

HaShem FAQ - Names of Other Gods – Exodus 23:13

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

Exodus 23:13 forbids mentioning the names of other gods, yet Scripture itself names false gods when condemning their worship. YHWH tells Moses to speak about Molech, and other passages name Baal, Tammuz, and Artemis. These examples require understanding the command within its biblical setting rather than assuming every spoken reference is prohibited.

The teaching explains the Hebrew verb zakar through passages about remembering, proclaiming, and invoking. In Exodus 23:13, it understands the command as rejecting religious allegiance and worship of other gods. Naming a false god while teaching against idolatry is different from calling on that god for help.

Other uses of remembering show that it involves action. Remembering the Sabbath includes observing it, and tassels remind Israel to do YHWH's commandments. Deuteronomy 8 contrasts remembering YHWH with forgetting him and serving other gods. The command directs recognition, gratitude, and obedience toward YHWH.

Joshua 23 joins mentioning foreign gods with swearing by them, serving them, and bowing down to them. Psalm 16 likewise connects names on the lips with offerings and pursuing other gods. Ordinary references to days, places, or products are not automatically worship. The goal is faithful application of Torah without adding a prohibition that would contradict Scripture's own usage.

Summary points

- Exodus 23:13 must be read with the rest of Scripture.
- YHWH and his prophets name false gods while opposing their worship.
- The teaching examines zakar in its context rather than treating every use as merely saying a word.
- Invoking a deity involves calling on it religiously.
- Remembering YHWH includes honoring and obeying him.
- Remembering the Sabbath includes observing it.
- Tassels remind Israel to do the commandments.
- Joshua 23 connects the prohibition with idolatrous practices.
- Psalm 16 connects names on the lips with worship and offerings.
- Ordinary reference does not by itself constitute worship.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. The command examined is Exodus _____.
2. The Hebrew verb translated mention is _____.
3. Calling on a deity in prayer is to _____ it.
4. YHWH directed Moses to warn Israel about sacrificing children to _____.
5. Israel is commanded to remember the _____ day and keep it holy.
6. In the teaching's reading, Exodus 23:13 forbids invoking other gods in _____.

Challenging

1. The book that joins mentioning foreign gods with swearing and bowing is _____.
2. The psalm connecting names on the lips with drink offerings is Psalm _____.
3. The reminders on garments discussed in Numbers 15 are _____.
4. Deuteronomy 8 warns against forgetting YHWH and _____ other gods.
5. The god whose name appears in Thursday is _____.
6. The teaching connects the warning against adding commands with Deuteronomy _____.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. Why would a ban on every spoken reference conflict with the examples in Scripture?

2. How does invoking a deity differ from naming it in an explanation?

3. What do remembering the Sabbath and the commandments teach about zakar?

4. How does Joshua 23 clarify the context of Exodus 23:13?

5. How do Psalm 16 and Deuteronomy 8 reinforce the issue of allegiance?

6. How can believers avoid both idolatry and adding unsupported restrictions to Torah?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. 23:13

Exodus 23:13

2. zakar

Exodus 23:13; teaching Hebrew-word discussion

3. invoke

Teaching definition of invoke

4. Molech

Leviticus 20:1-2

5. Sabbath

Exodus 20:8

6. worship

Exodus 23:13; Joshua 23:7-8; teaching interpretation

Challenging

1. Joshua

Joshua 23:7-8

2. 16:4

Psalms 16:4

3. tassels

Numbers 15:39-40

4. serving

Deuteronomy 8:18-19

5. Thor

Teaching opening examples of everyday names

6. 4:2

Deuteronomy 4:2; teaching conclusion

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. Scripture itself names false gods while forbidding their worship. Leviticus even directs Moses to relay a warning naming Molech. The teaching therefore reads Exodus 23:13 with those uses and the wider context.

Leviticus 20:1-2; Judges 6:25, 31; Exodus 23:13

2. Invocation calls on a deity in prayer, an oath, or worship. An explanation can name a false god precisely to identify or reject idolatry. The teaching distinguishes those purposes rather than treating every utterance alike.

Exodus 23:13; Joshua 23:7-8; teaching definition of invoke

3. Remembering leads to appropriate action in these passages: keeping the Sabbath holy and doing the commandments. That helps explain the teaching's contextual reading, but it does not mean zakar has one identical expanded definition in every sentence.

Exodus 20:8; Numbers 15:39-40

4. Joshua groups mentioning foreign gods with swearing by, serving, and bowing to them, and calls Israel to cling to YHWH. The teaching uses that setting to explain the worship and allegiance at issue.

Joshua 23:7-8

5. Psalm 16 rejects offerings and allegiance to other gods; Deuteronomy 8 warns against forgetting YHWH and serving them. Together they keep the focus on worship, gratitude, and faithfulness.

Psalm 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:18-19

6. Reject idolatrous worship while examining the actual purpose of ordinary language. We should not add a rule that contradicts Scripture's own explanatory use of names. A personal vocabulary preference need not become a charge against others.

Deuteronomy 4:2; Exodus 23:13; teaching conclusion

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.