

## GOD'S NAME

### 1. Basic Name.

- a. Yahweh (יהוה) is God's personal name.
  - (1) **Ex 3:13-15** 13 Then Moses said to God, If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? what shall I say to them? 14 God said to Moses, I Am who I Am (אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה). And he said, Say this to the people of Israel: I Am (אֶהְיֶה) has sent me to you. 15 God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh (יהוה), 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.
  - (2) **Ps 83:18** 18 ... That they may know that you alone, whose name is Yahweh (יהוה), are the Most High (עֶלְיוֹן) over all the earth.
  - (3) **Hos 12:4-5** 4 [Jacob] strove with the angel and prevailed. He wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us— 5 Yahweh (יהוה), the God of armies, Yahweh (יהוה) is his memorial name.
- b. Yahweh is used about 5321 times in the Old Testament,<sup>1</sup> far more than any other term for God. Elohim ("God") is used about 2500 times. Adon ("Lord") is used about 360 times.
- c. Yahweh is sometimes abbreviated as *Yah* and *Yahu*.
  - (1) **Ex 15:2** 2 Yah (יה) is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.
  - (2) **Ps 68:4** 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name. Lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts. His name is Yah (יה). Exult before him!
  - (3) **Is 12:2** 2 Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust and will not be afraid. For Yah Yahweh (יהוה יהי) is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation (ישועה).
- d. Yahweh never appears in a declined form, in a plural form, or with suffixes.
- e. Scholars generally agree the original pronunciation of יהוה was Yahweh or Jahveh.<sup>2</sup>
- f. God's name is called the Tetragrammaton, a Greek term for the four Hebrew letters.
- g. The first extrabiblical reference to *Yahweh* is the Mesha Stela (840 bc).
- h. *Yahweh* is translated "the LORD" in many English Bibles. *Adon* is translated "Lord."
  - (1) **Ps 110:1** 1 Yahweh (יהוה) says to my Adon (אֲדֹנָי): Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.
  - (2) Learn to distinguish between *Yahweh* and *Adon* as you read the Old Testament.
  - (3) When reading the Bible out loud, consider substituting *Yahweh* for "the LORD."
- i. "Jehovah" comes from the terms *Yahweh* and *Adonai* mixed together (JeHoWaH)
  - (1) "Jehovah" is the "[n]ame for God formed by adding the vowels of the Hebrew word *Adonai* to the consonants of the Hebrew divine name, *YHWH*. Out of their respect for God and their fear of defiling his name, the postexilic Jews refused to pronounce the divine name when reading Scripture. Instead they substituted

<sup>1</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 53.

<sup>2</sup> Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "[Jehovah](#)," *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1106.

*Adonai*, a word meaning ‘my Lord.’ Prior to the 6th century ad, the Hebrew text had no vowels. These were supplied during the reading of the Scripture by one who was familiar with the language. When vowel points were added to the text (ad 600-700), the vowels of *Adonai* were placed below the consonants of *YHWH* to indicate that *Adonai* should be read. It is thought that in about ad 1520 Petrus Galatinus conceived the idea of combining the two names, thus creating the new form *YeHoWaH* from which the English term *Jehovah* comes. Although this form was foreign to the Hebrew language, it gained wide acceptance and was included as the translation for God’s name in the KJV and ASV. Biblical scholars now agree that the original pronunciation of the divine name was Yahweh or Jahveh.”<sup>3</sup>

(2) In the KJV, Yahweh is translated “Jehovah” in four places:

- (a) **Ex 6:3** 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as El Shaddai (אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי), but by my name Jehovah (יהוה) I did not make myself known to them.
- (b) **Ps 83:18** 18 ... That they may know that you alone, whose name is Jehovah (יהוה), are the Most High (עֶלְיוֹן) over all the earth.
- (c) **Is 12:2** 2 Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust and will not be afraid. For the Lord Jehovah (יהוה יְהוָה) is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation (Yeshua).
- (d) **Is 26:4** 4 Trust in the Lord (יהוה) forever, for the Lord Jehovah (יהוה יְהוָה) is an everlasting rock.

(3) It’s best not to use the term “Jehovah.” “Yahweh” is much better.

j. Yahweh is commonly used together with Elohim and Adonai.

(1) Yahweh Elohim.

- (a) **Ge 2:4** 4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh Elohim (יהוה אֱלֹהִים) made the earth and the heavens.
- (b) **Ex 9:30** 30 As for you [Pharaoh] and your servants, I [Moses] know that you do not yet fear Yahweh Elohim (יהוה אֱלֹהִים).
- (c) **Ps 30:2** 2 Yahweh my Elohim (יהוה אֱלֹהֵי), I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

(2) Lord Yahweh.

- (a) **Ge 15:2** 2 Abram said, My Lord Yahweh (אֲדֹנָי יְהוה), what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?
- (b) **Jos 7:7** 7 Joshua said, Alas, my Lord Yahweh (אֲדֹנָי יְהוה), why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan!
- (c) **Is 3:15** 15 What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor? declares my Lord Yahweh of armies (אֲדֹנָי יְהוה צְבָאוֹת).

k. The name Yahweh applies equally to each member of the Trinity.

- (1) The Father is Yahweh.
- (2) The Son is Yahweh.

<sup>3</sup> Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “[Jehovah](#),” *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1106.

- (a) **Is 12:2** 2 Behold, God is my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה). I will trust and will not be afraid. For Yah Yahweh (יְהוָה יְהוֹה) is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation (יְשׁוּעָה).
  - (b) **Jn 8:58** 58 Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I Am.
  - (c) **Ro 10:9** 9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord [Yahweh] and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
  - (d) **Php 2:9-11** 9 God has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Messiah is Lord [Yahweh], to the glory of God the Father.
- (3) The Holy Spirit is Yahweh.

## 2. Revelation.

- a. We know God's name only because he revealed it to us.
  - (1) **Ex 3:13-15** 13 Moses said to God, If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, What is his name? what shall I say to them? 14 God said to Moses, I Am who I Am (אֲנִי אֶהְיֶה אֲנִי). And he said, Say this to the people of Israel: I Am (אֲנִי אֶהְיֶה) has sent me to you. 15 God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh (יְהוָה), 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.
  - (2) No creature has the authority or power to name God. We didn't give God a name. He revealed his name to us.
- b. God first disclosed his personal name to Moses. His name was not previously known.
  - (1) **Ex 6:2-3** 2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, I am Yahweh. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as El Shaddai, but by my name Yahweh I did not make myself known to them.
  - (2) Though Moses uses the name *Yahweh* to narrate Genesis, it seems the name was not actually known until Exodus.
    - (a) **Ge 2:4** 4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that *Yahweh Elohim* made the earth and the heavens.
    - (b) **Ge 17:1** 1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, *Yahweh* appeared to Abram and said to him, I am *El Shaddai* (אֱלֹהֵי שָׁדַי). Walk before me and be blameless.
    - (c) The name Yahweh "was used by Eve (Gen. 4:1), people in the days of Seth (v. 26), Noah (9:26), and Abraham (12:8; 15:2, 8). But it was to Moses that the deep significance of the name was revealed. God said that even though He appeared to the patriarchs He was not known to them by His name Yahweh (Exod. 6:3). The meaning of the name was not known in its fullest and deepest sense."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 53.

### 3. Meaning.

- a. Yahweh means “the unchanging, eternal, self-existent God,” the “I am that I am.”<sup>5</sup>
  - (1) Ex 3:14; Hos. 12:5; Mal 3:6; Rev. 1:4, 8
  - (2) “It emphasizes God’s changeless self-existence. This may be supported by the etymology and from the Lord’s use of Exodus 3:14 in John 8:58 to state His claim to absolute eternal existence.”<sup>6</sup>
- b. Yahweh is a very “vowelish” name. It emphasizes the breath/exhale/spirit of God.
  - (1) **Ge 2:7** 7 Then Yahweh God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
  - (2) **1 Ki 19:12** 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but Yahweh was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.
  - (3) **Job 12:10** 10 In [God’s] hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.
  - (4) **Job 33:4** 4 The Spirit of God has made me [Elihu], and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
  - (5) **Job 34:14-15** 14 If [God] should set his heart to it and gather to himself his spirit and his breath, 15 all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.
  - (6) **2 Ti 3:16** 16 All Scripture is exhaled by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.
- c. The name Yeshua (Jesus) is also a very “vowelish” name.

### 4. Significance.

- a. In the Bible, a person’s name....
- b. The name Yahweh represents God’s very being, essence, and nature.
  - (1) **Ex 3:14-15** 14 God said to Moses, I Am who I Am (אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה). And he said, Say this to the people of Israel: I Am (אֶהְיֶה) has sent me to you. 15 God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh (יְהוָה), the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.
  - (2) **Ex 34:5-7** 5 Yahweh descended in the cloud, stood with [Moses] there, and proclaimed the name of Yahweh. 6 Yahweh passed before him and proclaimed, Yahweh, Yahweh, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity, offense, and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.
  - (3) **Jn 17:6** 6 I [Jesus] have manifested your name [being, essence, nature] to the people [disciples] whom you gave me out of the world.
- c. God’s name also stands for his reputation.
  - (1) God is motivated to make his name great among his creatures.
    - (a) **1 Sa 12:22** 22 For Yahweh will not abandon his people [Israel], for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.
- d. God’s personal name sets him apart as the true God among all false gods.

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<sup>5</sup> M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

<sup>6</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 54.

- (1) **1 Ki 18:24** 24 You call upon the name of your god [Baal], and I will call upon the name of Yahweh, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.
- (2) **1 Ki 18:38-39** 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, Yahweh, he is God. Yahweh, he is God.
- (3) The term *Elohim*, on its own, is not specific enough to indicate the God of Israel.
  - (a) **Ge 2:4** 4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that Yahweh Elohim made the earth and the heavens.
- (4) Muslims worship *Allah*, but they do not worship *Yahweh*, the God of Israel.
  - (a) **Ex 3:15** 15 God also said to Moses, Say this to the people of Israel: *Yahweh*, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.
  - (b) **Ex 5:1** 1 Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, Thus says *Yahweh*, the God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.
  - (c) **Ex 34:23** 23 Three times in the year shall all your males appear before *Yahweh* God, the God of Israel.
- e. That Yahweh has a name emphasises that Yahweh is a personal God, not an impersonal god. In pantheism, God has no name.

## 5. Sacredness.

- a. God jealously guards his name, so we must not blaspheme, misuse, or profane it.
  - (1) **Ex 20:7** 7 You shall not take the name (יְהוָה) of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who takes his name (יְהוָה) in vain.
  - (2) **Le 24:16** 16 Whoever blasphemes the name of Yahweh shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the name (יְהוָה), shall be put to death.
  - (3) **Mal 2:2** 2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says Yahweh of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings.
  - (4) **Ro 2:24** 24 As it is written, The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you [Israel].
- b. Traditionally, Jews do not say “Yahweh” for fear of taking God’s name in vain.
  - (1) In ancient times, God’s name was never pronounced except by the high priest when he entered into the most holy place on Yom Kippur.<sup>7</sup>
  - (2) Jews commonly use the terms *Adonai* (“Lord”) or *Hashem* (“the Name”) instead.
  - (3) Do not unnecessarily offend Jews by using the name *Yahweh* around them.
- c. However, Old Testament heroes often used the name *Yahweh* in direct speech.
  - (1) God wants us to use his personal name, if we do so respectfully.
  - (2) When we respectfully use the name Yahweh, the true God is glorified.

## 6. Characteristics. God’s name is:

- a. Holy.
  - (1) **Le 22:32** 32 And you [Aaron] shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people of Israel. I am Yahweh who sanctifies you....

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<sup>7</sup> M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

- (2) **Eze 36:22-23** 22 It is not for your sake, house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. 23 And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name.
- b. Majestic.  
(1) **Ps 8:1** 1 Yahweh, our Lord, how majestic is your name (יְהוָה) in all the earth!
- c. Powerful.  
(1) **Ps 54:1** 1 O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might.  
(2) **Pr 18:10** 10 The name of Yahweh is a strong tower. The righteous one runs into it and is safe.
- d. Blessed.  
(1) **Da 2:20** 20 Blessed be the name of God forever and ever.

## 7. Associations.

- a. Israel.  
(1) **Ex 20:24** 24 In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you [Israel] and bless you.  
(2) **Dt 28:10** 10 All the peoples of the earth shall see that you [Israel] are called by the name of Yahweh, and they shall be afraid of you.
- b. The ark of the covenant.  
(1) **1 Ch 13:6** 6 David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim that belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of Yahweh who sits enthroned above the cherubim.
- c. The house of David.  
(1) **1 Ch 17:23-24** 23 Now, Yahweh, let the word that you have spoken concerning your servant [David] and concerning his house be established forever and do as you have spoken, 24 and your name will be established and magnified forever saying, Yahweh of armies, the God of Israel, is Israel's God, and the house of your servant David will be established before you.
- d. Jerusalem.  
(1) **Dt 12:5** 5 You shall seek the place that Yahweh your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there.  
(2) **1 Ki 14:21** 21 Rehoboam...reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that Yahweh had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there.  
(3) **2 Ch 6:6** 6 I [Yahweh] have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there.
- e. Jerusalem temple.  
(1) **1 Ki 9:3** 3 I [Yahweh] have consecrated this house that you [Solomon] have built, by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.  
(2) **2 Ki 21:7** 7 Yahweh said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever.  
(3) **2 Ch 2:1** 1 Solomon purposed to build a temple for the name of Yahweh and a royal palace for himself.  
(4) **2 Ch 6:7** 7 It was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel.

- (5) **2 Ch 6:10** 10 I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as Yahweh promised, and I have built the house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel.
- (6) **2 Ch 6:33** 33 ...Hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.
- (7) **2 Ch 7:16** 16 I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.
- f. Jesus.
- (1) **Ps 118:26** 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh!
- (a) Coming in Yahweh's name indicates one is Yahweh's official agent and representative.
- (2) **Mt 21:9** 9 Blessed is he [Messiah Jesus] who comes in the name of Yahweh!
- (3) **Mt 23:39** 39 You [Jerusalem] will not see me again until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh.
- g. Believers.
- (1) **Is 43:6-7** 6 Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory....
- (2) **Re 3:12** 12 I [Jesus] will write on [the one who conquers] the name of my God, the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.
- (3) **Re 22:3-4** 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in [the new Jerusalem], and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

## 8. Compound Names.

- a. Yahweh Yireh (יְהוָה יִרְאַה).
- (1) Meaning: "Yahweh Will Provide."
- (a) **Ge 22:13-14** 13 Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, Yahweh Will Provide (יְהוָה יִרְאַה), as it is said to this day, On the mount of Yahweh (בְּהַר יְהוָה) he will provide (רָאָה).
- (2) God provides for his people.
- (a) **Mt 6:8** 8 Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
- (b) **Ro 8:32** 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?
- (c) **Php 4:19** 19 My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Messiah Jesus.
- (d) **Heb 13:5** 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you.
- b. Yahweh Ropheka (יְהוָה רֹפֵאָה).
- (1) Meaning: "Yahweh Our Healer."
- (a) **Ex 15:26** 26 If you will diligently listen to the voice of Yahweh your God, do that which is right in his eyes, give ear to his commandments, and keep all his

statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am Yahweh Your Healer (יְהוָה רֹפֵאֲךָ).

- (2) Ultimately, God will forgive all our sins and heal all our physical and spiritual illnesses.
- (a) **Ps 103:2-3** 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases....
- c. Yahweh Nissi (יְהוָה נִסִּי).
- (1) Meaning: “Yahweh Our Banner.”
- (a) **Ex 17:15** 15 Moses built an altar and called the name of it Yahweh My Banner (יְהוָה נִסִּי).
- d. Yahweh Mekadishkem (יְהוָה מְקַדְּשְׁכֶם).
- (1) Meaning: “Yahweh Who Sanctifies You.”
- (a) **Ex 31:13** 13 You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am Yahweh who sanctifies you (יְהוָה מְקַדְּשְׁכֶם).
- (b) **Le 20:7-8** 7 Consecrate yourselves...and be holy (שְׁבִיחֵי), for I am Yahweh your God. 8 Keep my statutes and do them. I am Yahweh Who Sanctifies you (יְהוָה מְקַדְּשְׁכֶם).
- (2) As a “holy nation,” we are to be holy as God is holy.
- (a) **1 Pe 1:15-16** 15 ...But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.
- (b) **1 Pe 2:9** 9 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy (ἅγιος) nation, a people for his own possession....
- e. Yahweh Qanna (יְהוָה קַנָּא).
- (1) Meaning: “Yahweh of Zeal.”
- (a) **Ex 34:14** 14 You shall worship no other god, for Yahweh, whose name is Jealous (יְהוָה קַנָּא), is a jealous (קַנָּא) God.
- (b) **Ex 20:5** 5 You shall not bow down to [carved images] or serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous (קַנָּא) God....
- (2) God strives to achieve his goals.
- (a) **Is 37:32** 32 For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this.
- (b) **2 Co 11:2** 2 For I [Paul] feel a divine jealousy for you [Corinthian believers], because I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Messiah.
- (3) See *God’s Zeal*.
- f. Yahweh Shalom (יְהוָה שְׁלוֹמִים).
- (1) Meaning: “Yahweh Is Peace.”
- (a) **Jdg 6:22-24** 22 Gideon perceived that he was the angel of Yahweh. And Gideon said, Alas, Lord Yahweh! For now I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face. 23 But Yahweh said to him, Peace be to you (שְׁלוֹמִים לָּךְ). Do not fear. You shall not die. 24 Then Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and called it, Yahweh Is Peace (יְהוָה שְׁלוֹמִים).
- (2) Yahweh is a God of peace. He keeps us in perfect peace when we fix our minds on him.

- (a) **Ps 119:165** 165 Great shalom (שְׁלוֹם רַב) have those who love your law. Nothing can make them stumble.
- (b) **Is 26:3** 3 You keep him in perfect shalom (שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם) whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.
- (c) **Php 4:9** 9 What you have learned, received, heard, and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of shalom will be with you.
- (3) See *God's Peace*.
- g. Yahweh Tsevaot (יהוה צבאות).
- (1) Meaning: “Yahweh of Armies.”
- (a) “This is a military figure that pictures Yahweh as the Commander of the angelic armies of heaven as well as the armies of Israel (1 Sam. 17:45). The title reveals the sovereignty and omnipotence of God and was used often by the prophets (Isaiah and Jeremiah) to remind the people during times of national crisis that God was their Leader and Protector.”<sup>8</sup>
- (2) Key verses.
- (a) **1 Sa 1:3** 3 This man [Elkanah] used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to Yahweh of armies (יהוה צבאות) at Shiloh....
- 1) This name is not used until 1 Samuel, but then it becomes a favorite term of the prophets. It is used 83 times by Jeremiah and 52 times by Zechariah.
- (b) **1 Sa 1:11** 11 [Hannah] vowed a vow and said, Yahweh of armies (יהוה צבאות), if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant, remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to Yahweh all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.
- (c) **1 Sa 17:45-46** 45 David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of Yahweh of armies (יהוה צבאות), the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day Yahweh will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head.
- (d) **1 Ki 19:10** 10 I [Elijah] have been very jealous for Yahweh, the God of armies (ליהוה אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת).
- (e) **Ps 46:7** 7 Yahweh of armies (יהוה צבאות) is with us. The God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
- (f) **Jer 20:11-12** 11 Yahweh is with me as a dread warrior, therefore my persecutors will stumble. They will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. 12 Yahweh of armies (יהוה צבאות), who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.
- (g) **Am 4:13** 13 Behold, he who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness and treads on the heights of the earth—Yahweh, the God of armies, is his name
- (h) **Mal 1:14** 14 I am a great King, says Yahweh of armies (יהוה צבאות), and my name will be feared among the nations.
- (3) As Yahweh sits on his throne, the armies of heaven stand around him.

<sup>8</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 54.

- (a) **2 Ch 18:18** 18 I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left.
- (4) See *God as King* and *God as Warrior*.
- h. Yahweh Rohi (יְהוָה רֹעִי).  
(1) Meaning: “Yahweh My Shepherd.”  
(a) **Ps 23:1-3** 1 Yahweh is my shepherd (יְהוָה רֹעִי). I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.  
(2) See *God as Shepherd*.
- i. Yahweh Tsidkenu (יְהוָה צְדִקְנוּ).  
(1) Meaning: “Yahweh Our Righteousness.”  
(a) **Jer 23:5-6** 5 Behold, the days are coming, declares Yahweh, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: Yahweh Our Righteousness (יְהוָה צְדִקְנוּ).  
(2) Jesus is “the Righteous one.”  
(a) **1 Jn 2:1** 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Messiah the Righteous one (Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν δίκαιον).

## 9. Application. As believers, we are to:

- a. Call upon Yahweh’s name.  
(1) **Ge 4:26** 26 At that time people began to call upon the name (שֵׁם) of Yahweh.  
(2) **Ge 12:8** 8 There [between Bethel and Ai] [Abraham] built an altar to Yahweh and called upon the name of Yahweh.  
(3) **Ge 21:33** 33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of Yahweh, the Everlasting God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי עוֹלָם).  
(4) **Ps 99:6** 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests. Samuel also was among those who called upon his name. They called to Yahweh, and he answered them.
- b. Bless in Yahweh’s name.  
(1) **Dt 21:5** 5 Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, for Yahweh your God has chosen them to minister to him and to bless in the name of Yahweh....
- c. Glory in Yahweh’s name.  
(1) **1 Ch 16:10** 10 Glory in his holy name. Let the hearts of those who seek Yahweh rejoice!  
(2) **1 Ch 16:28-29** 28 Ascribe to Yahweh, families of the peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength! 29 Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name.  
(3) By contrast, we are not to seek to make a name for ourselves.  
(a) **Ge 11:4** 4 Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.  
(b) “Play for the name on the front of the jersey, not the one on the back.”<sup>9</sup>
- d. Know Yahweh’s name.

<sup>9</sup> Unknown.

- (1) **2 Ch 6:33** 33 Hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel.
- (2) **Ps 9:10** 10 Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, Yahweh, have not forsaken those who seek you.
- e. Love Yahweh's name.
  - (1) **Ps 5:11** 11 Let all who take refuge in you rejoice. Let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.
  - (2) **Is 56:6-7** 6 The foreigners who join themselves to Yahweh, to minister to him, to love the name of Yahweh, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— 7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer.
- f. Praise Yahweh's name.
  - (1) **Ps 7:17** 17 I will sing praise to the name of Yahweh Most High (שִׁמְ-יְהוָה עֲלֵי יוֹן).
  - (2) **Ps 113:3** 3 From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of Yahweh is to be praised!
  - (3) **Ps 145:2** 2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.
- g. Trust in Yahweh's name.
  - (1) **Ps 20:7** 7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of Yahweh our God.
  - (2) **Is 50:10** 10 Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of Yahweh and rely on his God.
- h. Give thanks to Yahweh's name.
  - (1) **Ps 44:8** 8 In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever.
  - (2) **Ps 97:12** 12 Rejoice in Yahweh, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!
- i. Wait for Yahweh's name.
  - (1) **Ps 52:9** 9 I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.
- j. Honour Yahweh's name.
  - (1) **Mal 2:2** 2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says Yahweh of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings.
  - (2) **Mal 3:16** 16 Then those who feared Yahweh spoke with one another. Yahweh paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared Yahweh and honoured his name.
- k. Set apart Yahweh's name.
  - (1) **Mt 6:9** 9 Our Father in heaven, may your name be set apart (ἀγιάζω).
- l. Unify around Yahweh's name.
  - (1) "The church and her leaders are too often living in the power of their own names and the result is a disunified church and discordant message to the world. In 1995 I was in the press box of the Los Angeles Coliseum gazing down on 55,000 men who had come together for the Promise Keeper's rally. One of the speakers had the men participate in a moment that is etched deep in my memory banks. He directed them on the count of three to shout their names. As they did it was unintelligible cacophony of sound. After they quieted down the speaker said,

‘Now on the count of three scream the name of your church.’ The result was an even greater release of audio chaos. He then exclaimed, ‘Now on three, as loud as you can, shout the name of your Savior and Lord!’ When ‘three’ hit, the name of Jesus filled the stadium as if one voice made up of 55,000 tongues was released into the atmosphere. ‘JESUS!’ The unity, power and glory were so thick you could feel it on your skin.”<sup>10</sup>

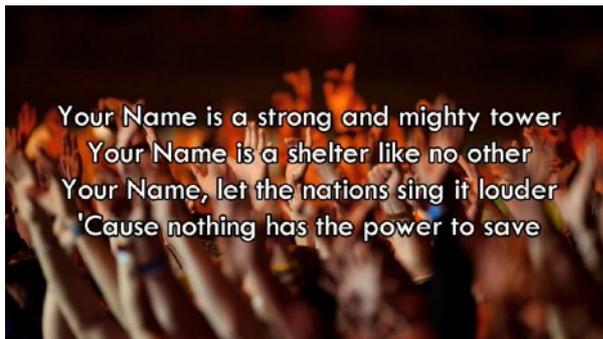
## 10. Promises.

- a. God’s name will be proclaimed in all the earth.
  - (1) **Ex 9:16** 16 For this purpose I have raised you [Moses] up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.
  - (2) **Re 15:3-4** 3 Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God, the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.
- b. God blesses those upon whom his name is put.
  - (1) **Nu 6:27** 27 So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.
- c. God pays attention to and hears those who honour his name.
  - (1) **Mal 3:16** 16 Then those who feared Yahweh spoke with one another. Yahweh paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared Yahweh and esteemed his name.

## *Bibliography*

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## *Music*



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<sup>10</sup> Unknown.

## Notes

**Leviticus 24:10–16** 10 Now an Israelite woman’s son, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the people of Israel. And the Israelite woman’s son and a man of Israel fought in the camp, 11 and the Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the Name, and cursed. Then they brought him to Moses. His mother’s name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan. 12 And they put him in custody, till the will of the Lord should be clear to them. 13 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 14 “Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him. 15 And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. 16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

**Psalms 20:1** 1 May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

**Psalms 44:8** 8 In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. Selah

**Psalms 44:20-21** 20 If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god, 21 would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.

**Psalms 48:10** 10 As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness.

**Psalms 68:4** 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him!

**Psalms 71:4–5** 4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man. 5 For you, O Lord (Adon), are my hope, my trust, O Lord (Yahweh), from my youth.

**Psalms 72:17** 17 May his [ ] name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun!

**Psalms 83:16-18** 16 Fill [your enemies’] faces with shame, that they may seek your name, Yahweh. 17 Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever. Let them perish in disgrace, 18 that they may know that you alone, whose name is Yahweh, are the Most High over all the earth.

**Psalms 91:14-16** 14 Because he [ ] holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him. I will protect him, because he knows my name. 15 When he calls to me, I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will rescue him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

**Psalm 106:8** 8 ...[Yahweh] saved [Israel] for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power [to the nations].

**Psalm 106:47** 47 Save us, Yahweh our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

**Psalm 135:13** 13 Your name, Yahweh, endures forever, your renown, Yahweh, throughout all ages.

**Psalm 145:21** 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

**Psalm 148:5** 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord! For he commanded and they were created.

**Psalm 148:11–13** 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! 12 Young men and maidens together, old men and children! 13 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

**Romans 9:17** 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”