

The Adventure of Keeping the Name of the LORD (not sure about this title . . .)

Deuteronomy 5:11

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You are all familiar with the crime of identity theft . . . the illegal activity of usage of another's identity¹ . . . where a person claims to be someone he or she is not . . . the fraudulent claiming to someone or something you are not . . .

One day, Jesus was praying . . . and His disciples came to Him and asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray . . ."

You, I'm sure, are familiar with what He said next, many of us have had this memorized since we were little children . . .

And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. – Luke 11:2

what does that mean? What does it mean to hallow His name?

If you would like to see exactly what that means, and what it has to do with identity theft, please open your Bible to Deuteronomy chapter 5 . . .

[[Need to touch base about where we are in Deut]]

Read Deut. 5:1-11 . . .

This certainly includes a prohibition against using His name as a swear word . . . a curse word . . .

¹Wikipedia, "Identity Theft."

But there is a lot more going on than that . . .

There is something much worse going on here . . .

And I will tell you, while the unsaved use God's name as a gutter word . . . I'm afraid that we believers use His name in vain all the time . . . and that is what He is saying . . .

So let's see . . .

1. What it says . . .
 - a. The words are simple . . .
 - b. Here is what it says . . .
 - c. His name is important . . .
 - d. His name identifies who He is . . . and what He is . . .

When Moses met the LORD at the burning bush, and asked the LORD, whom shall I say sent me? "God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. – Exodus 3:14-15

He is the I AM . . . His name is I AM . . . the everlasting One . . . the only one who has lived from eternity . . . He is the one and only self-existing one . . . everyone of us, and even the universe it self, we all owe our living to God . . . we need Him . . . He needs nothing . . .

From everlasting to everlasting, He and He alone is God . . . and His name tells us that . . . He, unlike us, is I AM . . .

God tells Moses in Exodus nine that the reason God raised Moses

up to a position of leadership was . . . But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. – Exo 9:16

God's name is to be praised . . . He is to be exalted through His name. . . .

In Exodus 33, Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

(Exo 33:18-19)

The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

(Exo 34:5-8)

God is to be worshiped . . . His name is glorious . . .

His name stands for, it represents, everything He is . . .

I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

(Isa 42:8)

(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

(Exo 34:14)

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

(Isa 57:15)

God's name stands for everything He is . . . His name shows us His goodness . . .

In fact, in Isaiah, God says, "For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off.

(Isa 48:9)

For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

(Isa 48:11)

Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

His name is to be praised . . . But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

(Psa 5:11)

I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

(Psa 7:17)

To the choirmaster: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

(Psa 8:1)

I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

(Psa 9:2)

And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

(Psa 9:10)

His name is a tower of strength and protection to the weak and needy . . . Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

(Psa 20:7)

He is leading and caring for us a shepherd . . . not for our own sakes, but rather, A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

(Psa 23:1-3)

because He is a great King . . . and has a wonderful name . . .

For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

(Psa 25:11)

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD

in the splendor of holiness.

(Psa 29:2)

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

(Psa 30:4)

but it is not just in the Old Testament . . . b/c this theme of the greatness of God's name and who He is continues on into the New Testament . . .

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

(Mat 1:23)

This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope."

(Mat 12:17-21)

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

(Mat 18:20)

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

(Mat 21:9)

Jesus promises us that . . . "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all

nations for my name's sake.
(Mat 24:9)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
(Mat 28:19)

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.
(Joh 17:6)

For those of us who are saved, we are saved because we have believed on the name of the Son of God . . . Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God . . . but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (Joh 20:31)

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
(Act 2:21)

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
(Act 4:12)

On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
(Act 19:5)

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
(Rom 10:13)

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

(1Co 6:11)

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

(Eph 1:21)

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
(Phi 2:9)

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
(Phi 2:10)

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
(Col 3:17)

so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
(2Th 1:12)

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."
(2Ti 2:19)

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.
(1Jo 2:12)

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

(1Jo 5:13)

the choirs in heaven sing to the LORD, “And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.” (Rev 15:3-4)”

the wicked They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.
(Rev 16:9)

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
(Rev 19:16)

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.
(Rev 22:1-5)

King Solomon reminds us, “Psa 72:18 Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen!

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?
(Psa 113:1-6)

The prophet Daniel understood God’s name is blessed . . . is holy, when he tells us . . . Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.
(Dan 2:20)

The name of the LORD is to be praised . . . because it represents everything He is . . .

For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts. Mal 1:11)

I could go on and on . . . the name of the Lord is to be blessed

Praised . . .

Exalted . . . Magnified . . . glorified . . . Rejoiced . . .

Exulted in . . . thanked . . . hallowed . . . feared . . . loved . . .
Remembered . . . proclaimed . . . Declared . . . waited on . . .
Walked in . . . desired and sought . . .

2. The word “take” means to lift up . . . raise, to use, to wear . . .”

- a. You go to a conference and they have one of those, “Hi my name is . . .”
- b. And you have to write your name . . . so people know who you are . . .
- c. Take = lift us, raise, use, carry, or wear
- d. Vain = emptiness, no purpose . . . our goals . . .
- e. So, He says that taking His name for no good reason . . . or wearing His name as a decoration . . . is absolutely not allowed . . .
- f. He considers it identity theft . . .

3. What it means . . .

- a. As Eugene Merrill puts it, “You may never lift up the name of the LORD your God without reason.”²
- b. This means . . . **WE NEVER GET TO USE HIM FOR OUR PURPOSES** . . . or to make us feel better . . .
 - i. I’ve had people tell me they are going to sinful actions . . . but it’s OK, “because they prayed about it . . .”
 - ii. That is, they are attaching God to their sinful actions . . . and acting as if God is just fine with that . . .
 - iii. We must never take, lift up, the name of the LORD in vainty . . . we must never attach His name to our selfish plans and desires . . .
- c. How we use His name . . .
 - i. In our prayers . . .
 - (1) saying, “Father” time and again is just vanity . . .
 - (2) there is no reason for saying it . . .
 - (3) I think, frankly, it’s like the word “ummm” . . .

²Merrill, *Deuteronomy*

- (4) how I speaker, who gets lost in thoughts will say . . . “and . . . ummm . . .”
- (5) I think, frankly, that many of our prayers are like that . . . “Father, thank you, Father, for today, and . . . Father thank you for my job . . . And father . . .”
- (6) His name is not something to say when you can’t think of what to say next . . .
- ii. In our conversations . . .
 - (1) “By God’s truth . . .
 - (2) “As God is my witness . . .
 - (3) Listen, Jesus said, “Let you yea be yea, and your no no . . .
 - (4) you should be a truth-teller . . . and you don’t need to drag God into your deal . . .
- iii. In our making promises . . .
- d. How we wear His name . . .
 - i. Take the name of the LORD in vain . . . wear the name of the LORD . . .
 - ii. If you claim to be saved, you are claiming the name of God . . . that you are wearing His name now and one day in heaven you will wear His name . . .
 - iii. God is jealous over any attempt by us to sully His name . . . by insincerity . . . by deceit . . . by lying . . . by immorality . . .
- e. You “wear” His name . . .
 - i. And yet you are not a church member . . .
 - (1) and are not particularly looking to be a church member . . .
 - ii. Or you haven’t been baptized . . .

- iii. Or you “wear” His name at work . . . and are quick to tell others that you are a Christian . . . and maybe even have a praying hands screen saver . . . but then you gossip . . . you are lazy . . .
- iv. You are lifting up the name of the LORD . . . You are wearing the name of the LORD . . . ?
- v. You are taking the name of the LORD in vain . . . empty . . . no real reason . . .
- vi. No change in your life . . .
- f. Hey, Pastor, God’s fine with that . . . listen, I’m living my life the way I want to . . . God and I are cool . . .
- g. Any attempt to manipulate God for personal ends comes under prohibition.”³
- h. And you need to notice that God attaches a punishment to this . . .
- i. If you do this, He will not just wink at it . . . He won’t just say, “Oh, well, you know her . . . She’s always saying stuff like that . . . Oh, he didn’t mean anything by it . . .”
- j. This is completely serious . . .
- k. The name of the LORD is to be hallowed by us . . . it is to be revered . . . it is to be sanctified by us . . .
- l. And if we don’t, we are already put on notice that God is not cool with it . . .
- m. My friend, you claim His name . . . He will not hold you guiltless for using His name . . .
- n. Listen, I love you enough to tell you the truth . . .
- o. God will not not you guiltless for this . . .

- i. God is jealous over those who try to steal His identity and claim Him . . . and then don’t live like it . . .
- ii. Any insincere, inauthentic, or deceitful use of the divine name to lead validity and authority to an act or a statement falls under the prohibition . . .
- iii. God will not allow His name and His reputation to be sullied in such a manner⁴
- iv. It flat out amazes me how if we hold a supper after church, our attendance jumps . . .
- v. But if we have prayer meeting . . . attendance just pluments . . .
- vi. What is more important to you . . .
 - (1) food . . .
 - (2) or the name of the LORD?
- p. My friend, you claim His name . . .
- q. You must then live like it . . .
- r. Anything else is vanity . . . is identity theft . . .

Unsaved . . .

Saved . . .

Like singing that we love Him . . . while we don’t . . . or our minds are wandering . . . and they are just empty, hollow, vain words . . .

Just using His name to make us feel better . . . about ourselves . . .

That is identity theft . . . it is us claiming to have God’s blessings and His approval . . .

³Christensen, *Word Biblical Commentary: Deuteronomy*

⁴Biddle, *Deuteronomy*

Jesus said, “Hallowed be thy name . . .”

Is God’s name . . . Exalted . . . Magnified . . . glorified . . .
Rejoiced . . .

Exulted in . . . thanked . . . hallowed . . . feared . . . loved . . .
Remembered . . . proclaimed . . . Declared . . . waited on . . .
Walked in . . . desired and sought

in your life and actions . . .

Or do you just use God’s name to make you feel better about
yourself . . .

Today is the day to change . . . b/c God will not hold those who do
that guiltless . . .

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
through him. – Col 3:17