

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Taking God's Name In Vain

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The third commandment states, “*Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain; for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain*” (Exodus 20:7). Invoking God's name when making a promise, while not fulfilling your oath, is taking God's name in vain. You have sworn by God's name “*falsely*,” and have “*profaned*” the “*name of thy God*” (Leviticus 19:12). Inserting God's name in an empty or flippant way is disgraceful profanity.

Earlier this month two billionaires achieved their dreams of blasting off into space accompanied by fellow citizens to experience wonder. Rising above the atmosphere of the earth, the finest crafts money could buy housed Richard Branson and his crew, and later in the month Jeff Bezos with his three traveling companions to see up close the blue earth contrasted with the black darkness of space.

God's creation was on display with all its glory. Man, the only creature made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), was displaying varied scientific intelligence. One billionaire was lifting into the air by rocketing horizontally down a runway while another was blasting off vertically, boosted toward space. God's natural law of gravity was a continual focus in flight. Gravity

keeps the planets, including earth, in orbit around the massive sun. The push and pull of gravitational forces keep the moon orbiting the earth and ocean tides rising or lowering on earth. Jeff Bezos focused upon micro gravitational effects by saying it seemed so natural when experiencing the sensation of weightlessness as they floated in their free-falling spacecraft.

Nothing we saw through human eyes and camera lenses of the two missions into space contradicted God's declaration regarding earth and space. “He stretcheth out the north over empty spaces and hangeth the earth upon nothing” (Job 26:7). “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language; their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath He set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run his course. His going forth is from the end of the heavens, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof” (Psalm 19:1-6).

Jeff Bezos started his press conference full of thanksgiving

following his successful flight. He thanked his knowledgeable scientists and intelligent engineers for their design that kept him and his fellow travelers safe. He thanked his cheering Amazon employees and all of Amazon's customers who bankrolled Bezos' dream into reality.

Mr. Bezos looked at earth's unique blue sphere and saw earth's fragility. This is what he chose to emphasize in his comments about the earth and its atmosphere. He saw the earth's smallness from his higher perspective on the earth's atmospheric thin edge. Mr. Bezos did not see planet earth balancing on Atlas' supporting arms and shoulders but hanging on nothing just as the ancient God-breathed Scriptures declares. Fragile, subject to destruction by climate change, and modern man??? What specific things did Bezos see to prove fragility, but only a perceived thin line dividing earth's atmosphere from the darkness of space?

Only one time did God's name come up in Bezos' press conference. He said, “Oh my God!” when asked to describe his experience in space. God received no thanks, no glory from His creation, but only subjective remarks of fragility. When God's name was mentioned, it was taken in vain!