



Thank you for downloading the
CQ Rewind - Summary Only Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the
CQ Rewind FULL EDITION at no charge, simply sign up at
www.ChristianQuestions.com.

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.



Do We Take God's Name in Vain?

Exodus 20:7: (NASB) *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*



"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." It is one of the Ten Commandments, so it must be important. But, what does it really mean? Is it just about the words we use or is there more to it than that? Can our thoughts and actions also be a manifestation of taking God's name in vain? What is the end result of carelessly handling God's name? How do we become more aware of ourselves so we hold the name of God with reverence, honor and respect?

First of all, what does the commandment actually mean?

Exodus 20:7: (NASB) You shall not **take** <5375> the name of the LORD your God in **vain** <7723>, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

Take: Strongs #5375 asn nasa' naw-saw' or hon nacah naw-saw' 1) to lift, bear up, carry, take 2) to lift, lift up 3) to bear, carry, support, sustain, endure 4) to take, take away, carry off, forgive

Exodus 6:8: And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did **swear** <5375> to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it to you for an heritage: I am the LORD.

Exodus 10:13: And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind **brought** <5375> the locusts.

So, the idea behind "take" is to "hold, possess or carry;" to have whatever you are holding be, in a sense, a form of your signature.

Vain: Strongs #7723 awv shav' shawv or wv shav shav 1) emptiness, vanity, falsehood 2) emptiness, nothingness, vanity 3) emptiness of speech, lying 4) worthlessness (of conduct)

Some examples of the use of "vain" (Old Testament) **Exodus 23:1:** (KJV) Thou shalt not raise a **false** <7723> report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

Psalms 24:3-5: (KJV) ³Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto **vanity** <7723>, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

So, the idea behind "vain" is that of a falsehood or an exaggerated and fantasy view of what is actually real.

There are many levels of taking God's name in vain. Here is a basic, common and mostly unconscious example:

 **Young people, Using the Lord's Name in Vain, Greg Laurie**

- *But there's another way, and it's just when people say God carelessly, "Oh God!" "God, I just can't believe this," just to make a point "Oh, God"! You'll hear sometimes young people having a conversation: "Umm, I'm like, are you gonna go? He's all, like, I'm not gonna go. I'm like, oh my God, I hope you go. He's all..." (Laughter). Right? You've heard that? I honestly believe that's taking the Lord's name in vain. Don't use God's name like that.*

People say the phrase "Oh my God" in a flippant way, whether they believe in God or not! It has become an expression as part of our language, but is it a proper use of the name of God? No! If we are supposed to be representing Christ-likeness, we have a big responsibility. What does taking God's name in vain mean? To possess the name of God as a signature of your life when in fact it is a forgery, a false or frivolous representation of who you really are.

Immediate context of our theme verse: It's all about God - God should be first and only! **Exodus 20:1-4,7-8:** (NASB) ¹Then God spoke all these words, saying, ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in



heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth...⁷**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him *unpunished* <5352> who takes His name in vain.** ⁸Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

God's name is to be held in the highest esteem possible.

Unpunished: Strong's #5352 to be empty, be clear, be pure, be free, be innocent, be desolate, be cut off

Don't take His name in vain because you will not be able to walk away "clear." There is recompense. God is talking to Israel, who were in covenant relationship with Him. This is not a commandment that went out to the general people in the world; rather, to those who understood who God was and who, at that moment in time, had seen God's deliverance in their very lives. For those of us who call ourselves "Christians," we have seen God in our very lives. We have a covenant relationship to God through Christ, so we should treat this commandment with grave seriousness.

Next is a sad example of a man of God falling into a pattern of irreverent representation of God. We will drop in on the prophet Jonah in the midst of his punishment for his vain treatment of God and His command.

Jonah 2:1-9: (KJV) *Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, **Sometimes we find reverence when we have no other choice!** ²And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. ³For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. **Reverence plows the road for true faith:** ⁴Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. ⁵The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about; the weeds were wrapped about my head. ⁶I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me forever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. He repented for miscarrying the name of God and His instructions and prophecies by running away. He understood this punishment was because of his own choices. **True faith recognizes forgiveness!** ⁷When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. ⁸They that observe lying **vanities** <7723> forsake their own mercy. ⁹But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.*

Forgiveness puts the stories of our lives under the light of truth and renews determination!

The fear or utter respect and reverence for the name of God prophetically is coming to the world. That is what the world needs to shake it out of its lethargy of being idolatrous in worshipping ourselves and what we do and feel. The idea of taking God's name in vain is to carry it with emptiness. It is supposed to be the signature of our life. What do we "sign" by our thoughts and actions?

Jesus re-establishes the "God first" and "God only" approach for us: Matthew 22:36-40

God has many names to describe Him.

El: Strong's #410 'el 1) God, god-like one, mighty one
2) mighty men, men of rank, mighty heroes 3) angels

Psalms 18:2: (KJV) *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my **God** <410>, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

Psalms 90:2: (KJV) *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art **God** <410>.*

Shaddai: Strong's #7706 ydv Shadday shad-dah'-ee; Almighty, most powerful

Psalms 91:1: (KJV) *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the **Almighty** <7706>.*

You can't hide there unless you treat His name with utmost respect and gravity, not frivolity.



Genesis 17:1: (KJV) *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the **Almighty <7706> God <410>**; walk before Me, and be thou perfect.*

In other words, "Carry My name with respect and dignity and I will bless you." God's name is to be held up high with sacredness.

This refers to God completely nourishing, satisfying, and supplying His people with all their needs as a mother would her child. Connected with the word for God, El, this denotes a God who freely gives nourishment and blessing; He is our sustainer.

El Elyon: Strongs #5945 Nwyle Æelyown el-yone'; an elevation, i.e. (adj.) lofty (compar.); as title, the Supreme: — (Most, on) high (-er, -est), upper (-most).

Genesis 14:18: (KJV) *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the **most high <5945> God <410>**.*

Psalms 78:35: (KJV) *And they remembered that God was their rock, and the **high <5945> God <410>** their redeemer.*

It expresses the extreme sovereignty and majesty of God and His highest preeminence. When the two words are combined — El Elyon — it can be translated as "the most exalted God."

Psalms 57:2

Adonai: #136 ynda 'Adonay ad-o-noy' am 1) my lord, lord 2) of men 3) of God
4) Lord-title, spoken in place of Yahweh in Jewish display of reverence

Psalms 68:19: (KJV) *Blessed be the **Lord <136>**, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the **God <410>** of our salvation. Selah.*

Psalms 62:12: (KJV) *Also unto thee, O **Lord <136>**, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.*

Qanna: #7067 anq qanna' kan-naw' jealous (only of God)

Exodus 34:14: (KJV) *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is **Jealous <7067>**, is a **jealous <7067> God <410>**:*

This is not from the standpoint of, "you have something I want so I am jealous." God is all powerful and almighty. He is our Creator and requires us to acknowledge Him as such, because we do not have another creator! Worshipping false gods takes away His honor and glory.

Deuteronomy 4:24: (KJV) *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a **jealous <7067> God <410>**.*

To carry the name of God through Jesus is to essentially sign His name to our lives. Are we signing His name in good faith or are we forging His name because we are not *living* His name? Would Jesus himself sign off on what you are doing on Monday? Not Sunday, but Monday, Tuesday or Friday or Saturday night? Would God Himself sign off on that? If He wouldn't, why are you doing it if you are carrying His name through Jesus?

What about our names? Is there and should there be meanings attached?

A prophecy about Israel's future: Isaiah 62:1-3: God will work through this physical nation to bring forth brightness and salvation. With a new name, there will also be a sacred new position! What new name? Jeremiah 33:16: The new name reflects reverence for God Almighty, "The Lord is our righteousness." **Simon was given a new name:** Matthew 16:16-18: His name was to symbolize the change that was to crystallize in him - how about us?

Revelation 2:17: Again there is a promise of a new name once that crystalized character is in place.

Rick's name is Richard Domenic, meaning Richard ("strong") Domenic ("in the Lord"). His parents' desire was that he would grow into his name. Until he gave his heart to the Lord in his 20's, Jonathan was always known as Jon. He used his full name to start a new beginning. It means "a gift from God." Names have meaning. If we claim the name of Christ, we are claiming a meaning for our lives. That becomes our signature. Does it reflect the name we claim to hold?



The name that we carry - our signature - will always reflect that which we most highly honor: 2 Timothy 2:16-19

Here are some examples of reverence in the Bible: **First, within the angelic hosts: Isaiah 6:1-3: Even among the mightiest of spiritual beings, there is a sense of awe and submission in the presence of Almighty! Exodus 3:4-6: Moses was in over his head! He was in a place of such sacred meaning that he needed direction to be able to give proper honor and respect. He was rightfully afraid to try to look upon God.**

Sometimes the churches in our day live God's name in vain when it is all about money. The name of Christ becomes a name of profit. That is as far away from godliness as we can imagine. Let us not fall into that category.

We lack reverence because we are too busy trying to make ourselves look good: Matthew 5:33-37: Say what you are going to do and do it. We lack reverence because we are too busy fighting for "position" in a worthless pecking order! James 3:8-12: James points out a contradiction that is not right. Who are we? What does the signature of our actions show to the world? How important is reverence? Are we living the name of Jesus or do we just claim his name to make us feel better? **We lack reverence because we are too busy with our own reactions and conclusions: Ephesians 4:25-28:**

What are some practical ways to carry the Lord's name with reverence?

Realize what causes our reverential lapses and what does not: Matthew 15:15-20: Corruption can come from the "inside out" - what we conjure in our hearts and let it do in our lives.

WHY do we do the things that we do? If you know the "why," you will know the reverence factor! Learn to live reverently - learning to "do" reverence!

*Matthew 5:1-10: (NASB) ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²He opened his mouth and began to teach them, saying, **Each of the following is an action that ultimately finds its basis in reverence:** ³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

One last example of reverent behavior: Exodus 33:17-23: (NASB) ¹⁷The LORD said to Moses, I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name. ¹⁸Then Moses said, I pray You, show me Your glory! **For Moses, reverence did not mean timidity; it meant asking in deep faith! ¹⁹And He said, I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion. **God granted the request - for before Him was a man of faith and reverence!** ²⁰But He said, you cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live! ²¹Then the LORD said, behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; ²²and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen. Moses was given as much as he could handle in his frail human state. There was a reward for reverence!**

Am I living in such a way that God through Christ would sign off on the things that I do, say and think or are we fooling ourselves? Therefore, are we minimizing our holding the name of Christ? Be reverent! Do not take the name of God in vain!

**So, do we take God's name in vain?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**