

What's in
THE NAME?

What's in *THE NAME*?

NAMES ARE IMPORTANT. They are a key part of our identity. Our first names are personal; our last names identify us with our families and often give clues about where we come from in the world. Normally, we like to hear our names and we respond positively to people who call us by name.

As Christians, we are **"people who are called by His Name"**. We are Christians, part of the group of people who identify with Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the God who created the entire universe. That Creator, the one we also call "Almighty", has many names throughout the Scriptures: names that helped mankind know about Him, understand Him, and especially helped them get to know Him on a personal, first-name basis.

Who is this Creator God that we learn about through the Scriptures, see evidence of in creation, and long to know personally? What are the names of God, and what can we discover about the Almighty through His names? And **what does it mean to be "called by His Name?"**

JOIN ME, IN A WALK THROUGH A GARDEN OF GOD'S NAMES selected from the Hebrew Scriptures to see what they tell us about the Almighty. Imagine that each of His names is a beautiful flower, which come together to form a beautiful and aromatic bouquet. But remember, this can be a risky beauty. Like the challenge that Moses faced, will we be open to not only hearing God's name but also bearing it to the places he calls us?



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The name of the Almighty was critical to Moses and to the role God called him to play in Exodus.

Remember that famous scene in the desert? Moses may have thought he was going crazy. After all, he was arguing with a blazing bush in the middle of a desert! And the bush was telling him to go to Pharaoh: the most powerful person on earth at the time, viewed by many to be a god in human form, and face off with him. Moses was being commissioned to be a Freedom Fighter. His job was to liberate the 600,000 men of Israel (plus their families) from their enslavement to Pharaoh. He would succeed a) if Pharaoh would let them go, and b) if those people of Israel would follow him. Out into the desert!

The whole experience must have felt surreal to Moses. To give his calling credibility he asked, "Who shall I say sent me?"

God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM' has sent me to you. 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, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'" (Exodus 3)

The reason this was such a conundrum was that Moses was only beginning to understand who this God was. Moses, while privileged enough to have been raised in Pharaoh's house, was part of the family of Jacob that had settled in Egypt about 400 years earlier. Their recollection of the faith of their forefathers would have faded to a dim shadow of the faith that had brought Abraham out of Ur to establish a new nation.

Israel's journey out of slavery through the wilderness and into the land of Canaan was marked by repeated calls for the people to remember God's names which pointed them to His acts of deliverance, protection, and provision. In fact, these acts of God often were the source of additional names Israel adopted to describe the character and covenant faithfulness of God who appeared to Moses as 'I AM.' **When gathered together these names are like a garden that can nurture the faith of God's people.**





The first name of God in Scripture is *Elohim*, in the first verse in the first chapter of Genesis. "In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth." He is the creator. As He created, He judged the progress and "saw that it was good." He judged. Elohim is the supreme and true God, who is "our Creator and Judge."

The Book of Genesis introduces us to several other names of God, like:

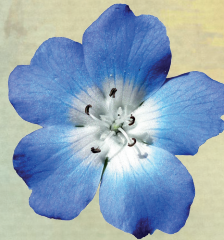


El Elyon, "God Most High, the Sovereign One" who is above all gods.



Adonai identifies God as "the LORD, my Master, the Man among men and the LORD of lords." This name is saying that God alone is the head over all.

Daniel introduces that beautiful name *Attig Yomin*, "the Ancient of Days," the One with Ultimate Authority who will one day judge all nations.



El Olam is identifying God as "the Eternal One." This is similar to the message in the book of Revelation that reads, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the LORD God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.' "



WHAT IS IN THESE NAMES?

He is *YHWH*, "the LORD Almighty." He is **ALMIGHTY**, in every way. In English this name has been rendered as Jehovah or Yahweh, but the people of Israel felt this name was too holy to even say aloud.



He is. As He said to Moses, *"I AM"*. I just AM!

In keeping with Creator and Judge, He is holy.

At the bush, God told Moses to take off his shoes, "for the ground on which you stand is holy." Even the ground is holy in the presence of YHWH.

A central message of the books of Exodus and Leviticus is holiness as instructions were given on the preparations for worship in the Tabernacle and the laws of community.

That is when God, through Moses, said "You shall be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy."

That is when the name *Qanna* is introduced. In this name God describes himself as "the Jealous One" who will protect His Name. The word is also used in describing a marriage relationship in which exclusive loyalty and devotion are treasured.

These names tell us that He is Holy and requires that same holiness for us.

Now let's look at people. In Adam and Eve, His first created beings, He began a divine friendship with mankind.

Back at the bush with Moses, God identified Himself as "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Imagine that – He defined Himself in the context of three people, a family or tribe.

Jehovah Elohe Yisrael identifies Him as "the LORD God of Israel" and "the God of the Nation."



Similarly, *Quedosh Yisrael* describes Him as "the Holy One of Israel".

These Names tell us that He is the **CREATOR OF COMMUNITY**: As our Creator, God Almighty reveals that He is the God of the clan or tribe, the God of relationship.

But we have a problem: **IDOLATRY**. We are selfish and proud and we let our selfish ambitions become more important than Him and His ways. When we don't treat others the way He would want us to, **INJUSTICE** takes root. We take Him off the throne of our lives and allow ourselves the luxury of "Playing God" as Andy Crouch would say.

To be in relationship with this holy God, we have to be holy, even as He is holy: impossible for us to achieve with our limited resources. So, God set Himself on mission to give us His holiness, and in that way restore the relationship that He intended from the beginning of creation.

Jehovah Mekoddishkem is the name God is given saying "the LORD sanctifies and sets us apart to be holy." He alone is able.



In *Jehovah Yeshua*, the prophet Isaiah makes this personal with the name that means "the LORD, your God, your Saviour."

These come together in *Jehovah Tsidkenu*, "the LORD who is our Righteousness," our standard for right behavior, who alone makes us righteous. He alone gives us a new heart.

These names point to His commitment to **RESTORATION OF HOLINESS**. God Almighty is determined to find a way to reconcile with humanity so that He can tabernacle with us or live among us.



And He is not passive about His mission to reach us with His love.

He is *El Roi*, "the God who Sees, the Ever Present One." He sees our pain, our failure, our success. He sees me, and you, and knows our hearts.

He is *El Shaddai*, "God Almighty, the All Sufficient One." He knows our weaknesses and will be the strength we need when we call on Him.

He is *Jehovah Jirah*, "the LORD who Provides." He knows our every need and longs to provide for us.

He is *Jehovah Raah*, "the LORD who is My Shepherd." He will lead us through life, protecting us and feeding us.

He is *Jehovah Rapha*, "the LORD who Heals."

These names tell us our God is **ACTIVE**. We have a God who knows our names, individually, sees our weaknesses and delights in providing for us, guiding us and bringing physical, emotional and spiritual healing.



We are participants in a cosmic battle in which mankind and all of creation is at stake. I am sure our hearts would fail if our eyes could see the unseen forces about us. But we have hope, because:

He is *Jehovah Sabaoth*,
"the LORD of Angel Armies, the
Heavenly Hosts."



He is *Jehovah Nissi*, "the LORD who
is My Banner," our rallying point in battle.



And He is *Jehovah Shammah*, "the LORD
who is with us," who is always present even in
our captivity.



Our God is the **SUPREME COMMANDER** in a battle for all of creation. We see that this is both personal for Him and a great passion of His. He loves mankind dearly. He will do anything to win back lives, our love and our loyalty.

But He will not mandate it or demand it.

He has given us a choice to restore our relationship with Him. It is both absolutely free for us and extremely costly for Him. So attractive, he is probably wondering, "How could they not choose to come to me?"

Then He dropped onto centre-stage.

He! Himself! *Immanuel*,
"God with us!"



He came in the form of His Son, given the common name *Yeshua*, the man we call Jesus. Imagine that – all of the attributes of God Almighty residing in a man.



Jesus:


- Born as if in the lowest of castes, to embrace the poor.
- Died as a criminal, to welcome them into the holiest of holies with God Almighty.
- Lived a sinless, selfless life so that his untimely and most unjust death could be offered on our behalf.

As evidenced by our daily lives, we most certainly deserve death and eternal separation from the Almighty and Holy God.



WHY DID HE DO THIS?

Because He is *Jehovah Shalom*, "the LORD who is Peace," who gives us confidence so we need not fear. He is on-mission to redeem mankind, restore relationship and in that way achieve the high bar of universal peace.



Through Jesus we have access to the Almighty and to all of His resources. This is a whole new way of living. Whatever we do, in word or deed, we do everything in the name of the LORD Jesus. This gives us our identity and our ability because we are people called by His name.

We are, at once,

- infinitely small in the presence of the One whose Name is Jehovah,
- infinitely valuable because of His love for us, and
- unimaginably capable, in Him, beyond our wildest dreams.

WHAT IS IN THE NAME OF JESUS?

Power and Love! The cosmic power and amazing love of the Almighty comes to us in the name of Jesus, the Son of God.

Just before ascending into heaven Jesus said,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Then He set us on the same mission when He said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” We have been equipped with the presence, the power and the love of Jesus to reach into the world and bring the message of a loving God to the nations.

By virtue of

- who Jesus is, as the Son of God,
- what He did, in dying on the cross, and
- what He accomplished, through His resurrection...

He is victorious. Over evil, over death, over disease. The victory is His, and through Him, ours. The mathematician and astronomer Ptolemy, who lived about 100 years after Christ, believed that the earth was the center of the solar system, the sun and planets rotated around the earth. This belief was held for an astonishing 1400 years. Although this was his best effort, we now know that he was wrong.

But it didn't change anything. With the help of Galileo, mathematical theory and empirical science caught up with creation's reality, so we now better understand the movements of the planets and stars.

Jesus might be considered in a similar way. Many people around the world may not recognize Him for who He is, but that does not change who He is and the power that resides in Him and in His name. The names of God in the Bible can also help us get closer to the reality of who God is.

In his letter to the Philippian believers, the Apostle Paul shows how much God values the way of Jesus and the power that resides in His name:

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him THE NAME that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father."



SO WHAT IS IN THE NAME OF JESUS?

Lordship! You see, Jesus Christ is LORD of the Universe. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is LORD.

In faith, we accept this as true. At the same time, this is not a faith-statement. It is a reality, as certain as gravity, the movement of the universe, or the speed of light.

Confronted with this truth, we have a choice:

- to embrace that fact now and submit to all its implications or
- to continue on our self-important paths.

But there are consequences to our decision if we choose to not follow Jesus. At the end of the book of Revelation, we are told that if anyone's name is not found written in the book of life, he will be thrown into the lake of fire.

The LORD does not want anyone to perish. He wants everyone to come to repentance. He wants everyone to have eternal life.

Let's join together in worship, call on the name of Jesus, in whom is all the authority of Jehovah, the Great 'I AM,' and embrace Him as the Son of YHWH and submit to Him as our Lord.

This is the path to an everlasting life with the Almighty and to helping bring Shalom to our hurting world.

*Jesus Christ is Risen!
And He is LORD!*





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*Trust in the LORD with
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NAMES OF GOD

<i>Adonai</i>	Genesis 15:2 Deuteronomy 6:4	The LORD My Master	God alone is the head over all.
<i>Attiq Yomin</i>	Daniel 7:9,13	Ancient of Days	God is the ultimate authority. He will one day judge all nations.
<i>El Elyon</i>	Genesis 14:17-20 Numbers 24:16 Psalm 7:17 Isaiah 14:13,14	God Most High Sovereign One	He is above all gods. Nothing in life is more sacred.
<i>Elohim</i>	Genesis 1:1 Numbers 23:19 Psalm 19:1	God my Creator and Judge	Refers to God's power and might. He is the only supreme and true God.
<i>El Olam</i>	Isaiah 40:28-31	The Everlasting One	God is eternal. He will never die.
<i>El Roi</i>	Genesis 16:13 Psalm 139	God who Sees Omnipresent & Omniscient One	God oversees all creation and the affairs of people.
<i>El Shaddai</i>	Genesis 17:1 Psalm 91:1	God Almighty All Sufficient One	God is all powerful. He pours forth blessings.
<i>Jehovah Elohe Yisrael</i>	Judges 5:3 Psalm 59:5 Isaiah 17:6 Zephaniah 2:9	LORD God of Israel	He is the God of the nation.
<i>Jehovah Jirah</i>	Genesis 22:13,14	The LORD will Provide	God will provide our real needs.
<i>Jehovah Mekoddishkem</i>	Leviticus 20:8	The LORD who Sanctifies	He sets me apart to be holy.
<i>Jehovah Nissi</i>	Exodus 17:15,16	The LORD my Banner	We should remember God for helping us. He is our rallying point in battle.
<i>Jehovah Raah/Rohi</i>	Psalm 23:1	The LORD my Shepherd	

<i>Jehovah Rapha/ Rophe</i>	Exodus 15:26	The LORD that Heals	
<i>Jehovah Sabaoth</i>	I Samuel 1:3 Isaiah 6:1-3	LORD of Hosts	God is our saviour and protector.
<i>Jehovah Shalom</i>	Judges 6:24	The LORD is Peace	God gives us peace so we need not fear. He gives us settled confidence.
<i>Jehovah Shammah</i>	Ezekiel 48:35	The LORD is There	God is always present with us, even when we are captive.
<i>Jehovah Tsidkenu</i>	Ezekiel 36:26-27 Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16	The LORD our Righteousness	God is our standard for right behaviour. He alone can make us righteous. He promises a new heart.
<i>Jehova Y'shua</i>	Nehemiah 8:17	The LORD my Saviour	God is our Deliverer
<i>Qanna</i>	Exodus 34:14	The Jealous One	God is jealous for His Name and His Word.
<i>Qedosh Yisrael</i>	Isaiah 1:4	Holy One of Israel	God is morally perfect.
<i>Yahweh</i>	Genesis 2:4 Exodus 3:14; 6:2,3	The LORD Jehovah	The proper name of the Divine Person.





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