

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Third Commandment
“What’s In A Name?”
Exodus 20:7

Introduction:

1. Let’s Turn Back In Our Bibles Tonight:
 - To Exodus 20 - Where We Find:
 - The Moral Law Of God:
 - That He Gave To The Children Of Israel:
 - On Mount Sinai!
 - The Ten Commandments:
 - That We Are Exploring Together:
 - Through The Lens Of:
 - A New Testament Verse!
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 - Which Reminds Us That:
 - “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness!”
2. This Means That:
 - Even God’s Law:
 - Has Something For Us Today!
 - Not To Save Us:
 - But To Teach Us!
 - To Teach Us More:
 - About God!
 - About Ourselves!
 - About Jesus!
 - And - Even About How We Should Live:
 - As Followers Of Christ!
3. Last Sunday Night:
 - We Looked At:
 - The “Reproof” That We Find:
 - In The Third Commandment:
 - Which Is Given To Us:
 - In 20:7 - And Says - “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!”
 - Now - Even Though:
 - This World Doesn’t Think That:
 - Its All That Serious:
 - To Take The Lord’s Name In Vain:
 - The Lord Himself Thinks & Declares Otherwise!
 - It **Is** A Big Deal!
 - Whether You Use His Name:
 - In Profane Ways:
 - Or Even In Pious Ways!
 - The Truth Remains::
 - How You Treat The Name Of The Lord:
 - Reveals What You Think About:
 - The Nature Of The Lord!
4. But - Why?
 - Why Is Taking The Name Of The Lord In Vain:
 - Such A Big Deal?
 - Why Is It Such:
 - A Big Sin?
 - What Is It:
 - About His Name?
 - Well - It’s Because:
 - The Name & Names Of The Lord:
 - Reveal The Nature Of The Lord!
5. Now - It Is True:

- That The Third Commandment:
 - Covers All Of The Names Of God:
 - That We Find In Scripture!
 - Names & Titles:
 - Given To Us:
 - By God! As Well As:
 - Names & Titles:
 - Ascribed To God:
 - By Us! Of Which There Are Many!
- But - There Is One Special Name:
 - That Is In Focus:
 - Above All!
 - And - That Is The Name Translated In Our Bibles As:
 - LORD! With All Capital Letters!
 - Again - Exodus 20:7:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Take The Name Of The LORD Thy God In Vain!”
 - And So - We First See:

1. ***The Revelation Of God’s Name!***

- Of Course:
 - Everyone Has A Name!
 - And - A Lot Of Other Things:
 - Have Names As Well!
 - Even In The Bible - Names Are Given To:
 - Animals, Cities, Rivers, Wells, And Even Other Gods!
 - Some People Are Satisfied With Their Names!
 - Others Are Not!
 - This Is Why Some Will Even:
 - Alter Their Names!
 - Use Nick-Names!
 - Or - Even Legally Change Their Names!
 - But One Of The First Things We Can Learn About:
 - The Name Of God:
 - Is That His Name Alone Is:
- An Everlasting Name!
 - Every Other Name Has A Starting Point:
 - When It Is Given!
 - Like The Name:
 - God Gave To Adam! And:
 - Like The Name:
 - Adam Gave To Eve!
 - But - God’s Name Is Different!
 - He Has Possessed ***His*** Name:
 - From All Eternity!
 - Isaiah 63:16 Tells Us This About The Lord - “Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O LORD, art our father, our redeemer; ***thy name is from everlasting!***”
 - And So - God’s Name Has Never Changed!
 - Nor - Has He Ever:
 - Grown Tired Of It!
 - His Name:
 - Is An Everlasting Name!
 - His Name Is Also:
- An Expressive Name!
 - That Is - It Tells Us More:
 - About Who He Is!
 - And So - He Has Revealed To Us:
 - His Own Personal, Eternal Name!
 - You See:

- “God” Is Not Actually:
 - God’s Personal Name!
- It Is More Of A General Name:
 - That Tells Us More:
 - Of *What* He Is:
 - Than *Who* He Is!
 - In Hebrew:
 - The Old Testament Word For Our Term:
 - “God” - Is - “El!”
 - But This Word:
 - Was Used To Other False Gods:
 - As Well As The One True God!
 - So - “El” Is The More General Name:
 - For Him - As A Divine Being!
- “Elohim” Is The More Common Name:
 - For God - In The Old Testament!
 - This Hebrew Word For God:
 - Is Used 2,500 Times In Our Bibles!
 - Is Derived From “El”:
 - But Is A Plural Word:
 - That Is Used In A Singular Fashion!
 - This Is A Pretty Unique Usage In Hebrew:
 - And Can Even Help Us See:
 - How The Trinity Can Be Found In The Old Testament!
 - But Even This Frequently Used Word & Name:
 - Is Not God’s Proper Name!
- “Yahweh” Is The More Proper Name:
 - For God!
 - In Hebrew - It Was Given:
 - With Just Four Letters:
 - YHWH!
 - In Fact - God’s Personal Name:
 - Was Considered Too Sacred:
 - To Pronounce!
 - So - The Word “Adonai” - Which Means - “My Lord”:
 - Was Frequently Substituted Whenever Someone Came To God’s Personal Name:
 - As They Were Reading The Bible!
 - And - The Vowels From “Adonai” Were:
 - Combined With The Consonants YHWH To Give The English Name “Jehovah!”
 - So Now - Even In Our Own Bibles:
 - Every Time The Personal Name Of God Is Used:
 - We See: “LORD” In All Caps! YHWH! Jehovah!
- But - Even Though God’s Personal Name Is So Special:
 - It Was Not Known By / Revealed To The Patriarchs!
 - In Exodus 6:2-3 - “God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: / And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them!”
 - But Then, As Moses Wrote The Book Of Genesis:
 - He Frequently Used God’s Personal Name:
 - To Show To His People & To Us:
 - Just Who The God Of The Patriarchs Truly Was!
 - He Was The Same God & The Same Lord!
 - And Then:
 - God Himself Uses His Personal Name:
 - Around 160 Times In The Old Testament!
- This Personal Name Of God:
 - Comes From The Hebrew Verb:
 - “To Be!”
 - And Through His Name:

- As Well As In Other Ways:
 - God **Loved** To Call Himself:
 - And To Be Called:
 - “I AM!”
- And In One Of The Most Famous Uses Of This Phrase:
 - We Find It Describing His Very Nature!
 - Exodus 3:13-15 - “And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? / And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. / And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations!”
- And So - This Is How:
 - God Has Chosen To Reveal Himself!
 - As The - “I AM GOD!”
 - This Is His Personal Name!
 - But Then - All Throughout The Old Testament - We See:

2. ***The Revelation Of God’s Notability!***

- The Phrase & Name Of God:
 - As The Great “I Am” Is Used:
 - Hundreds Of Times:
 - To Demonstrate His Relationship:
 - Especially - With Those He Loves! His Own People!
- There Are Declarative / Formal Uses:
 - Of God’s Name!
 - Like What We Find:
 - In Isaiah 42:8 - “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images!”
 - Here - The Lord Even:
 - Associates His Personal Name:
 - With His Glory!
 - Which Is Why - In Several Places, His Name Is Even Called:
 - A “Glorious Name!”
 - As King Solomon Did:
 - In Psalm 72:19 - “And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen!”
 - This Is Why:
 - It Is Still A Serious Thing:
 - To Take The Name & Names:
 - Of The Lord In Vain!
 - But - Also:
- There Are Descriptive Uses:
 - Of God’s Name!
 - Like What We Find:
 - In Genesis 15:1 - “After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: **I am** thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward!”
 - Here - The Lord:
 - Is Using His Personal Name & Identity:
 - To Encourage His Servant!
 - **IE:** Isn’t This What Happens To You - When Someone Sends You A Note Or A Card - One Of The First Things You Look For Is The Name Of The One Who Sent It!
- So - Every Time That God Uses:
 - His Personal Name:
 - And Description:
 - We Can Learn More:
 - About The Essence & Person Of God Himself!

- What Can We Learn About God:
 - When He Says:
 - In Genesis 17:1 - "I Am The Almighty God!"
 - He Is A God Of Power!
- What Can We Learn About Him:
 - When He Says:
 - In Leviticus 22:32 - "I Am The Lord Who Sanctifies You!"
 - He Is A God Of Purity!
- What Can We Learn About Him:
 - When He Says:
 - In Song Of Solomon 2:1 - "I Am The Rose Of Sharon!"
 - He Is A God Of Beauty!
- What Can We Learn About God:
 - When He Says:
 - In Isaiah 43:3 - "I Am The Lord Your God, The Holy One Of Israel!"
 - He Is A Holy God!
- What Can We Learn About Him:
 - When He Says:
 - In Isaiah 44:6 - "I Am The First And The Last!"
 - That He Is The Preeminent God!
- What Can We Learn About Him:
 - When He Says To Jacob:
 - In Genesis 31:13 - "I Am The God Of Bethel!"
 - He Is A Faithful God! Faithful & Committed To The Covenants & Promises He Makes!
- And - What Can We Learn About God:
 - When He Says:
 - In Jeremiah 32:37 - "I Am The Lord, The God Of All Flesh!"
 - That God Is A The Supreme & Sovereign God - Over All!
- In All Of These Cases & In All Of These Verses:
 - The Descriptions Of God May Change!
 - But One Thing Is Constant!
 - The Statement - "I Am!"
- But - This Also Tells Us:
 - Something About God, Doesn't It!
 - So - We Can Also See:

3. ***The Revelation Of God's Nature!***

- So - Just What Is God Trying To Show Us:
 - And Teach Us About Himself?
 - With His Personal Name:
 - YHWH!
 - And - With This Special Phrase:
 - "I Am"
 - They Teach Us:
 - About God Himself!
 - ***The Name Of The Lord Reveals The Nature Of The Lord!***
 - And That Is Why We Are To Hold God & His Name:
 - In High Esteem!
 - Through His Name:
 - We Can Learn About:
- The Self-Existence Of God!
 - I Am:
 - "Implies That God Needs No One Else To Exist In Order For Him To Exist!"
 - Isn't This What Jesus Meant:
 - When He Said In John 8:58 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am!"
 - God Is:
 - And Has Always Been!

- There Never Was A Time:
 - When God Was Not!
- We Can Also Learn About:
- The Personality Of God!
 - The Personal Name Of God:
 - Shows That He Is A God:
 - That You Can Have A Relationship With!
 - He Is A God That You Can Come To Know!
 - “Using The First Person Pronoun - “I” - Indicates That God Is A Person, Not A Force Or An Idea. God Is Personal, A Being With The Full Range Of Personal Attributes!”
 - We Can Also Learn About:
- The Life Of God!
 - When God Says - “I Am” - He Uses The Verb Form:
 - “To Be!” - Which Means:
 - That He Exists! He Is Alive!
 - Even As The Primary Character In William Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” Says With Those Famous Words - “To Be Or Not To Be, That Is The Question!”
 - Hamlet Is Thinking:
 - In Terms Of Life & Death!
 - And - So Is The Lord!
 - “**I AM**” - He Says!
 - I’m Alive!
 - Isn’t This Also What Jesus Means:
 - When - In Revelation 1:18 - He Says - “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen!”
 - We Can Also Learn About:
- The Immutability Of God!
 - That Is - The Changeless Nature:
 - Of God!
 - When God Calls Himself:
 - “I Am” - He Means That:
 - He Is As He Has Always Been & He Will Always Be As He Is!
 - It Means - As We Are Told:
 - In Malachi 3:6 - That - “I am the LORD, I change not!”
 - And Isn’t This What Is Also Meant When - In Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Is Described As:
 - “The Same Yesterday, And To Day, And For Ever!”

Conclusion:

1. And This Is Why:
 - We Are Told:
 - Back In The Third Commandment:
 - Exodus 20:7 - “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain!”
2. So - Remember This!
 - The Name Of The Lord:
 - Reveals The Nature Of The Lord!
 - And The Name Of The Lord:
 - Is Infinitely:
 - Great & Glorious!

* Do You Know This God With A Personal Name In A Personal Way?

* Is He The “Lord Thy God?”

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