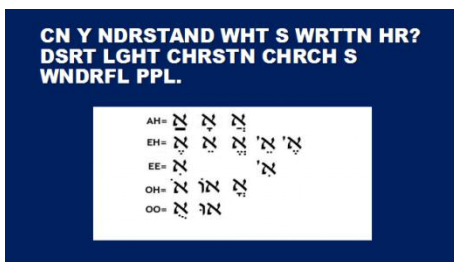


**The Names of God : His Name in Vain, An Exposition of Exodus 20:7
Desert Light Christian Church, March 17, 2019**

Ignorance of God takes His name in vain. Hosea 4:6 says, **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”** It’s about knowing God. Have we ever considered that what is destroying our nations, communities, homes, and families is that people don’t know God? Knowing God could restore dignity, sanity, life to babies, and peace everywhere, to the individual, then to families, homes, communities, and nations. Daniel 11:32, **“The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.”** Do we need stability? Do we need to act on what is really important? Knowing God equals stability and getting it done. In these days we must know God, stand firm, and act. In this part 2, of knowing God we must go deeper into God’s name and what it means for us.



CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IS WRITTEN HERE? DESERT LIGHT CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S WONDROUS PEOPLE.

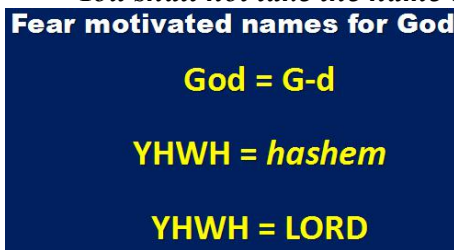
Ancient Hebrew as written in the bible, used no vowels, just consonants, the vowel sounds came from knowing the language. Then Jewish people spread over the world, they spoke the languages where they lived, not Hebrew. To preserve

pronunciation, rabbis and scribes copied the bible with markers to the letters to show vowel sounds. They put them under the letters but with the “o” sound they put it on top and to the left. A as “aa” is a symbol like a capital T, a as “ah” is like a dash, - E as ee is like two periods .., but e as in “eh is two dots on top and one underneath ∙.



The word for daughter, *bath*, two consonants, b and t, and a line underneath is the vowel, an “ah” sound **בַּת**. The name of God, YHWH is spelled without consonants. Rabbis and scribes left vowels out of God’s name so it wouldn’t be pronounced, just in case they would take it in vain. We can only guess how God’s name was pronounced, most think Yahweh, or Jehovah. The Hebrew scribes, were terrified of breaking the command,

“You shall not take the name of “the LORD” your God in vain.” (Exodus 20:7).



Even today they spell God, G-d. They refer to Him as, *hashem* meaning, “the Name.” Following the lead of Jewish fearful representation, English Bibles in every well known translation, in the Old Testament use LORD in capitals instead of YHWH. That leaves us with the question regarding God’s name YHWH. What is it about and how *does*

one take it in vain? And to do the opposite of taking it in vain, how does one take it with purpose and meaning? Are we, like our Jewish friends supposed walk in terror that some how we misuse His name, so we avoid it altogether? Notice, however, if He isn’t your God you can take His name in vain, but you can’t take the name of *your* God in vain.

This is for His people to understand. **Know God by name.**

1. Know God by name, His Holy Name.

Jesus most likely referred to God the Father's name, YHWH when He taught us to pray. We're to tell God, **"Hallowed be thy name"** (Matthew 6:9) or **"Your name, may it be holy."** Our understanding of God means we take holiness, the life that excludes all that is not of God, seriously, because of His name. He told the Father in His Last Supper prayer (John 17:6, 11, 12, 26) 4 times regarding His name, 2x that He made it known to His disciples and that they be kept in His name. This is another review of His name and its spelling. Y or *yod* in Hebrew, means, "hand." H is for *heh*, which comes from an ancient word for, "window." The idea is, "look!" it can also be an abbreviation of the word for look, "Hinneh!" The w is the letter *vav*, from "nail." Another *heh* follows the *vav*. It says, "A hand, look, and nail, look!" God's personal name speaks of the cross.

2. Know God by His name and don't take it in vain.

First of all, it is important to mention that when someone goes through trials, doubts, disappointments, and confusion, by all means taking one's complaints to God isn't disrespecting His name, it honors Him. He wants you and I in His presence honest with our emotional pain.



Yes, it does take His name in vain when one curses to or with other people about God or Jesus. Blasphemy is to misuse, slander, or attribute the title, attributes, and role of God to a person. Does texting OMG amount to blasphemy? The word for "in vain" is *l'shav*, meaning, *useless, worthless, deceit*. To ever use God's name for something that means nothing, to deceive someone for a crooked purpose, or to misrepresent Him. Which of the 5 sayings takes His name in vain?

God sends everyone to heaven. 🙄

God will judge. 🙌

God will make you rich if you give to me. 🙄

God is love. 🙌

God is on my football team's side. 🙄

Jesus said God's name is holy, and protects. Jesus' name means He saves. Anything that denies His attributes of holiness, or says that one can work to be saved, or that He doesn't protect is in vain. He gave us attributes connected to His name: YHWH *Jireh* (who provides-Genesis 22:14), *Rapha* (who heals- Exodus 15:20), to deny He can heal is in vain. *Nissi* (our banner Exodus 17:15), to deny that we are His, is in vain. *Ma-Kaddesh* (who makes you holy- Exodus), to attach Him to anything unholy is in vain. *Shalom* (our peace-Judges 6:24), to refuse to be at peace and using His name is in vain. *Shammah* (who is there-Ezekiel 48:35), to say He is not there is in vain. *Sabaoth* (of

hosts or armies-Isaiah 1:24), to say He won't go to battle is in vain. *Tsidkenu* (our righteousness-Jeremiah 23:6), to claim anything that isn't right to Him is in vain.

Taking the Lord's name in vain is blasphemy. The command to not take His name in vain is for when He is *your* God. This is for His people to understand. To attach the name of YHWH to actions or words that have nothing to do with Him is the stuff of Matthew 23 where Jesus ripped holier than thou Pharisees to shreds! Iain Campbell blogged, "taking the Lord's name in vain involves not merely speaking it badly, but includes living it wrongly" John Calvin. "it becomes us to regulate our minds and our tongues, so as never to think or speak of God and his mysteries without reverence and great soberness, and never, in estimating his works, to have any feeling toward him but one of deep veneration" (Institutes 2.8.22).

3. Take His name in purpose.

Our God is a savior, who sent His Son to die on a cross. He has revealed His purpose in His name, to save wretched sinners like myself. The statement of purpose is clearer in the New Testament, "***The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...***" (1 Timothy 1:5). That is the purpose in God's name. No other god comes close to that resume.

X
ERROR

It's complete error to think that there's a higher power, it doesn't matter what he or she is called, all the same, all religions say the same thing. They do not. The purpose of His name is to remind me that He the Holy God, cares for me, who was a sinner. People used His name with purpose soon after Adam and Eve sinned, ***At that time, people began to call on the name of the LORD*** (YHWH) (Genesis 4:26)." But before there was ever any sin, Genesis 2:4-25 refers to God as YHWH 11x (v. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22) when He created Adam and Eve and placed them in Eden. In their world of perfection that would crash, His name was there, giving them the promise of Calvary that would restore paradise. God loves sinners, did something to save them. No other other religions can claim that for their gods.

God identifies Himself as, "***your God.***" If He isn't your God you can't responsibly take His name in vain. This is for His people. We must ask, Is YHWH *my* God? Why might one ask, does the New Testament not use this name? Oh, the wonderful name of Jesus ***does not replace but fulfills*** the meaning of the name whose symbols require one to look at the hand with the nail. The name that is holy the name that is made known the name that protects, that name passes forward and completes its purpose in the name of Jesus, fulfilling YHWH's purpose by saying, "***It is finished!***" The holy name YHWH promised a savior for sinners, nails in the hand, fulfilled in Jesus' name, the name that guarantees us the intimate escape of the redeemed sinner who can in the Spirit call YHWH, "***ABBA Father!***" (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6) with the intimacy Jesus could in the garden (Mark 14:36). Any other way to apply the name, the holy name, is in vain. Knowing Him is lifelong preparation for heaven, and even in our later years, there is much more to knowing Him.