

What Is in a name?

Our names matter. Parents give names to their children to mark them as individuals who are known and loved. When people forget your name, you sense they have forgotten you. The deliberate erasure of people's names, as was done to Holocaust victims, attempts to erase their identity as individuals. Your name matters uniquely because you matter uniquely. And in this era of increasing anonymity, our names feel more and more important.

Scripture gives names great importance. In Genesis, Adam's name derives from the Hebrew for "ground"—adamah—and he is tasked with naming animals, reflecting his role as a priest-king who shares in language and God's image.

Abram, meaning "exalted father" in Hebrew, is renamed Abraham ("father of multitudes") after forming a covenant with God. He is promised countless descendants and blessings for all nations, signifying that God's knowledge and promises extend to everyone.

Similarly, the name change from Jacob ("deceiver") to Israel ("he who struggles with God") compacts the entire mystical journey not only of the man but also of the struggling nation that takes its name from him. Through the name change, the Israelites are transformed from a "stiff-necked people" (Exod. 32:9) constantly rebelling against God into God's chosen people.

Names play a crucial role in Exodus, which is called "These Are the Names" in Hebrew after its opening line. Moses' name means "to draw out," referencing both his rescue from the Nile and his mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

The key name introduced in Exodus is God's: revealed to Moses as Yahweh, or I AM—the self-existent one. This significance is often overlooked by readers who see names only as labels.

To get a sense of Moses' revelation, picture meeting a respected childhood teacher years later, only for them to say, "Call me by my first name."

The profound impact of God's revelation of the divine name to a people previously acquainted with God as El Shaddai ("the Almighty") cannot be overstated. By disclosing the divine name, the infinite and omnipotent Creator establishes a closer relationship with the people and invites them into a familial connection. In doing so, the people are endowed with the distinction of bearing God's name.

Names of God intro

God is a title. His name is....

Greg why do you feel like this is an important topic???

If motives matter, then shouldn't we desire to grow in our relationship with him in a personal more intimate way than merely His Title God ?

***Psalms 9:10* And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.**

"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*

In the Old Testament 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 (e.g., Nabal, whose name means "fool," is the target of Abigail's explanation to David: "**For as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him:**" - **1Sam 25:25**). 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.

Who is God to you? (Give time to hear what many say)

Is He your Most High God

All sufficient One

Master

Lord of Peace

the Lord Who Will Provide

Is He your Father

We must be careful not to make "the most high God" into an "it" or a "thing" to which we pray. He is our Jehovah Raah, the Lord our Shepherd. God knows us by our name, shouldn't we know Him by His?

Hallowed be Your name?

Matt 6:9-13.

Names of God intro

Luke 11:2-4

To hallow something 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.** God's name is of the utmost importance (**Neh 9:5**); therefore we ought reserve it a position of grave significance in our minds and hearts.

5 Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise

We should never take His name lightly (**Exd 20:7; Lev 22:32**), but always rejoice in it and think deeply upon its true meaning.

7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

32 Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the Lord which hallow you,

What does it mean to profane the name?

(Niphal)

to profane oneself, defile oneself, pollute oneself

ritually

sexually

to be polluted, be defiled

(Piel)

to profane, make common, defile, pollute

to violate the honour of, dishonour

to violate (a covenant)

to treat as common

The most common name for God in Scripture is the one our Bibles write as LORD in all capital letters. It is the name YHWH, which we pronounce Yahweh. The Jewish people had such reverence for the name that they never said it out loud; instead they used the name Adonai.

Names of God intro

It is this name Yahweh that's used in Exodus 3. This passage is important because God is in essence defining His name for Moses. He is telling Moses that He has always existed and that He is not dependent upon anyone else. Unlike humans, He is not created and does not rely upon anything outside of Himself to sustain Him. He is also unchangeable—He always is and always was. This name—Yahweh, I AM—was the name Jesus used in response to the questioning Jews in John 8: "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am'" (v. 58).

Matthew Henry offers the following encouragements to motivate one to study the Names of God...

(1) The better God is known the more He is trusted. Those who know Him to be a God of infinite wisdom will trust Him further than they can see Him (**Job 35:14**); those who know Him to be a God of almighty power will trust Him when creature-confidences fail and they have nothing else to trust to (**2Chr 20:12**); and those who know Him to be a God of infinite grace and goodness will trust Him though he slay them, (**Job 13:15**) Those who trust His unwavering truth find joy and confidence in His promises, even if fulfilment takes time or circumstances seem to oppose them. Those who know Him to be the Father of spirits, and an everlasting Father, will trust Him with their souls as their main care and trust in Him at all times, even to the end.

(2.) Greater trust in God leads to seeking Him more. . If we trust God we shall seek Him by faithful and fervent prayer, and by a constant care to approve ourselves to Him in the whole course of our conversations.

(3.) God never did, nor ever will, disown or desert any that duly seek to Him and trust in Him. Though He afflict them, He will not leave them comfortless; though He seem to forsake them for a while, yet He will gather them with everlasting mercies. (**Ps 9:10-note**) We never trust a man till we know him. The mother of unbelief is ignorance of God, his faithfulness, mercy, and power. They that know thee, will trust in thee. This confirmed Paul, Abraham, Sarah, in the faith. "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." (**2Ti 1:12-note**). "He is faithful that promised," and "able also to perform." (Heb 10:23-note, He 11:11-note, Ro 4:21-note)

Next week we will Learn about Yahwey. Homework for you is find out more regarding this name