

Blasphemy Research

(for Peter Dunnet's challenge)

Below are some biblical references to start your research so you can answer Peter Dunnet's challenge: "What actually is blasphemy?"

To start you off, here are the biblical words that can be translated in various English Bibles as 'blasphemy'.

- *Naqab* (Hb) = Figuratively, to curse or blaspheme. Literally means to pierce or strike through.
- *Qalal* (Hb) = Trifle, slight, lightly esteem, make light of, bring into contempt, curse, despise.
- *Shav* (Hb) = Vain, vanity, useless.
- *Gadaph* (Hb) = Reproach, revile, blaspheme God.
- *Neatsah* (hb) = contemptuous, blasphemy, scorn.
- *Naats* (Hb) = contemptuous, blasphemy, scorn, abhor, despise, spurn, provoke.
- *Blasphemeo* (Gk) = Speak reproachfully, rail at, revile, speak evil of.
- *Blasphemos* (Gk) = Speak evil of, slander, rail against, speak abuse.
- *Blasphemia* (Gk) = Slander, detract, speak injury to another's good name. Impious or reproachful speech. Be injurious to divine majesty.

Instances where 'blasphemy' is used and the reason it seems that 'blasphemy' was assigned to people's actions.

- Exodus 20:7 – Use God's name uselessly. (viz. misuse his name?)
- Exodus 22:28 – Revile God.
- Leviticus 24:11 – Speak evil against the holy name of God and curse.
- Numbers 15:30 –
- 2 Kings 19:22 – Raise voice and be arrogant to others is to do it to God.
- Nehemiah 9:18 – Make an idol and worship it as god.
- Nehemiah 9:26 – Disobey and rebel against God. Turn from his laws. Murder his spokesmen.
- Isaiah 52:5 – Being deluded about who God is.
- Ezekiel 20:27 – Treacherous behaviour against God.
- Matthew 9:3 – Act like God. (e.g. Forgive sins)
- Matthew 12:31 – Slander, detract, speak injury to the divine name of Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 26:65 – Refer to yourself as divine, even by inference.
- John 10:33 – Make out that you are God.
- John 10: 36 – Refer to yourself as divine.
- Acts 26:11 – Speak evil of God.
- Romans 2:24 – Speak ill of God.
- 1 Timothy 1:13 – Paul spoke evil of Jesus.
- 1 Timothy 1:19-20 – Drift from the path of righteousness.
- James 2:5-7 – Not treating other believers as equals. (e.g treating the poor differently)
- Revelation 13:1 – Brazenly apply deity or godly attributes to yourself in writing.
- Revelation 13:6 – Speak arrogantly against God, his name and against heavenly beings.

From a Kingdom perspective, this investigation needs to answer a number of related questions:

1. Biblically, what is blasphemy?
2. How should we react to non-believer's blasphemy?
3. How should we react to believer's blasphemy?
4. In the Kingdom, what is blasphemy as far as sons are concerned?

Complete this investigation by Sunday 1st April 2018 and bring your discoveries to our Forerunners' meeting in the afternoon.

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