



God's eternal commandment requires that "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name" (Exodus 20:7). A hint of the importance of a name is found in a timeless Proverb (22:1) that states, "A good name is more desirable than great riches." In Hebrew thinking, a person's name reflects who they are. Ezekiel means "the strength of God;" Jesus means "savior" or "deliverer." God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning "father of many nations." Saul became the apostle Paul, which means "small in stature, big in love."

How much more is the name of God to be esteemed. In our personal conversations with our loving God, Jesus taught us to pray with appropriate respect, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." To misuse the name of God is more than saying it carelessly. "Taking" the Lord's name "in vain" literally means "bearing or carrying" God's name "for unreality or without substance;" i.e., to manifest God's reputation in a way that is frivolous, insincere, or superficial.

1. Profanity

Leviticus 22:32

Ephesians 4:29

2. False Promises

Leviticus 19:12

Matthew 5:33-37

3. False Witness

Leviticus 18:21

Romans 2:21-24

4. False Worship

Isaiah 29:13

5. Consequences

Exodus 20:7b

1 Peter 3:10-12

6. Implications

Matthew 6:9-10

1 Peter 3:8-18a

*"Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."
(Psalm 96:2-3)*