



What's In The Name?

Sunday, December 3, 2017

INTRODUCTION

Our Sunday morning series entitled, "Jesus Is..." was selected by the Fellowship Teaching Team with a goal to highlight and emphasize the greatness of who and what Jesus Christ is to us. My assignment is to consider the various names of God/Jesus as revealed in God's Word that speak of the nature and character of God - who Jesus is to us!

1. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- a. "Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory [is] above the earth and heaven." (Psalms 148:13)
- b. *Merriam Webster Dictionary*
 - i. A word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing
 - ii. A word or combination of words by which a person or thing is known
 - iii. A person with a reputation, an illustrious record, an established reputation
- c. In biblical times, a name was not only identification, but an **identity** as well. Many times a special meaning was attached to the name. Names had, among other purposes, an explanatory purpose.
 - i. Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget (Hebrew, causing to forget) all my trouble and all my father's household." (Genesis 41:51)
 - ii. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out (Hebrew, to pull out/draw out) of the water." (Exodus 2:10)
- d. Throughout Scripture God **reveals** Himself to us through His names. When we study these names that He reveals to us in the Bible, we will better understand who God really is. The meanings behind God's names reveal the central **personality** and **nature** of the One who bears them.
- e. Hallowed be Your name? To hallow a thing is to make it holy or to set it apart to be exalted as being worthy of absolute devotion. To hallow the name of God is to regard Him with **complete devotion** and **loving admiration**.

2. SOME BIBLICAL NAMES OF GOD

a. EL SHADDAI (LORD GOD ALMIGHTY)

- i. (el shad-di') All-Sufficient One, Lord God Almighty
 1. In the Old Testament El Shaddai occurs 7 times. "El" - "God" and Shaddai, derived from Hebrew "shad" meaning "breast", perhaps from an Akkadian word Šadu, meaning "mountain," suggesting strength and power.
 2. **BASIC MEANING:** The God that is completely nourishing, satisfying, and supplying His people with all their needs as a mother would her child. The God who freely gives nourishment and blessing, He is our sustainer.
 3. Trivia: Spock "live long and prosper" - Hebrew letter, "Shin", which represents the name "Shaddai"

b. EL ELYON (THE MOST HIGH GOD)

- i. (el el-yone') The Most High God.
- ii. In the Old Testament El Elyon occurs 28 times. It occurs 19 times in Psalms. Elyon literally means "Most High."
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** The sovereign and majestic God above all, the highest preeminence, the most exalted God. (Psa 57:2)

c. YAHWEH (LORD, JEHOVAH)

- i. (yah-weh) Lord, Jehovah, Lord, Master, denoting the omnipotence of God, despot, absolute ruler.
- ii. Yahweh is the promised name of God. This name of God which (by Jewish tradition) is too holy to voice, is actually spelled "YHWH" without vowels. YHWH is referred to as the Tetragrammaton (which simply means "the four letters"). While YHWH is first used in Genesis 2, God did not reveal Himself as YHWH until Exodus 3.
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** Lord, Master, Greek despotês (despot) - Lord, Master, denoting the omnipotence of God, absolute ruler.
- iv. **CONNECTION:** The name Jehovah is an English translation of the Hebrew name for God—the four letters יהוה (YHWH).

d. JEHOVAH (THE EXISTING ONE)

- i. Jehovah is God's unique name as revealed in the Bible. (Exodus 3:15; Psalm 83:18).
- ii. **BASIC MEANING:** The chief meaning of Jehovah is derived from the Hebrew word Havah meaning "to be" or "to exist." It also suggests "to become" or specifically "to become known" - this denotes a God who reveals Himself unceasingly.

e. JEHOVAH NISSI (THE LORD MY BANNER)

- i. (yeh-ho-vaw' nis-see') The Lord My Banner, The Lord My Miracle.
- ii. In the Old Testament Jehovah-Nissi occurs only once in Exodus 17:15. In Exodus 17:15, Moses, recognizing that the Lord was Israel's banner under which they defeated the Amalekites, builds an altar named Jehovah-Nissi (the Lord our Banner). **Nes** is sometimes translated as a pole with an insignia attached. In battle opposing nations would fly their own flag on a pole at each of their respective front lines.
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** The Lord is our flag under whom we march in victory, overcoming the world (1 John 5:4).

f. JEHOVAH-RAAH (THE LORD MY SHEPHERD)

- i. (yeh-ho-vaw' raw-aw')
- ii. In the Old Testament Jehovah-Raah (The Lord my Shepherd) is used in Psalm 23. Rô'eh from which Raah derived, means "shepherd" in Hebrew. A shepherd is one who feeds or leads his flock to pasture (Eze 34:11-15). An extended translation of this word, rea', is "friend" or "companion."
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** The Lord my friend. The God that God desires intimacy between Himself and His sons and daughters.

g. JEHOVAH RAPHA (THE LORD WHO HEALS)

- i. (yeh-ho-vaw' raw-faw') Appears 67 times in 62 verses in the Hebrew concordance of the KJV.
- ii. Rapha (râpâ') means "to restore", "to heal" or "to make healthful" in Hebrew. When the two words are combined - Jehovah Rapha - it can be translated as "Jehovah Who Heals." (cf. Jer 30:17; Jer 3:22; Isa 30:26; Isa 61:1; Psa 103:3).
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** Jehovah is the Great Physician who heals the physical and emotional needs of His people.

h. JEHOVAH SHAMMAH (THE LORD IS THERE)

- i. (yeh-ho-vaw' shawm'-maw) In the Old Testament Jehovah Shammah occurs only once in Ezekiel 48:35.
- ii. Shammah is derived from the Hebrew word sham, which can be translated as "there." Jehovah Shammah is a symbolic name for the earthly Jerusalem.
- iii. Psalm 139:7 asks, "Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence?"
- iv. **BASIC MEANING:** The Lord is with us, now and forevermore.

i. JEHOVAH TSIDKENU (THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS)

- i. (yeh-ho-vaw' tsid-kay'-noo) In the Old Testament Jehovah Tsidkenu occurs 2 times.
- ii. Tsedek (tseh'-dek), from which Tsidkenu derived, means "to be stiff," "to be straight," or "righteous" in Hebrew. When the two words are combined - Jehovah Tsidkenu - it can be translated as "The Lord Who is our Righteousness."
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** The Greek word is dikaiosune. Remember, sune on the end of a Greek word means "the state of." So we might rightfully say that to be dikaiosune is to be in the state of being righteous. Dikaiosune comes from the word diaioo. An oo (ow, pronounced ah-owe) verb is important in Greek..dikaioo means that God accepts, treats, and declares me to be in a right relationship with him. We are complete and total in him now! The root of dikaiosune is dike (pronounced de cay), which means to owe no one anything, all bills are paid in full forever. To be righteous is to have your debts paid in full. Righteousness is our position, our state of being.

Dr. Ron Cottle (The Beatitudes of Jesus)

j. JEHOVAH JIREH (THE LORD WILL PROVIDE)

- i. (yeh-ho-vaw' yir-eh') In the Old Testament Jehovah-Jireh occurs only once in Genesis 22:14.
- ii. Jehovah-Jireh is a symbolic name given to Mount Moriah by Abraham to memorialize the intercession of God in the sacrifice of Isaac by providing a substitute for the imminent sacrifice of his son. The account of Abraham on Mt. Moriah is a presentation of the Lord's eternal grace, continual provision, and all-encompassing wisdom.
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** Jehovah-Jireh is not "The LORD Did Provide," but "The LORD Will Provide." In other words, the name does not simply memorialize a past event; it anticipates a future action. Whatever I may need is provided!

k. JEHOVAH SHALOM (THE LORD IS PEACE)

- i. (yeh-ho-vaw' shaw-lome') Jehovah-Shalom occurs only once in Judges 6:24.
- ii. Shalom is a derivative of shâlêm (which means "be complete" or "sound") Shalom is translated as "peace" or "absence from strife." Jehovah-Shalom is the name of an altar built by Gideon in Ophrah. Gideon thought that he would die because he had seen the angel. God spoke to Him and said, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die" (Judges. 6:23 NIV).
- iii. **BASIC MEANING:** The word shalom speaks of wholeness and harmony with oneself and others, and of completion and fulfillment. As Jesus said, it is a peace far beyond the world's peace (John 14:27; 16:33). The ultimate peace is peace with God. I have peace with God, peace with myself and peace with others.