

CARVED IN STONE, PART 4
REVERE GOD'S NAME & CHARACTER
Exodus 21:7

God's people are to revere God's name and character.

The TEXT of the Third Commandment

The Meaning of the Shift in Person

The Meaning of the Word "Take"

The Meaning of the Word "Name"

The Meaning of the Word "Vain"

The CONTEXT of the Third Commandment

The Problem of False Swearing

"The Punishment of Neferabu"—An Egyptian Parallel

The PUNISHMENT of the Third Commandment

An Open-Ended Warning

An Over-Reading of the Prohibition

The THEOLOGY of the Third Commandment

God prizes both truth and truth telling.

God does not want to be misrepresented by those who claim to belong to him.

God does not want his name or authority to be applied to things that he has not sanctioned.

God treasures his name and does not want it to be used lightly or frivolously.

The APPLICATION of the Third Commandment

I must never attach God's name to something that is fraudulent, vain, empty, or frivolous.

I should be aware at all times that I can drag God's name through the mud in a variety of ways.

I should be very reluctant to use "God told me..." (or "God has told me to tell you") language.

Where I have been guilty of misusing God's name, I need to confess and repent.