

THE EXCELLENT NAME OF THE THIRD COMMANDMENT
September 20, 2020
Psalm 8:1-9

“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” Exodus 20:7

Each of God’s names expresses one of His personal qualities. By these names, His infinite perfections and person are revealed. Each identifies the Holy One in whom are displayed the combined excellence signified by all of the names. Therefore, not one of His names is to be used in a careless manner. To do so violates the third commandment.

Scripture uses hundreds of names and expressions to reveal God, and no one of them is to be used carelessly. Examination of any one of those names reveals a truth regarding God—such truth should evoke wonder, reverence and fear. In each, the humble believer learns why none should be used in an unholy manner.

Attached to these notes is a list of 270 biblical names/expressions that identify God. It is our purpose today to focus upon three of them, in order to demonstrate from each why that name should be treated reverently and in a holy manner. Such is true for each of God’s names.

I. The Word of God (John 1:1, 14; I John 1:1; Revelation 19:13)

A. A word gives expression to the thought: Christ the “wisdom of God” (I Corinthians 1:24).

B. A word reveals the inner thought: Christ reveals God unto man (John 1:18).

C. The Old Testament demonstrates personhood in “the Word.” “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth” (Psalm 33:6).

D. “I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. *The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.* Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death” (Proverbs 8:12, 22-36).

E. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

F. “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and

righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (I Corinthians 1:23, 24, 30, 31).

II. The Bread of God, the Bread of Life (John 6:33-35; 53-58)

John wrote regarding the Word, “In him was life” (1:4)
Jesus said, “I am the bread of life” (6:35).

- A. We partake of Christ in the new birth
- B. We are made partakers of the divine nature (John 6:56; 17:23, 26 “I in them”).
- C. We feast upon Him by faith (John 6:54-58).
- D. We abide in Christ (John 15:1-7).
- E. We are crucified, buried and risen with Him (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1; Romans 6:3-6).
- F. We will be glorified with Him (Romans 8:17)

III. The Arm of the Lord (Isaiah 53:1).

Of The Word, John the Baptist announced, “Behold the Lamb of God” (John 1:29)
Of the Arm of the Lord, Isaiah tells, “He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter” (Isaiah 53:57)

- A. The Arm of the Lord, God’s reach unto humanity, is the Word made flesh (John 1:14).
- B. He is the one we despised.
- C. He is the one upon whom our sins were laid (.Isaiah 53:1; I Peter 2:24).
- D. He is the one who was led as a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7; John 1:29)
- E. He is the one who by his suffering and death justifies many (Isaiah 53:12)
- F. “But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (John 12:37, 38).

Conclusion:

1. In Christ the **Word of God** is revealed the wisdom of God in delivering sinners from their sin and its eternal consequences. (Romans 11:29-36)

2. In Christ the **Bread of Life** is revealed the life of God provided for sinners who are dead in their trespasses and sin, dead unto the life of God, and destined for the everlasting death of eternal damnation. (Ephesians 2:2-7; John 3:15-18)

3. In Christ the **Arm of the Lord** is revealed the power of God by which the despised and rejected Savior bears the sins of His people, justifying them them—declaring sinners to be just by bearing their sins.

These acts of God for sinners, wrought for them in Christ and signified by the names of Christ, should evoke from every soul only reverence and respect for every name by which God is revealed unto humanity. Thus:

“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” Exodus 20:7