

## **TAKING ELOHIM'S NAME IN VAIN**

The first four commandments of the Ten Commandments, as recorded in the Bible, are found in two places: Exodus 20:21 and Deuteronomy 5:6. These commandments focus on the relationship between ELOHIM and humanity, emphasizing worship, reverence, and devotion to ELOHIM.

### **1. No Other ELOHIMs (Exodus 20:23)**

"I am YAH thy ELOHIM, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other elohims before me."

Explanation: This commandment establishes the exclusive worship of Yahweh, the ELOHIM of Israel, and forbids the acknowledgment or worship of any other elohims.

### **2. No Graven Images (Exodus 20:4)**

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I YAH thy ELOHIM am a jealous ELOHIM, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Explanation: This commandment forbids the creation and worship of idols or images, emphasizing that ELOHIM is spirit and must not be represented by physical forms. It also underscores ELOHIM's jealousy for His people's undivided devotion.

### **\*\* 3. Do Not Take YAH's Name in Vain (Exodus 20:7)**

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

Explanation: This commandment instructs that ELOHIM's name should be used with reverence and respect, not casually or disrespectfully. Misusing ELOHIM's name in oaths, curses, or trivial matters is prohibited. Furthermore, committing spiritual adultery, fornication and disobedience show that you have taken his name in vain and leads to causing others to profane or take his name in vain.

### **4. Remember the Sabbath Day (Exodus 20:8)**

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of YAH thy ELOHIM: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days YAH made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore YAH blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Explanation: This commandment calls for the observance of the Sabbath, a day of rest and worship, recognizing ELOHIM's creation work and His sanctification of the seventh day. It emphasizes rest from labor and a focus on spiritual renewal.

Worshiping ELOHIM in vain refers to worship that is insincere, superficial, or hypocritical. It is worship that lacks true devotion, reverence, or obedience to ELOHIM's commandments. The Bible addresses this concept in several passages, where ELOHIM condemns empty rituals and lip service that are not accompanied by genuine faith and obedience.

Here are some key passages from the King James Version (KJV) that discuss worshiping ELOHIM in vain:

#### 1. Isaiah 29:13

- "Wherefore YAH said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men."

Explanation: In this verse, ELOHIM rebukes the people of Israel for offering lip service without true devotion. They outwardly honor ELOHIM with their words, but their hearts are far from Him, and their worship is based on human traditions rather than a genuine relationship with ELOHIM.

#### 2. Matthew 15:7-9

- "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Explanation: Jesus quotes Isaiah 29:13 in this passage, addressing the Pharisees and scribes. He condemns their practice of adhering to human traditions while neglecting the true spirit of

ELOHIM's commandments. Their worship is vain because it is not rooted in a sincere desire to please ELOHIM but rather in following external rituals and traditions.

### 3. Malachi 1:6-8

- "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith YAH of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of YAH is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith YAH of hosts."

Explanation: In Malachi, ELOHIM criticizes the priests for offering defective sacrifices, showing that they do not truly honor Him. Their actions reveal a lack of respect and genuine worship, as they present offerings that they would not dare offer to a human ruler. This reflects worship that is done in vain because it is not wholehearted or sincere.

### 4. Amos 5:21-24

- "I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

Explanation: Through the prophet Amos, ELOHIM expresses His rejection of Israel's religious ceremonies because they are performed without true justice and righteousness. ELOHIM desires a life that reflects His character more than ritualistic worship that is devoid of ethical behavior.

### Summary

Worshipping ELOHIM in vain is characterized by outward acts of worship that lack sincerity, true devotion, and obedience to ELOHIM's commandments. It occurs when people go through the motions of religious practice without their hearts being truly engaged with ELOHIM. The Bible emphasizes that ELOHIM desires worship that comes from a heart that is fully devoted to Him, marked by genuine love, obedience, and righteousness. Worship in vain is not just about the actions themselves, but the attitude and intention behind them.

### Summary

These first four commandments form the foundation of the covenant relationship between ELOHIM and Israel, stressing the importance of exclusive worship, reverence, and obedience to ELOHIM's laws. They set the tone for how the people of Israel are to relate to ELOHIM and establish the basis for a life dedicated to His service and glory.

The phrase "In vain do they worship me" comes from a passage in the New Testament where Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees and scribes for their hypocritical worship. It is found in Matthew 15:7-9 and Mark 7:6-7. Jesus is quoting from the prophet Isaiah to highlight the emptiness of their religious practices when they do not truly honor ELOHIM in their hearts.

Matthew 15:7-9 (KJV):

- "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Mark 7:6-7 (KJV):

- "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Context and Explanation:

#### 1. Lip Service vs. Heart Devotion:

- External Worship: Jesus criticizes the religious leaders for focusing on outward rituals and traditions while neglecting the inner devotion and obedience that true worship requires. They were more concerned with maintaining human traditions than with following ELOHIM's commandments from the heart.

- Vain Worship: The term "vain" means empty or meaningless. Worship becomes vain when it is merely superficial—when people go through the motions of religious practices without a sincere heart and without aligning their lives with ELOHIM's will.

#### 2. Teaching Human Traditions as Doctrine:

- Commandments of Men: The Pharisees and scribes had elevated their own interpretations and traditions above the commandments of ELOHIM. By doing so, they led people away from the true worship that ELOHIM desires.

- Misplaced Authority: When human traditions are given the same or greater authority than ELOHIM's word, worship becomes distorted and ineffective. Jesus calls this out as a form of hypocrisy, where the outward appearance of piety masks a heart that is distant from ELOHIM.

### 3. Isaiah's Prophecy:

- Isaiah 29:13: Jesus references Isaiah's prophecy, where ELOHIM rebukes Israel for similar behavior—honoring Him with their lips while their hearts are far from Him. This shows that the issue of vain worship is not new but has been a recurring problem throughout Israel's history.

### Application to Today:

#### 1. Authentic Worship:

- True worship is not just about what we say or do in religious settings but about the condition of our hearts and our genuine relationship with ELOHIM. Authentic worship involves love, obedience, and a heart fully devoted to ELOHIM, not just following religious rituals.

#### 2. Avoiding Hypocrisy:

- We must guard against the danger of hypocrisy—saying the right words or performing religious acts while our hearts are not truly committed to ELOHIM. ELOHIM desires truth in our inward parts (Psalm 51:6) and worship that flows from a sincere heart.

#### 3. Prioritizing ELOHIM's Commandments:

- It is crucial to prioritize ELOHIM's commandments over human traditions or practices that might be comfortable or familiar. True worship aligns with ELOHIM's word and seeks to honor Him above all else.

### Conclusion:

The warning, "In vain do they worship me," serves as a powerful reminder that ELOHIM is not interested in empty rituals or mere lip service. He desires worship that is rooted in a sincere heart, genuine love, and true obedience to His commandments. Our worship should reflect a deep, authentic relationship with ELOHIM, where our actions and words are consistent with our inner devotion to Him. Let us strive to worship ELOHIM in spirit and in truth, ensuring that our praise and devotion are not in vain but are pleasing in His sight.

The idea that Israel caused Gentiles (non-Jews) to profane the name of ELOHIM is addressed in the Bible, particularly in the writings of the prophet Ezekiel and the apostle Paul. This concept highlights the responsibility of ELOHIM's people to live in a way that honors His name, and the consequences when they fail to do so.

#### Key Scripture Passages:

##### 1. Ezekiel 36:20-23 (KJV)

- "And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of YAH, and are gone forth out of his land. But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith YAH ELOHIM; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I am YAH, saith YAH ELOHIM, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes."

#### Explanation:

- Profaning ELOHIM's Name: The Israelites, through their disobedience and idolatry, were sent into exile among the Gentiles (referred to as "the heathen" in this passage). Instead of being a light to the nations, their actions caused ELOHIM's name to be profaned among the Gentiles. The Gentiles saw the Israelites' downfall and concluded that the ELOHIM of Israel was either powerless or unworthy of respect, thus bringing dishonor to His name.

- ELOHIM's Response: Despite Israel's failure, ELOHIM promises to restore His name's holiness—not for Israel's sake, but for the sake of His own name. ELOHIM's actions in restoring Israel are intended to demonstrate His holiness and power to the nations, correcting the dishonor caused by Israel's sins.

##### 2. Romans 2:23-24 (KJV)

- "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou ELOHIM? For the name of ELOHIM is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written."

#### Explanation:

- Paul's Rebuke: In this passage, the Apostle Paul is addressing Jews who boast in the law but fail to keep it. He points out the hypocrisy of claiming to follow ELOHIM's law while living in disobedience.

This inconsistency leads Gentiles to blaspheme or speak against ELOHIM because they see the disparity between the Jews' professed faith and their actions.

- Resulting Blasphemy: When ELOHIM's people live in a way that contradicts His commandments, it causes others to disrespect or blaspheme ELOHIM. Paul's message is a warning about the serious consequences of hypocrisy and the importance of living a life that truly reflects ELOHIM's holiness.

Implications for ELOHIM's People:

#### 1. Responsibility to Reflect ELOHIM's Holiness:

- ELOHIM's people are called to live in a way that honors His name. Their actions should reflect His holiness, righteousness, and love. When they fail to do so, it not only affects their own relationship with ELOHIM but also impacts how others perceive and respect ELOHIM.

#### 2. Consequences of Disobedience:

- Disobedience and hypocrisy among ELOHIM's people can lead to the profaning of ELOHIM's name among those who do not know Him. This not only brings dishonor to ELOHIM but can also hinder others from coming to know and respect Him.

#### 3. ELOHIM's Commitment to His Name:

- Even when His people fail, ELOHIM remains committed to sanctifying His name. He acts to restore His reputation and demonstrate His holiness and power, showing that His name is to be revered among all nations.

Conclusion:

The idea that Israel caused Gentiles to profane the name of ELOHIM serves as a sobering reminder of the responsibility that comes with being ELOHIM's people. Our lives should be a testimony to ELOHIM's holiness and righteousness, not a cause for others to blaspheme His name. The call to live in obedience and reflect ELOHIM's character is not just about personal righteousness but about upholding the honor of ELOHIM's name in the world. Let us strive to live in a way that brings glory to ELOHIM, so that His name is revered among all people.

Lesson: The Sacredness of ELOHIM's Name

## Introduction

ELOHIM's name holds a profound significance in the Bible, symbolizing His character, authority, and presence. The Third Commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of YAH thy ELOHIM in vain," found in Exodus 20:7, serves as a critical reminder of the reverence and respect we must have when taking ELOHIM's name. This lesson will explore the importance of honoring ELOHIM's name, the consequences of misusing it, and how our relationship with ELOHIM extends beyond mere words to our actions, stewardship, and obedience.

### I. Understanding the Commandment

Exodus 20:7 (KJV): "Thou shalt not take the name of YAH thy ELOHIM in vain; for YAH will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

#### 1. The Meaning of Taking ELOHIM's Name in Vain:

- Reverence and Respect: ELOHIM's name represents His holy character and authority. To take His name in vain means to use it lightly, casually, or disrespectfully, without the honor and reverence it deserves.
- Casual Use: This includes using ELOHIM's name in trivial matters, such as exclamations or phrases that are disconnected from genuine reverence (e.g., "Oh my ELOHIM!" used carelessly).
- Oaths and Curses: Using ELOHIM's name to swear falsely or in a curse is a severe violation of this commandment. It misrepresents ELOHIM's truth and brings dishonor to His name.

#### 2. The Gravity of Misuse:

- ELOHIM's Judgment: The commandment warns that ELOHIM will not hold guiltless anyone who takes His name in vain. This emphasizes the seriousness with which ELOHIM views the misuse of His holy name.

### II. Extending Reverence Beyond Words

#### Spiritual Adultery and Fornication:

##### 1. The Concept of Spiritual Adultery:



- Idolatry as Spiritual Infidelity: In the Bible, idolatry is often described as spiritual adultery (Ezekiel 16:32, James 4:4). When we turn our hearts to other "ELOHIMs" or worldly desires, we are unfaithful to our covenant relationship with ELOHIM, akin to a spouse being unfaithful in marriage.

- ELOHIM's Name and Our Faithfulness: When we claim to be followers of ELOHIM but engage in idolatrous or sinful behaviors, we take ELOHIM's name in vain through our actions. We misrepresent His character and holiness.

## 2. Being Good Stewards and Obedient:

- Stewardship of ELOHIM's Name: As believers, we are stewards of ELOHIM's name. Our words, actions, and lifestyle should reflect the honor due to Him. This means living in a way that upholds His righteousness and holiness.

- Obedience as Reverence: True reverence for ELOHIM's name is expressed through obedience. Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15, KJV). Obedience to ELOHIM's laws is a sign of respect for His authority and name.

Romans 12:1 (KJV): "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of ELOHIM, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto ELOHIM, which is your reasonable service."

## 3. Maintaining Purity in Relationship with ELOHIM:

- Avoiding Spiritual Fornication: Just as physical fornication is a violation of the body's sanctity, spiritual fornication (engaging in practices or beliefs contrary to ELOHIM's teachings) violates our spiritual relationship with ELOHIM.

- Pursuing Holiness: We must strive to live holy lives, set apart for ELOHIM's service, reflecting His name in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

## III. The Broader Implications of Taking ELOHIM's Name in Vain

### 1. Impact on the Community:

- Witness to Others: How we use ELOHIM's name reflects our witness to others. If we misuse it, we undermine our testimony and may cause others to stumble or disrespect ELOHIM's name as well.

- Building Up the Body: Ephesians 4:29 (KJV) instructs us, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Using ELOHIM's name with reverence helps to build up and encourage others in faith.

## 2. Consequences of Disobedience:

- Divine Judgment: The Bible consistently warns that ELOHIM will judge those who misuse His name (Leviticus 24:16). This judgment extends not just to words but to the broader context of our relationship with Him, including idolatry, disobedience, and spiritual unfaithfulness.

## 3. Positive Use of ELOHIM's Name:

- Calling Upon the Name of YAH: Using ELOHIM's name should be done in prayer, worship, and thanksgiving, recognizing His sovereignty and expressing our dependence on Him (Romans 10:13, Psalm 105:1).

- Proclaiming His Name: We are called to proclaim ELOHIM's name and glory to the nations, sharing His goodness and mercy with others (Isaiah 12:4).

## Conclusion

Taking ELOHIM's name in vain is a serious offense that extends beyond just our words to our actions, attitudes, and spiritual life. As believers, we are called to honor ELOHIM's name with the reverence and respect it deserves, both in how we speak and how we live. This includes avoiding spiritual adultery and fornication, being faithful stewards of ELOHIM's commandments, and maintaining a holy, obedient relationship with Him. Let us commit to using ELOHIM's name with the utmost respect, reflecting His holiness in every aspect of our lives.

## Reflection Questions:

1. How can you ensure that you are using ELOHIM's name with reverence and respect in your daily life?
2. In what ways can spiritual adultery or disobedience be a form of taking ELOHIM's name in vain?
3. How can you be a better steward of ELOHIM's name, both in your words and actions?
4. What steps can you take to grow in holiness and obedience to ELOHIM, honoring His name in all that you do?

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come before You with a desire to honor Your holy name in all that we say and do. Help us to recognize the weight of Your name and to treat it with the reverence it deserves. Guard our hearts against spiritual adultery and disobedience, and guide us in living lives that reflect

Your holiness. May we be faithful stewards of Your name, proclaiming Your glory and righteousness to the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.