

INVOKING THE NAME OF GOD

James closes his book by a special phrase “But (de) above (pro+ablative) all things (pas/ abl.pl.n), my brethren” in (Jas.5:12-20).

Paul does a similar thing in (Eph.6:10) “Finally (tou loipos/ gsn)”

In our lesson text, James is giving a final lesson on sins of the tongue (Jas.3:3-8). This time James is warning against **invoking the name of God** or member of Godhead into everyday living in order to prove your loyalty or truthfulness to others.

This lesson will study four aspects of James’ warning against invoking the name of God in everyday discourses to prove one’s loyalty or truthfulness – “I swear to God; I am telling you the truth.”

1. We will begin by dividing our lesson text into two parts for study along with Matt.5:33-37.

- **1st part – Don’t swear an oath** (omnumi/ p.a.impv.2pl/ command) **under the following conditions.**
 - Neither (mete) by the heaven (Matt.5:34)
 - Neither by the earth (Matt.5:35a)
 - Neither by any other oath (horkos) (Matt.5:35b-36)
- **2nd part – “But let your yes (to nai) [particle of affirmation] be yes, and your no (to ouk), no; so that (hina+subj.+me/ negative purpose) you may not fall (pipto/ a.a.subj.2pl) under (hupo+acc. divine delegated authority) judgment (krisis).”** (Matt.5:37)

Divinely delegated positions of authority should be sworn into office. They are to be liable to the government, to the citizens, and to GOD.

In America, they put one hand on the **CHRISTIAN HOLY BIBLE** (NOT another Bible or religious book); and they raise the other hand in allegiance to our Constitution. We make no apology for it because of the Constitutional laws of United States of America are based on it.

2. The spiritually advancing believer should be developing his godly character in Christ so that he is trustworthy and is now to be honest and truthful.

Job and Joseph were biblical examples of godly character in everyday life.

(Job.2:3) “For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incite Me against him to ruin him without cause.”

3. Jesus stood before a corrupt political-judicial Jewish court that brought false witnesses to charge Jesus with crimes worthy of treason for a death penalty under Roman rule recorded in Matt.26:59-68.

In all of this, they couldn’t corruption or break the divine law code of Divine Justice.

The high priest of the court demanded:

(Matt.26:63).”**I adjure** (ekorkizo) [to appeal by HP Urim oath which required everyone to speak truth in court] **You by the living God**, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God

He just violated the law of Divine Justice by invoking the name of God in this manner.

Jesus finally spoke,

(Matt.26:64) “You have said it yourself; nevertheless, **I tell you**, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heavens.”

The writer of Hebrews tells us:

(Heb.12:2) “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**”
(Phil.1:29)

4. Peter stood outside this corrupt Jewish court and in his third denial of Jesus Christ pronounced an anathema curse and sworn an oath against Jesus Christ (Matt.26:69-75).

(Matt.26:74-75) “Then he began to curse (katanthematizo) [anathema curse] and swear (omnumi) [sworn oath], ‘**I do not know this man!**’ And immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly.”

Peter was absent at Jesus’ crucifixion, His burial, and at the tomb; however, he, along with the other male disciples, did respond to the women disciples’ message that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead.

Peter was willing to do anything for Jesus, but God’s Will (Matt.26:33-34; Luke 22:31-34).

No male disciple is mention by name only by “eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated (Matt.28:16-20).”

The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus were important to all the disciples, but especially to Peter (John 21).