

## **Holy and Awesome is His Name**

The Psalmist proclaims, "Holy and awesome is His name" (Psalm 111:9). The Psalmist also declares, "Let them praise Your great and awesome name - He is Holy" (Psalm 99:3). Moses will also declare as he delivers the Ten Commandments, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7). The very name of God is to be held in reverence by man.

The very name of our Lord stands for and represents His matchless character and being as the God of heaven and creation. Moses records in Exodus chapter 3, God speaking, "I am the God of your father - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob..." (Exodus 3:6), and furthered when Moses asked what do I say regarding Your name, "I AM WHO I AM, and He said, thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you" (Exodus 3:14).

God forbade that His name be taken in vain. God had made known the glory of His nature in His name (Exodus 3:14., Exodus 6:2), and this was not to be abused by His people. This does not mean to utter the name of God, but in all the passages in which it has been so rendered it must retain its proper meaning, "to take up, life up, raise;" e.g., to take up or raise (begin) a proverb (Numbers 23:7; Job 27:1), to lift up a song (Psalm 81:3), or a prayer (Isaiah 37:4). And it is evident from the parallel in Psalm 24:4, "to lift up his soul to an idol," that it does not mean "to utter" here and does not signify a lie but rather to be used wasteful: it denotes that which is waste and disorder, hence that which is empty, vain, and nugatory, for which there is no occasion (<https://biblehub.com/commentaries/exodus/20-7>).

God warned them, thus He warns you and I as we are instructed to learn from what was written (1 Corinthians 10:11, Romans 15:4). Taking the name of God in vain today is much more than just saying or using His name in profanity. Consider, when one uses "Oh my God" reverentially in prayer, such is justifiable. However, to use the same phrase to react to an occasion or event in life is most certainly not. Consider also that the name of Jesus has many proper uses, most commonly when discussing His Gospel. However, using His name in reaction to an occasion or event most certainly is not.

Let each of us purpose to speak of God with reverence and awe. Let us speak in such a manner that glorifies Him and His name at all times. Let us hold forth the glory of God's character using His name in speech that proceeds from a pure,

believing heart. We dare not refrain from using God's name; rather we use it freely in speech that glorifies Him. "I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High" (Psalms 7:17). "Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts! (Psalms 96:8).