“Law of Love and Liberty: Worship Reverently”

Exodus 20: 1-7

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 7/5/20)

Why do you suppose there are not many parents who name their child “Lucifer”? After all, it does mean “light bearer” or “shining one”. Maybe it’s because names matter. Prov. 22:1 tells us that “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches.” And it’s important to live your life so that your life reflects that good name. Today’s lesson though, is not about just any name… it’s about God’s name. (Q1)

Read Psalm 8:1, Prov.18:10, and Joel 2:32. (Q2) In disclosing His name, God reveals the wonder of who He is and what He does. Exod. 20:7 instructs us to worship God reverently. (Q3) This commandment and all of the others are not a list of rules to obey technically. They are our response of love to our Creator, Sustainer, Savior, and King. The NIV puts v. 7 this way: Don’t misuse His name. To misuse God’s name is to defame and defraud and devalue God Himself. The third commandment is NOT met simply by avoiding certain words and phrases legalistically. It is a matter of your heart. Any use of God’s name that is empty, frivolous, profane, or insincere (with a detached heart) is a misuse of His name. The civil law of ancient Israel (Lev. 24:16) took this pretty seriously. Wow! Let’s just put it this way: To tarnish God’s name in any way is offensive to God.

Consider some of God’s names in Scripture:

* Yahweh (Lord) God’s covenant name. Do I live day by day a life that shows that I believe He keeps His promises? Do I ever doubt His goodness?
* Elohim (creator, sustainer, judge) Do I thank Him every day for His creation, His sustenance, for life and breath?
* I AM that I AM (the self-existent One, eternal, unchangeable) Do I think to myself that His nature changes over time? Do I think that His Word changes over time?
* El Shaddai (Almighty God, the all-sufficient One) Sin destroys the image of God in man. We need to be made right if we are to be made whole again. Are you searching for wholeness elsewhere? (Q4)
* El Elyon (the most High God, unrivaled) Do I complain about my circumstances?
* Adonai (Lord, Master) Does He have authority over every aspect of my life? Do I have any “hidden closets”?
* Jehovah-Jireh (the Lord who provides) He provided the lamb for Abraham (Gen. 22:14) and He has provided the Lamb for you. Do you rest in “the God who provides”? (Q5)
* Jehovah-Tsidkenu (the Lord our Righteousness) Read Jer. 23:5-6. Do you ever self-righteously think, “I’m so glad I’m not like that guy”? God gives us our righteousness! He provides His righteousness through His Son to an unrighteous people.
* Jesus (read John 17:6) Jesus says, “I have manifested Your name.” He has revealed God the Father to us. At that Name, every knee shall bow (Phil. 2:10-11). Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us).

As hard as it is to hear, the law shows that we take His name in vain every day. What shall we do? We desperately need redemption that we cannot possibly attain on our own. The only answer: run to Him and throw yourself on His mercy. (see Acts 4:12)

What about those of us who have already done that? Well, there’s another name:

* Jehovah Mekoddishem (the Lord who sanctifies you) He sets His redeemed people apart for His glory.

The moral law, for God’s children, is a picture of God, whose holy image they’ve been set free to reflect. Are you reflecting God more and more each day? My friend Virgil said that we have been set free from the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin. From the penalty when you were saved. From the presence when you get to Heaven. And right now from the power of sin: we are right now being made holy, little by little, by the sanctifying work of His Spirit. LORD, MAKE US INTO A PEOPLE THAT WILL GLORIFY YOUR NAME ALWAYS.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the usual definition of “do not take the Lord’s name in vain”?
2. Describe a time when you had to run to God and He sustained you?
3. What does it mean to “revere” God?
4. Paul David Tripp (in New Morning Mercies (June 30)) said, “When you begin to understand what you have been given in His right here, right now grace, you quit asking people, places, and things to be your savior.” Discuss.
5. How does one ***rest*** in God?
6. How can we, His children, reflect God’s good name?

“Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (Wesley)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | O for a thousand tongues to sing   My great Redeemer’s praise, The glories of my God and King,   The triumphs of His grace. |
| 2 | My gracious Master and my God,   Assist me to proclaim, To spread through all the earth abroad,   The honors of Thy name. |
| 3 | Jesus! the name that charms our fears,   That bids our sorrows cease; ’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,   ’Tis life, and health, and peace. |
| 5 | He breaks the power of canceled sin,   He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean;   His blood availed for me. |