

The Names and Character of God

"But the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm, and do mighty exploits [for God.]" Daniel 11:32 (Amplified)

*"They that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee;
For Thou, Lord has not forsaken them that seek Thee." Psalm 9:10*

Portion for the Journey

The Psalmist says *"The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe."* In knowing God's name, we know His character, and His nature and His covenant promises to His children. The more we know His name, the more we can be assured that He is a God in whom we can trust to the uttermost. *"Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They are brought down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright." Ps. 20:7*

Our Father is called the "Ever-Revealing One." He wants us to know Him and have an intimate relationship with Him. From the first words of the Bible, He has steadily given us His Names by which to reveal aspects of His personality, character and very essence. God has given His children His names as a means of granting them a greater knowledge of Himself. Man in all of his searching is not able to God's name apart from the Word of God. (Job 11:7; Matt. 11:25-28; Acts 17:23) In the book, "The Name of God," Kevin J. Connor states, "It is the Word of God that unveils, unfolds, and reveals the glories of the Name of God in all of its wonder, glory, beauty and majesty. The Word of God and the Name of God are absolutely inseparable in the Plan and Purpose of God in His redemptive manifestation and revelation to His Creatures." Ps 138:2; 1 Sam. 3:21; Deut. 29:29

The names of God signify who He really is and express His attributes and purposes, His glory, grace, love, power and goodness. We seek to know His names to increase the intimacy of our relationship with Him and our ability to praise Him. Ps. 8:1; 29:1-2; 48:10; 103:1; 113:3; 138:2; 145:1-3

Throughout the generations, men have wanted to know God's name. We can be certain that God never changes and we can know Him in the same way men and women of past generations have known Him.

Jacob: "And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. Gen.32:29-30 (KJV)

Manoah: "Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is [Wonderful, a wonder, a Wonderful Secret] secret? Judges 13:2-23 (esp. v. 17,18)

Moses: Moses knew it was significant that he could tell Israel God's Name along with God's promise to free them from their slavery. The express purpose of God was to reveal to Moses, Israel and all of the earth, that He alone is the One True God and there is no other! He is the Name above all names. Ex. 3:13; Ex. 9:16; Ex. 33:11-23; Rom. 9:17

Agur: Prov. 30:1-4 God's name was revealed to Moses, but the Son's name could not be revealed until the fullness of time when the Son would be born of the Virgin Mary.

Thomas a Kempis prayed, "Write your blessed name, o Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved, that no prosperity, no adversity shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through many temptations and dangers in this life."

~~Thomas a Kempis (1380-1471)

Why do we study the Names of God?

In the Word, the person's name is highly significant and is equated with character or essence of the person's identity. In the Bible, individual's names were personally given or changed by the Lord. The names the Lord chose for His people were descriptive of the person's character and often prophetic of His plans and purposes for them. Abigail's husband's name was Nabal which meant "fool" and this is exactly how he behaved. When the LORD entered into covenant with His people, He often changed their name. These name changes were to establish their character or calling His kingdom purposes.

- Abram's name, meaning "father" was changed to Abraham meaning "father of multitudes" by the Lord to reflect His plans and purposes for him.
- Sarai's name, meaning "Princess" was changed to Sarah which meant "mother of nations."
- The Lord told Abraham and Sarah to name their son "Isaac" which means laughter. Through his line the Messiah was born, bringing joy to the whole world.
- Jacob's name was changed from "Jacob" which means deceiver or supplanter to Israel, meaning "having power with God." His twelve sons made up the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel. (Gen. 17:5, 15; Gen. 32:28)
- John the Baptist's father was given very specific instructions by the Lord in what they were to name their son.
- Jesus changed Simon's name from "God has heard," to Peter, meaning "the Rock." (John 1:42; Matt. 16:16-18)

The names of God signify who He really is and express His attributes and purposes. They reveal His glory, grace, love, power and goodness. God has given His names to His children as a covenant so that we can know Him and trust completely in Him. Each one of His names gives us a greater knowledge of Him and leads us into greater intimacy with our loving Father. God wants us to know His name: Isa. 52:6; Ps. 91:4; Mic. 6:9;

The Bible is full of promises for those who know God's name and take the time to really seek to know Him. As we know His promises to us through His name, we can depend upon Him more fully in our walk with Him. The more we know His name, the more we can be assured that He is a God in whom we can trust to the uttermost. *"Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They are brought down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright."* Ps. 20:7; Ps. 91:14

"But the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm, and do mighty exploits [for God.]" Daniel 11:32 (Amplified Version)

"They that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, Lord has not forsaken them that seek Thee." Psalm 9:10

In time of battle, the LORD's name is a powerful defense against our enemies. *"Through You we will push back our enemies; through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us."* Ps. 44:4-5

The Psalmist says *"The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe." In knowing His name, we know His character and His nature, that He is a God in whom we can trust to the uttermost in times of attack.*" Psalm 18:10

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They are brought down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright." Psalm 20:7-8

We will increase the intimacy of our relationship with Him and our ability to worship Him in truth. We can be certain that God never changes and we can know Him in the same way men and women in past generations knew Him. Psalms 8:1; 29:1-2; 48:10; 103:1; 113:3; 138:2; 145:1-3; Ps. 68:4

God's name is the basis for our prayers to be answered. His name gives us the authority to transact business on His behalf. *"And whatever you ask in My Name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."* John 14:13

God's name is very important to His children. It is ...

Our defense Psalm 20:1

Our help in time of need Psalms 9:10

Our comfort Daniel 11:32

A strong tower Proverbs 9:10

A weapon 1 Samuel 17:45, 2 Chronicles 14:11

an ointment poured forth Song of Solomon 1:3

His Name is our Salvation: Ps. 54:1

His Name is our Banner in time of war Ps. 20:5

You Shall Call His Name Jesus

All of the names of God are summed up in the Person of Jesus Christ who came as the complete revelation of the Father. He is the embodiment of each of the names revealed in the Old Testament. Everything in the Church, done by believers, is to be done "in the Name of Jesus." John 17:5, 11,12, 26; Heb. 2:12 (Ps. 22:22); Eph. 1:21; Eph. 4:8-10; Col. 3:17

Meditate on His Names:

God's name is very important to His children. God revealed Himself to His children with many different names and each name is a covenant promise to us because He is always faithful to His name and keeps His promises. Our response to the name of the Lord is to trust (Psalm 66:2), to give thanks, praise and bless (Psalm 100:4), pray and to lift up our hands in true worship (Psalm 63:4).

As you meditate upon His names and character you will find your love for Him deepening, your trust in His character growing, and your desire to worship and praise Him coming out of your meditation of His nature. To study and meditate on His Name will greatly bless you and help you grow in your love and trust of our LORD!

It was not my original intention to share this material, these studies simply came out of my desire to know my Lord

in a deeper way. This series on the Names and Character of God, our blessed Father, is not meant in any way to be all inclusive or complete. Some of the meditations have barely scratched the surface, while others have been done in more depth. None of the meditations could be considered "finished". It is the very incompleteness that caused me to hesitate sharing it at all. I have received such a blessing from these studies; however, it is my hope that it will provide you with a place to begin in your study of God's character. I pray it will inspire you to continue to search the scriptures on your own. You will find these meditations are meant to be studied in the context of the Word of God.

Suggestions for using the studies: When I began this study back in the late 1970's there wasn't a lot of information available on the Names of God. I started the study, with a ream of notebook paper and a 3-ring binder. As I discovered a name of God in my daily reading, I wrote down the reference on the top of a page along with the reference. Each day, I would choose one of the names in my growing collection and meditate on that name. I used my concordance and made a list of the various places this name was used in the Word. I stayed with this one name until I had really felt I had learned all I could. I learned to look up the Hebrew and Greek meanings of the words and added reference materials to my study as I was able to find them. Invariably, the name upon which I was studying at the time became very relevant in my daily life! The promises linked with these names greatly deepened my faith and I found my relationship with the LORD growing and becoming really founded on my God, the Rock! I pray that this study will greatly bless you and help you grow in your love and trust of our LORD!

*“Then they that feared the Lord
Spake often one to another
And the Lord hearkened and heard it.
And a book of remembrance was written
Before Him for them that fear the Lord
And that thought upon His name.” Malachi 3:16*

*“Because I will publish the name of the LORD:
ascribe ye greatness unto our God.” Deuteronomy 32:3*