Names Of GOD

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 4th, 2018

Text: Ex. 34:23; Ps. 8:1

### Intro

1. Names are important:
   1. Parents usually give a great deal of thought to naming their children.
   2. We use our names throughout our lives to identify ourselves, even to the very end on our grave markers.
2. The importance of a name is illustrated in the very beginning:
   1. Gen. 2:19: “Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.”
3. In the O.T., names often carried meanings associated with the one who had that name:
   1. God changed Abram’s name to Abraham (Gen. 17:5).
      1. Gen. 11:26: Abram *(H87)* = “High Father”
      2. Gen. 17:5: Abraham *(H85)* = “Father of multitudes”
      3. His purpose changed from just an exalted man to a founder or ruler of nations!
   2. God changed Sarai, the wife of Abraham, to Sarah (Gen. 17:15).
      1. Gen. 11:29: Sarai *(H8297)* = “Dominative; ruler, head person”
      2. Gen. 17:15: Sarah *(H8283)* = “Female noble; lady, princess, queen”
      3. Her purpose changed from just a ruler to the queen of nations!
4. Jn. 1:42: Jesus said that Simon “shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, Peter).
   1. Simon *(G4613) = From H8095;* “God hears”
   2. Cephas *(G2786) = “The Rock,” or Peter (G4074 petros):* “A piece of rock” (NKJ: “a stone”).
5. Our modern practice of naming is quite different.
   1. Names are usually chosen for such reasons as: family name, the way they sound in themselves or in combination with the surname, or due to some parental whim.
   2. Any meaning of a name is generally unknown and irrelevant in its choice.
6. Names can actually carry some meaning instead of just being a pleasing sound!

#### A Holy and Awesome Name

* 1. Ps. 111:9: “Holy and awesome (KJV: “reverend”) is His name.”
  2. God’s people are to “fear this glorious and awesome name” (Deut. 28:58).
     1. Ex. 20:7: This is why God’s name must never be “taken in vain.”
     2. When an “Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the name of the Lord and cursed,” the Lord said, “…let all the congregation stone him…And whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall surely stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the Lord, he shall be put to death” *(Lev. 24:11-16). “Awesome” = “Inspiring Reverence”*
     3. This O.T. warning should cause us to realize how much God abhors hearing His holy name blasphemed. (Even today, many are guilty of blaspheming His exalted name, and it is used as a swear word or curse).
  3. It is essential for man to know and understand the names that God has revealed for Himself which speak to His character, nature, and position of glory and honor.
  4. Ex. 3:13:
     1. Moses was concerned that he identify God properly to the children of Israel.
     2. [Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”]
  5. We should be just as concerned that we understand and properly use the names of God!

#### Three Major Names for GOD

* 1. Three major names are used for God in the Old Testament:
  2. *Elohim (H430)*
     1. *Elohim* is the name used in the first verse of the Bible: “In the beginning God *[Elohim]* created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).
     2. This frequently used name is a plural form of the singular *Eloah (H433: deity, -ies, god, or God).* They are both related to the more general form, El *(H410: mighty, Almighty)*, and are the most common designations for deity in ancient Semitic languages.
     3. *Elohim* is especially descriptive of God’s power in His creative works and preservation of all things. *(El [H410]: “Mighty, Almighty, power, strength)*
     4. It can also refer to false pagan deities (Ex. 20:3; 32:1; Ps. 95:3), and even human judges of Israel (Ps. 82:1, 6).
     5. This plural word also reveals the plurality of persons sharing the essence of deity.
        1. Gen. 1:26: “Then God *[Elohim]* said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness…”. The true *Elohim* is one God (deity, Deut. 6:4), but encompasses three personalities, which later would be revealed as the triune Father, Son [Jn. 1:1: “Word”], and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19).
  3. *Yahweh (H3068)*
     1. This name was written originally as the tetragrammaton *(“having 4 letters”)* YHWH
        1. Its original pronunciation is unknown, and Jewish tradition was to speak the word *Adonay* in its place so as to not take this important name in vain (Ex. 20:7).
        2. Most modern versions translate *Yahweh* as “LORD” *(Gen. 15:1)* or “GOD” *(Gen. 15:2)* in all small capitals.
        3. Sadly, most today have no fear of speaking God’s holy name in vain!
     2. Ex. 3:14: In answer to Moses’ question as to God’s identity, Moses heard God give His name as “I AM.” (Jesus said the same in Jn. 8:58)
        1. It is believed that *Yahweh* is derived from the Hebrew verb *havah* *(H1961)* meaning “to be, being.”
     3. Man began to call upon this name early in human history, and it was known and used by the patriarchs (Gen. 4:26; 14:22; 15:2).
        1. *Ex. 6:3:* God said, “I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD *(H3068),* I did not make Myself known to them.”
        2. *Does this contradict Gen. 4:26 (men); 14:22 (Abram); 15:2 (Abram)?*
        3. No! It is not that His name, YHWH, was not used or known, but that its significance was not known to them as it was about to be in Egypt!
     4. *Yahweh* is the most commonly used name (over 6800 times), expressing God’s eternal existence and becoming a special name involved in God’s covenant relationship with the nation of Israel *(Ex. 3:15; 6:7; 20:2).*
        1. *“Yahweh* is the only truly personal name of God in Israel’s faith; the others are titular or descriptive expressions. References to ‘the name’ or ‘in the name’ of God indicate this name.” *(Names of God, Robert J. Wyatt)*
     5. *Elohim* and *Yahweh* are used together in such passages as II Chron. 14:11, and in Psalms 19 (vv. 1-6 *Elohim;* vv. 7-14 *Yahweh*).
     6. In older English versions, “Jehovah” is used, formed by a Latinized combination using the consonants of *Yahweh* and the vowels for *Adonay.*
        1. The Jehovah’s Witnesses are wrong to insist that “Jehovah” is the only translation of the name of God that should be used!
     7. Shortened forms of *Yahweh* are found in terms such as “Hallelujah” *(G239: from H1984 & H3050: “Praise Yah”)* and names such as “Elijah” *(H410 & H3050: “Yah is God”).*
  4. *Adonay (H136)*
     1. *Adonay* *(H136 “The Lord” as a proper name for God)* was a common term for lord or master *(From H113 adon adon: “ruler, sovereign, master, lord”).* Human masters *(H113)* – *Gen. 18:12; I Sam. 26:19; Ex. 21:5; Mal. 1:6*
        1. It indicates authority, right to act or speak, preeminence.
     2. It is translated as “Lord” *(Gen. 15:2; Ex. 34:23; Deut. 10:17; Josh. 3:11; Jud. 16:28; Ps. 110:1).* Most of these contain all 3 names of God…IE:
        1. Ex. 34:23: “Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord *(Adonay)* GOD *(Yahweh),* the God *(Elohim)* of Israel.”
     3. It occurs frequently with the name *Yahweh.* This name reminds us of our need to submit to God’s authority! *(Ruler, Sovereign, Creator!)*
  5. O.T. passages using all three of the above names for God are quoted in the N.T. (in Greek) and applied to Jesus demonstrating that He is GOD (Deity).
     1. **Elohim** (*G2316 Theos: God)* – Heb. 1:8-9 *(Quoted from Ps. 45:6-7: Elohim)*
     2. **Yahweh** *(G2962 Kurios: Lord)* – Heb. 1:10 *(From Ps. 102:25-27: Yahweh); Jn. 8:57-58 (“I AM”: G1510 eimi: “I exist”)*
     3. **Adonay** *(G2962 Kurios: Lord)* – Mt. 22:43-44 *(From Ps. 110:1: Yahweh [H3068] said to Adonay [H136])*
     4. This refutes the doctrine of the Jehovah’s Witnesses that denies Jesus is GOD!
  6. Jesus is the “I AM” of *Ex. 3:14* and identified by all three major names of God!

#### Other Names and Descriptions of God

* 1. ***El*** *[H410]* ***Shaddai*** *[H7706]* (“Almighty God”)
     1. *Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; 49:25*
     2. Was the name most known and used by the patriarchs (Ex. 6:3)
  2. ***El*** *[H410]* ***Elyon*** *[H5945]* (“God Most High”)
     1. *Gen. 14:18, 22; Num. 24:16; Ps. 91:12; Dan. 7:18, 22, 25, 27*
  3. ***El*** *[H410]* ***Olam Olam*** *[H5769]* (“Everlasting God”)
     1. *Gen. 21:33; Is. 40:28; Ps. 90:2*
     2. Expressed in the phrase “living God” *(Josh. 3:10; Ps. 42:2; 84:2; Hos. 1:10)*
  4. ***El*** *[H410]* ***Roi*** *[H7210]* (“God Who Sees”)
     1. *Gen. 16:13*
  5. ***Yahweh*** *[H3068; G2962]* ***Sabaoth*** *[H6635; G4519]* (“Lord of Hosts”)
     1. *I Sam. 1:3; II Sam. 7:27; Rom. 9:29; Js. 5:4*
     2. Lord of the heavenly hosts (angels) used to accomplish His will and defeat evil.
  6. ***Abir*** *[H46] (“Mighty One”);* ***Pahad*** *[H6343] (“Fear”)*
     1. “Mighty God of Jacob” *(Gen. 49:24; Ps. 132:2, 5; Is. 49:26; 60:16)*
     2. *“Fear of Isaac” (Gen. 31:42, 53)*
  7. The very names of God describe His nature, His power, His eternalness, His being enthroned in Heaven above, and His command of authority!

## Conclusion

1. The names attributed to God reveal His character, might, and prominence.
2. Let us be diligent to reflect upon and learn of God from His names, and reverently use them in praise of Him, “O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, You who set Your glory above the heavens!” (NKJ: Ps. 8:1).
3. If you are not a Christian, you have no reward and no hope. Repent and be baptized!
4. If a Christian in error, remember the blessings in the family of God. Repent & be renewed.
5. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!