

What Is the Name of God?

October 13, 2013

I. Review:

A. To receive from God we must have clear focus on who the Lord is and on who we are.

1. Israel's example

1. Israel's view of God in the wilderness kept them from the promised land.
2. Israel's view of God in Canaan kept him from their destiny.
3. Israel's view of themselves also kept them from the promised land. (Num 13:31-33)

2. How we see ourselves determines what we get.

1. Our view of God determines what we get.
2. A wrong view of God makes us unfruitful and unproductive.

3. Prayers - for God to open our eyes

Ps 13:3-4; Eph 1:18-19

4. In this study we will look at the names of God in - Creation - the Elohim names of God

Redemption - the Jehovah names of God

B. Redemption:

Redeemed for transformation:

1. We are transformed into the image of God as we see His glory (2 Cor 3:18).
2. We are transformed through the renewing of our minds (Rom 12:2)
3. We are transformed through putting off the old self and putting on the new self (Col 3:9-11).
4. We are transformed through meditation and the practice of doing (James 1:23-25).

Redeemed for clear focus.

1. Fix your eyes on Jesus as you run the race of faith (Heb 12:1-2).
2. Our eyes are to be single, clear, giving light to our bodies (Mat 6:22-23).

Redeemed to be free from deception

1. Eve was deceived by the serpent and seeing things his way (Gen 3:6-7; Cor 11:3).
2. The Galatians were deceived in the same way (Gal 3:1).
3. We keep away from deception through focus on Christ Himself (Col 2:2-4; 2:8-10; 2:18-19).

Redeemed to see the Lord and ourselves

1. We are to look to the Lord for our help and no place else (Isa 41:10; 51:1-2).
2. We look at things that are not seen as our inner man is being renewed (2 Cor 4:16-18).

II. Introduction

A. The Biblical idea of names

In the Bible, there is a real sense that revelation of the ways of God is poised upon the revelation of God's name. In the OT, the patriarchs knew their God by titles

Gen 14:22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,

Gen 16:13-14 Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?" Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

Gen 17:1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless.

OT - Hebrew term for name meant "sign" or "distinctive mark."

NT - Greek language - word for name is derived from a verb which means "to know;" a name then indicates that by which a person or object is to be known.

In biblical usage, "Name" describes the person, place, or object and indicates the essential character of that to which the name is given. Examples:

Adam names the animals according to their nature (Gn 2:19, 20);

"Noah" means "one who brings relief and comfort" (Gn 5:29);

"Jesus" means "savior" (Mt 1:21).

When a person was given a new position or a radical change took place in his life a new name was given to indicate that new aspect. Examples:

Abraham ("father of many," Gn 17:5);

Israel ("one who strives with God" or "God strives," 32:28).

The name of a person or people expressed what the person or people thought the proper description or statement of character was.

B. Does God have a name?

The Old Testament:

Lev 18:21 You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

Ex 20:7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

Ps 54:1 Save me, O God, by Your name, and vindicate me by Your power.

Ps 68:4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song for Him who rides through the deserts, Whose name is the LORD, and exult before Him.

Ps 20:5 We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners.

The New Testament:

Rom 2:24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

1 Tim 6:1 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.

Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

Rev 16:9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

Luke 11:2 And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name.'"

C. God has promised blessing to His people and knowing His name.

Old Testament:

Isa 52:6 "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, 'Here I am.'"

Ps 91:14 " Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name.

Mic 6:9 The voice of the LORD will call to the city-- and it is sound wisdom to fear Your name: "Hear, O tribe. Who has appointed its time?"

Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name.

esteem = this word means to think, regard, value and compute.

Ps 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

New Testament:

John 17:6 " I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

John 17:26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Heb 2:12 saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE." (Cf. Ps 22:22)

John 17:11-12 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; ..."

D. What is His Name

The Saints of the Bible days desired to know the name of God. If "God" was a proper name, then their questions would be meaningless and in vain; but the heart hunger of the Saints was to know God Himself and to know His name.

1. The question of Jacob: (Gen 32:24-32) Jacob is returning back to his homeland and Bethel, and is about to meet his brother Esau from whom he fled 20 years previously after purchasing the birthright from him, and obtaining the birthright blessings from his father Isaac by deception. As he is left alone, there wrestled a Man with him until the breaking of the day. It was a long weary night. The mysterious visitor that wrestled with Jacob is spoken of as a Man, an Angel, and God. Neither prevailed in the

struggle until the hollow of Jacob's thigh – the seat of his strength – is touched. After this the matter of Names is brought up.

The heavenly visitor asks Jacob, "What is your name?" And Jacob rightly answered, "My name is Jacob," which being interpreted means "supplanter," or "manipulator."

His name was significant of his nature. When he confessed his name, he confessed what or who he was.

However Jacob longs for the blessing which he realizes the Heavenly Person can bring to him. He will not let go although his thigh is out of joint.

Jacob turns to the Mysterious Person and says: "Please tell me your name." But the angel replies with a question: "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there.

Jacob called the name of that place "Peniel," which means, "the face of God."

His name is changed from Jacob to Israel which means "A Prince having power with God and with men and prevailing."

The new name was prophetic of the new nature.

2. The question of Manoah: (Judges 13:2-23) Israel as a nation is in bondage and captivity. The angel the Lord, who appeared to Jacob years before the nation existed, now appears to Manoah's wife, and once again the question of name is brought in. The angel tells Manoah's wife that she would bear a son and his name would be called Samson. The angel disappears. She tells her husband that a man of God, an angel of God came and appeared to her, but she did not know where he came, neither did she know his name.

After prayer, the Angel returns in visitation to Manoah and his wife. "What is your name, so that when your words come to pass, we may honor you?" What was the reply? Simply another question: "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

(The marginal references read; wonderful, a secret, incomprehensible, a wonderful secret)

As to Jacob, now to Manoah, the Mysterious Visitor had appeared, and both had asked after his name, and both received no answer.

3. The question of Agur. The prophetic question of **Agur** (Prov 30:1-4):

In the book of Proverbs, we have a most remarkable prophecy which involves the questions of Agur concerning the name of God.

The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle (prophecy). Prov 30:1

In verse 4 Agur asks a sevenfold question, and these questions are prophetic, to be answered in due time, in the fullness of time. For clarity of thought we set the verse out in question form as follows:

1. Who has ascended up into heaven?
2. Or descended?
3. Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
4. Who has wrapped the waters in His garment?
5. Who has established all the ends of the earth?
6. What is His name?
7. What is His son's name?

Surely you know!

Here Two Divine Persons and the question of Names is brought to view.

The Person of God the Father — "What is His Name?"

The Person of the Son of God — "What is His Son's Name?"

The name of God, Elohim Yahweh, (Deut 6:4) had been revealed to Moses, under the Old Testament dispensation, but the Son's name could not and would not be revealed in its fullness until the fullness of time when the Son would become incarnate by the Virgin Mary, Begotten of God and born of Mary.

4. The question of Moses: (Ex 3:13) The nation of Israel had been in bondage in a strange land for several hundreds of years. God appears to Moses in the backside of the desert in the Burning Bush. The Bush was burning yet not consumed. The voice of God calls to Moses as he turns aside to see this great site.

He is told that he is to remove his shoes for the place where he was standing is "holy ground," made holy by the very manifestation of the Presence and Shekinah Glory of God in that Bush. The voice calls to Moses, telling him that he is to be equipped and sent to be the deliverer of the enslaved nation of Israel, by mighty signs and wonders.

The voice of this Angel of the Lord calls Himself:

"The Elohim (God) of Abraham,
The Elohim (God) of Isaac, and
The Elohim (God) of Jacob."

Moses is filled with excuses first, then questions. The greatest thing that must be settled in his mind and heart is that question pertaining to the Name of God. Moses speaks to God in the Bush saying, "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?"

If "God" were a proper Name, then this question would be meaningless. It was not enough from Moses to tell the children of Israel that "God" had sent him, or even try and distinguish this "God" by saying "The God of your fathers has sent me."

This God must have a Name!

After all, Egypt had hundreds of God's and worshiped and deified all manner of reptiles, creatures and created things under multiplied names.

This "God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob" would be classified as another "God," alongside of the many gods of Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia and the gods of the Canaanites. Or else, He would be classed as another of the "Tribal gods." But this was not to be!

Moses must have the Name of God, the Name of the True God. He must go in this Name. The people must be delivered by the mighty and powerful name of God. Signs and wonders and plagues of judgment must be done in the power of this Name. It must be a Name different than all the names of the gods of Egypt, and all the other heathen and tribal gods. It must be a Name that none other could possibly and truly declare. It must be an all-powerful Name to deliver Israel as a Nation from the greatest Nation and World-Kingdom of the day.

The very purpose of the True God revealing Himself and His Name to Moses was declared to Moses and Pharaoh.

Ex 9:16 "But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth." (Rom 9:17)

Ex 12:12 "For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments-- I am the LORD.

Hence, it is clearly seen that the express purpose of God revealing Himself and His Name to Moses was to show to Pharaoh and the whole earth that He alone was the True God and His Name is the greatest Name, the Name above all Names.

Did God reveal His Name to Moses? Did He answer the question of Moses?

Yes! To Moses in particular, of the Saints who asked the question, was an answer given concerning the revelation of God and His Name; especially as it pertains to redemption.

E. The name(s) of God is a summary way of stating:

What God is in himself - his name is all that is known to be true about him and his motives of action

What God is to others, allowing them to know his name - letting them into his fellowship.

Five aspects of the above statement in the Bible.

1. "Believing in the name" is an expression of the apostle John, emphasizing the human side of relationship with God. (personal commitment to the Lord Jesus as revealed in the essence of his Person and work.)

John 3:18 " He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1 John 3:23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ,

2. The people of God are "kept" in his name. This speaks of protection.

John 17:11-12 "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

This corresponds to the OT picture of the name of the Lord as a strong tower (Prov 18:10) to which we may run for safety.

Also - the name given - as a husband's name to a wife - whereby provision and protection are guaranteed ("called by the name").

"Justified in the name" - the implication is the same: the name, and the unchangeable nature of Jesus and as the summary of all that he is and has done, is the ground of secure possession of all the implied blessings.

1 Cor 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (Isa 45:25; 53:11; Acts 13:39; Rom 3:24-30; 5:9; Gal 2:16; Ti 3:7)

3. "Making His name dwell" among them, is an expression, assuring His people of His presence among them.

Deut 14:23 "You shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.

(Deut 12:5, 11, 21; 16:2; 2 Sam 7:13).

4. His "holy name" speaks of the sacredness of His name.

(Lev 20:3; 22:2, 32; 1 Chron 16:10, 35; 29:16; Ps 30:4; 33:21; 97:12; 103:1; 105:3; 106:47; 145:21; Eze 20:39; 36:20-22; 39:7, 25; 43:7-8; Am 2:7).

5. In the NT, baptism is to be done in the name of:

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Mat 28:19)

The name of Jesus (Acts 2:38; 8:12; 10:48; 19:5)

The following References were used in this study:

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

Tyndale Bible Dictionary

The Name of God, by Kevin J Conner