

What's In A Name?

God's Character Is Revealed By His Names
Sunday, February 28, 2010
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Message Truth:

Why should knowing God's name be important to you? According to the Puritans, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Henry Blackaby taught me in *Experiencing God* that, "You will not obey God if you do not believe Him. You cannot believe God if you do not love Him. You cannot love God if you do not know Him." As a Christian, I study the names of God so that I can know Him more and better. The OT uses several names to communicate God's character, goodness and glory. Each is contained in Scripture and describes a distinct facet of God's character. Focusing on each of these names individually as you pray and think about God will help you by praying God's names as affirmations of praise! Praying the names of God can help you to better understand His character and increase your faith. Knowing the names of God and the compound names of God used by His covenant people helps us better understand the OT and increase our faith as we pray. Why is this important?

¹⁵ *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*
James 5:15 (KJV)

- We have no spiritual power in ourselves.
- All spiritual power is God's.
- We only have access to this power through His name.

Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh

"I will be because I will be"

¹³ *Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"* ¹⁴ *God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I AM** has sent me to you.'* " ¹⁵ *God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.* Exodus 3:13-15

"I Am that I Am" denotes the eternal and everlasting existence of God. This means that God is a Being of the Past, the Present, and the Future.

I Am denotes His potency in the present and the future.

Some authorities say this name refers to God's promise, "Certainly I will be with thee" (Exodus 3:12).

- God's name provides me with c_____ that He exists.
- God's name encourages me that he will be w_____ me.
- God's name explains to me that He has the power and the w_____ to help me now.

Reasons God Answers Prayer

1. The prayer acknowledges God's:
 - H_____ - God's good name, integrity
 - C_____ - qualities of God
 - G_____ - outshining of God's attributes
 - S_____ - supreme power, rank, authority
2. The prayer is supported by the intercession of J_____ because of His priesthood.

3. The prayer is supported by the intercession of the H_____ S_____.

4. The prayer comes from one who is r_____ to God and Christ.

- F_____ - Child
- M_____ - Servant

Adonai is used in Hebrew to recognize one who is your superior in societal rank. This term would be used for the head of the household, a father, a prophet, a priest, a captain, a king. The best parallel in our vernacular would be our use of the word, "sir." When Adonai is used to refer to God it helps us understand His absolute and total sovereignty. God is superior to us in every rank.

¹² *Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.* Genesis 24:12

EL is another ordinary name for God meaning simply "power" or "mighty."

² **God** [Elohim] spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the **LORD** [Yahweh]. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as **God** [El] **Almighty** [Shaddai], but by my name the **LORD** [Yahweh] I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.

Exodus 6:2-4 (ESV)

²² *"The Mighty One [El], God [Elohim], the LORD [Yahweh], the Mighty One [El], God [Elohim], the LORD! He knows, and may Israel itself know. If it was in rebellion, or if in an unfaithful act against the LORD do not save us this day!*

Joshua 22:22 (NASB)

El Shaddai is translated God Almighty. Mostly used in the Book of Job. "Shaddai" means "the self-sufficient." It is commonly rendered "the Almighty." According to Ex. 6:2-3, this is the name by which God was known to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Compound Names

El Tseba'ot is translated "Lord of Hosts," sometimes "Lord of the Sabbath." The names Yahweh and Elohim frequently occur with the word tseba'ot ("hosts"). This compound name occurs chiefly in the prophetic literature.

⁴⁵ *Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of **the LORD of hosts**, the **God** of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.* 1 Samuel 17:45 (NASB)

Directly associated with the Ark, which was the symbol of God's presence in the midst of the hosts of His people.

⁴ *So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of **the LORD of hosts**, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.*

1 Samuel 4:4 (ESV)

A mistake of Hebrew translation is when Yahweh Tzevaot was transliterated into Latin as Sabaoth, which was used in the King James Version of the Bible and many early hymns.