

# Jeremiah 44:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth.

## Analysis

**I have sworn by my great name**—(נִשְׁבָעָתִי בְּשֵׁםִי הַגָּדוֹל)—God invokes His own name as witness, the highest possible oath since nothing greater exists (Hebrews 6:13). The shem gadol (great name) represents His essential character and reputation—the very name the exiles profaned through idolatry.

**My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah**—The divine decree eliminates covenant privilege: no Egyptian Jew would validly invoke Yahweh's name in oath or worship. **The Lord GOD liveth** (קָדוֹם אֱלֹהִים) was the standard oath formula (Ruth 3:13, 1 Samuel 14:39)—now forbidden. This judgment reverses blessing, transforming covenant people into effective pagans unable to call on God's name.

## Historical Context

This oath-judgment finds partial fulfillment in the extinction of the Egyptian Jewish exile community. Unlike Babylonian exiles who returned under Ezra/Nehemiah, Egyptian refugees assimilated and disappeared from redemptive history. The Elephantine papyri (5th century BC) show syncretistic worship combining Yahweh with pagan deities.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does God swearing by His own name reveal about the absolute certainty of His judgments?
2. How does losing the privilege to invoke God's name represent ultimate covenant exclusion?
3. In what ways might modern believers take lightly the privilege of calling on the Lord's name?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָא שָׁמַע וְדִבָּר יְהֹוָה כָּל הַיּוֹדֵךְ יְשִׁבָּה יְמִינֵךְ  
H3651 Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD H3605 all Judah that dwell  
H8085 H1697 H3068 H3063 H3427

בְּגָדוֹל שְׁמִינִי נִשְׁבַּע עַתִּי מִצְרָיִם אֶתְנָגִים  
in all the land of Egypt H2005 Behold I have sworn H7650 name by my great  
H776 H4714 H2005 H8034 H1419

כְּלֹכֶב אֵל שְׁמִינִי עַד יְהֹוָה אֶמְרָה יְהֹוָה אֶמְרָה  
saith of the LORD H518 H1961 H5750 name shall no more be named  
H559 H3068 H8034 H7121

יְהֹוָה אָדָנִי בְּפִי כָּל אִישׁ רְאֵמָר אֶמְרָה  
in the mouth of any man all Judah saith liveth The Lord GOD  
H6310 H3605 H376 H3063 H559 H2416 H136 H3069

בְּכָל מִצְרָיִם אֶתְנָגִים  
in all the land of Egypt  
H3605 H776 H4714

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 6:13** (References God): For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

**Psalms 50:16** (References God): But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth?

**Genesis 22:16** (References Lord): And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

**Ezekiel 20:39** (References God): As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

**Jeremiah 5:2** (References Lord): And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely.

**Jeremiah 4:2** (References Lord): And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

**Amos 6:8** (References God): The Lord GOD hath sworn by himself, saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.