the Jews did, that practice is, none the less, representative of the reverence that they had for the Name which is above every name.
- Let us never be caught being careless with His name.



2. Are there consequences to taking the name of the Lord in vain?

- We will give an account for every idle word. (Matthew 12:36)
- The word "idle" in Matthew 12:36 is very similar to the word "vain," meaning, "insincere, false, unprofitable." (Complete Word Study Dictionary)
- And likewise according to Webster's 1828 Dictionary, "useless, vain, ineffectual... unfruitful, not productive."
- Can you imagine standing before God one day and giving an account to Him as He judges you for the inappropriate use of His name.

3. Is taking the Lord's name in vain merely something we do with our mouth, or is it done with our actions as well?

- We can bring reproach upon the name of the Lord by our behavior that is unbecoming of His character.
- As a people called "by His name" the children of Israel brought reproach upon His name for their lack of faith. (Isaiah 63:7-14)
- The disciples were "called Christians" first at Antioch, which is, in essence, being called a follower of Jesus.
- Truly an honor that bore a great responsibility, and expectation.
- As the writer of Proverbs warns us, let us never blaspheme the Name of the Lord by bringing disgrace or irreverence to it.
- Not only is your testimony contingent on your reverence for the Lord,
- But God's testimony is marred by the casual, and callused nature of your actions.

Notes:

Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs:

- "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" (Hymn - #37 - Rejoice Hymns)
- "Blessed Be The Name" (Hymn - #38 - Rejoice Hymns)