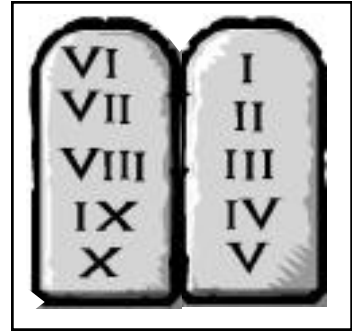


עֲשֵׂרַת הַדְּבָרִים

לֹא תִשָּׂא - Word Number Three

THE THIRD WORD of the Ten words is:

“You shall not take the name of Adonai your God in vain, for Adonai will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.”



The Third Word of the Ten Words prohibits taking G-d's Name in vain. The Hebrew word “vain” is שָׁוָא, *shave'* which has a basic meaning of “worthless,” “trivial,” “to treat badly,” “to act with injustice.” The word may also have connections with “magic,” or “to cast a spell.” Some have suggested that taking the Name (literally, “lifting up the Name”) in vain may have to do with the attempt to use the Name of Adonai as an incantation, or to affect some sort of “magic.” In fact, those who claim that by pronouncing the Name, one is able to “move” G-d to act in one's favor, may actually be breaking this commandment. But more likely the meaning is to use the Name in a trivial or worthless fashion—to forget that the Name of Adonai is a revelation of His holy character. As such, to use the Name in a worthless fashion is to proclaim that G-d is also worthless, or of no value. This is what we call “blasphemy,” to speak badly of G-d and to speak and act in such a way so as to deny the very existence and goodness of G-d.

What are some ways that this commandment is broken? Here are some suggestions:

- 1) By claiming that G-d agrees to something that is evil, wrong, or unrighteous (like using His Name in an oath that you don't intend to keep, or to make a lie sound like it is the truth).
- 2) By attempting to control G-d by chanting His Name or thinking that somehow by using His Name you can control Him
- 3) By making His Name common, like any other name or word
- 4) By using His Name in a vulgar way (like cursing someone or losing your temper)

How do we obey this commandment?

- 1) By carefully using G-d's Name in a manner that proves I fear and love Him (like in praising Him, or honoring His character and His deeds).
- 2) By taking seriously the times I call upon G-d as a witness to the truth of my statements



Prov. 18:10 The name of Adonai is a strong tower;
The righteous runs into it and is safe.



1Sam 17:45 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of Adonai of hosts, the G-d of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.

The Ten Words

Third Word: Do not take the Name of Adonai in vain

V W P R R G B V T M X Y E M I L H L V P T P O S V
L A K O R F K R E N K C U B D I V A D Y R F L A Z
Y R A E B T X Y U N A J I C E S Z G N R E B V N H
C E Y G O X X L I U U U L Y Z L D I K D T G O C I
O W Q Q H I Z W B T E C X A Y D A V J N C F O T G
V O K K J Z U D Z L K T P D N I K D Q A A G A I T
O T R P V V E E F M B A C O Q R N N W L R K Y F U
X G B E H U I A N O D A L G R B E T X B A B M Y V
A N C J V S B Q B P U N R N B O A T X O H F E O U
X O X E P E U N T U X N Z G G V N L E C C N H Z V
C R I G M B R V A I N O Y Y U N A O C A S E P P J
L T M M L A H E E C U G T K Z I I M H J D X S H W
Y S R G B O N Z N W I A F W V R V S Y R O X A P J
D N V R Q U C E J C N K O I S U G C R L G X L A O
Y J E B X A G J R M E K R G M H D A C U O Y B O W
B E C E N S N P I C L T E G P V B V C D C H R W R
Z C N Y L S T K X M U D O D V F Y I J H U S U K L

vain

blasphemy

cursing

Gods Character

honor

holy

reverence

name

Adonai

trivial

sanctify

strong tower

eternal