



## WHAT IS VAIN?

Taking Yah's name in vain is mentioned in the third commandment **Exod. 20:7** "*You shall not take the name of Adonai Yahveh in **vain**, for Adonai will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain*". The word "vain" here means "worthlessness". Thou shall not speak the name of Adonai thy Yahveh in a worthless, irreverent manner. Yahveh's name must always be used in a reverent, holy manner without exception. Adonai commands us not to "revile" or "curse" Him. **Exod. 22:28** "***You shall not curse Yahveh, nor curse a ruler of your people.***" To abuse His name, trifle with it, or use it in any demeaning way, is "blasphemy" in the eyes of Yahveh. It was such a big deal to our Adonai that He commanded those who did such to be put to death. (Lev 24:15-16).

Substituting Adonai's name with euphemisms or using it in a vague manner with careless speech or slang expressions is also blasphemous to our Yahveh. **Eph. 4:29** "***Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such {a word} as is good for edification according to the need {of the moment,} that it may give grace to those who hear.***" Also **Eph. 5:3-4** "***But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and {there must be no} filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.***"

When people swear on the Bible and take an oath to tell the truth, as in court, they don't realize how important it is to do as vowed. They may think they will get away with lying in the courthouse but Yahveh knows what they said. **Lev. 19:12** '***And you shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of Yahveh; I am Adonai.***' Yeshua told us it is not necessary to swear at all in fact, we are to simply answer truthfully when asked a question as stated in **Matt. 5:33-37** "*Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO ADONAI.'* "***But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of Yahveh, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' {or} 'No, no'; and anything beyond these is of evil.***" In the Hebrew copy of this verse, it says: "**make no oath falsely**". The discussion here is making false oaths, not making oaths in Yah's name. Obviously one should not make false oaths, especially in His name. **James 5:12** *But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.*" "Do not swear falsely" is what it reads in proper Hebrew.

Yeshua talks about people who use His name without being worthy in **Luke 6:46-49** *“And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? “Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and acts upon them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. “But the one who has heard, and has not acted {accordingly,} is like a man who built a house upon the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”* Many use His Mighty name and yet refuse to change their lives according to what He directed them to do. They are taking His name lightly, and this is in violation of the third commandment. Just because we know Adonai’s name and use it, doesn’t mean that we use it respectfully. **Matt. 7:21-23** *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; **DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**”*

To Pharisees, uttering the name of Yahveh is blasphemy at its worst. They claim we are never to even try to pronounce His name. **Exod. 3:15** *Yahveh, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘Yahveh, the Elohim of your fathers, the Yahveh of Abraham, the Yahveh of Isaac, and the Yahveh of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ **This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.*** How does one make a vow, as in Deut. 6:13 without using His name? **Deut. 6:13** *“You shall fear [only] Yahveh your Elohim; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. Deut. 10:20* *“You shall fear Yahveh your Elohim; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name.”*

King David made a vow in **1Sam. 20:3** *Yet David vowed again, saying, “Your father knows well that I have found favor in your sight, and he has said, ‘Do not let Jonathan know this, or he will be grieved.’ But truly as Yahveh lives and as your soul lives, there is hardly a step between me and death.” Jer. 12:16* *“Then if they will really learn the ways of My people, to swear by My name, ‘As Yahveh lives,’ even as they taught My people to swear by Baal, they will be built up in the midst of My people.”* Here Jeremiah is talking about the Gentiles in the last days.

In the common Greek texts it seems that the Greek Jesus said to make no vows in His name, but in the Hebrew Yeshua says make no false vows in His name. The Hebrew obviously lines up better with what is taught in the Torah. (Deut. 6:13, 10:20)

Jerry Hennig (Mar 27/16) Jerry Hennig