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NAMES OF GOD - 4.

POWER IN THE NAME

Some Christians are starting to use the different NAMES OF GOD in their own private prayer life. That's good, I think. But using the different NAMES OF GOD isn't the whole answer to increasing a person's spiritual sensitivity or the whole answer to always receiving a self-serving answer to prayer. I don't think that the key is knowing the NAME or pronouncing it right. I think the key is in living the NATURE of the NAME.

Some Bible study books contain the idea that there is a strange esoteric power in learning and using a SPIRITUAL NAME. I think that I first ran across this idea in a book on exorcism (casting out demons). Much was made of the fact that JESUS demanded to know the NAMES of the demons. The idea projected was that the demon was obliged to follow whatever command was given to it, as long as the exorcist called the demon by its NAME. (Mark 5:9-15)

In a book about angels (contradistinctive from demons) the idea came forth that angels will do the bidding of a Christian who calls the angel by its NAME. Two scriptures were used to support the idea. "Are (angels) not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)

The second scripture story is about Jacob wrestling with an angel. The story ends this way: "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?" (Gen. 32:29)

The knowledge of the NAME of the angel must have been worth wrestling for all night. I can easily see how the idea of "special power in a name" got started - and there seems to be some merit in it.

There is an area in which I do have personal experience regarding the special power of using the NAME of a person.

WAITRESS! WAITRESS!

When I go to a restaurant, one of the first things I try to do is to learn the NAME of my waitress. Have you ever had to call, "waitress, waitress" It just doesn't work! She can walk right by your table and not hear you. But if you say her NAME, she hears you from across the room. There must be something to learn concerning the fact that there is special power in a NAME.

However, I'm also inclined to think that the real power comes when the approach is made in the NATURE of the NAME. In other words, it is easier to approach someone who is a lover if you yourself are a lover. So, when you approach in the NAME and in the NATURE of the NAME, you will have a lot of things going for you.

RECENT HISTORY OF THE NAMES OF GOD

The first *recorded written* notice of the difference between YAHWEH and ELOHIM occurred in 1753 A.D., around the time that our forefathers started receiving seeds of thought about a NEW NATION. One hundred years later, in 1853 A.D., a systematic approach of using the different names was agreed upon by scholars.

Jean ASTRUG (Conjectures Sur Les Memoires Originaux Brussels 1753) was the first to call attention to the occurrence in Genesis and in Exodus I & 2, of the two names for the Deity, 'ELOHIM' and 'YHWH,' and to base upon this fact a theory concerning the composite character of the first Mosaic book.' Quote from the Jewish Encyclopedia, ELOHIST, Vol. 5, p 142.

100 YEARS AGO

Theory was adopted by Hupfield (Die Quellen der "Theory 1853) whose acceptance of 'ELOHIST' as a recognized term was followed by almost all subsequent writers of the Hexateuch from the critical point of view.' Quote from same.

It is almost incomprehensible that for nearly 5000 years of written Jewish history - no one - no one noticed that there was a difference between YAHWEH and ELOHIM (except the scribes who corrupted the names). Bible scholars have only had a little over 200 years to develop that new idea. You had better pause and think about that.

FIVE NAMES OF GOD

There are only 3 main scripture passages for us to study that show definitive differences between the 5 NAMES OF GOD.

They are:

1. Exodus 6:2 - 3
2. Genesis 17:JS - 22
3. Job 10:8

In other words, you can get the main part of the story about the NAMES OF GOD from only three scripture passages; and if you want top you can get more detail from thousands of other verses.

GOD CHANGED HIS NAME

Exodus 6:2-3 says, "And God spake unto Moses and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac and unto Jacob, by the NAME of God Almighty, but by my **NAME JEHOVAH** was I not known to them." (King James Version, KJV).

Notice that GOD changed His NAME from "God Almighty" to "JEHOVAH" around 1500 B.C. (1491 B.C., Usher) At that time, God introduced His new **Hebrew name "YAHWEH" (YHWH) to Moses. YAHWEH is erroneously translated** into "JEHOVAH" in the King James Version (abv. KJV) of the Bible.

JEHOVAH ERROR

According to the KJV, GOD introduced Himself by two different names, 1. "the LORD" and also 2. "JEHOVAH." But that was a translation error. GOD really did not reveal two NAMES to Moses. Only one NEW NAME was revealed, not two. The English translators of the KJV invented the idea of translating one Hebrew name, "YAHWEH" into two completely different English names, 1. "the LORD" and also, 2. "JEHOVAH." They made two out of one.

GOD really said, "I am YAHWEH" (not the LORD) and also "But by my NAME YAHWEH (not JEHOVAH) was I not known to them."

The English translators confounded the meaning of the Hebrew name "YAHWEH" by translating it into "the LORD" in verse 2 and also by translating the very same word into "JEHOVAH" in verse 3. They confounded the meaning by not being consistent. No wonder that some people are confused and many argue.

ANOTHER JEHOVAH ERROR

The word "JEHOVAH" presents us with another very disturbing problem. The word "JEHOVAH" did not exist in any language prior to the translation of the English Bible. "JEHOVAH" was manufactured by the English translators of the KJV, who took the consonants from the Hebrew name "YAHWEH" and the vowels from the Hebrew name "ADONI" (meaning Lord) to construct a new name "JEHOVAH." In other words, the English translators added to our confusion instead of helping us to understand the meaning of the several different Hebrew NAMES OF GOD.

GET IT RIGHT

In Exodus 6:2-3, the word "God" is translated from the Hebrew "ELOHIM" and "God Almighty" is from the Hebrew "EL SHADDAI."

So, to prevent corruption, and also to prevent confounding the meanings by being inconsistent, and also to make sense, the passage should read this way:

','And ELOHIM spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am YAHWEH: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the NAME of EL SHADDAI, but by my NAME YAHWEH was I not known to them."

EL SHADDAI IS OLDER THAN YAHWEH

You probably remember that Abraham existed around 2000 B.C., about 500 years before Moses. So the name "EL SHADDAI" is at least 500 years older than the new name "YAHWEH."

You may also remember that "EL SHADDAI" means the feminine large breasted and/or multi-breasted provider and "YAHWEH" is the masculine God of Israel. An astute Bible Student may conclude that mother is much older than father, in reference to the heavenly family. (of whom the whole family in heaven-is named. Ephesians 3:15)

PURPOSEFUL CORRUPTION

Here are two more challenges that are briefly presented.

The Jewish scribes were ordered to purposefully change the NAMES OF GOD as they copied from scroll to scroll, to support their own (denominational) concepts.

a. Various groups of Jews followed different rules for changing the NAMES OF GOD. We will later study this purposeful corruption of the transmitted text of our Bible.

ANOTHER PURPOSEFUL CORRUPTION

2. The Jewish Messoritic text of the Bible is highly and purposefully corrupted.

a. The Hebrew name "ADONI" was often (but not always) substituted by the scribes for the name "YAHWEH," producing a purposefully corrupted text.

b. Our word "LORD" is often (but not always) translated from the Hebrew word "ADONI."

c. Our English translators had to work from a purposefully corrupted text - but they didn't know that at the time of the translation work.

TERRIBLE DISSERVICE

Exodus 6:2 shows why I believe:

1. The Jewish scribes did a terrible disservice to us by purposefully corrupting the transmitted Bible text.

2. The English translators perpetuated -and added to the disservice by inserting their own newly formed and corrupted NAME OF GOD "JEHOVAH."

3. It is no little wonder that people who use the Bible for their authority in matters of their own Christian walk all seem to have strong disagreements with OTHER people (in OTHER denominations) who are earnestly trying to do the very same thing.

4. It is time to get the truth.

5. The truth will set us free.

6. It is possible that this unfolding truth might help to eliminate arguments among Christians. We all may learn the right way to live and be pleasing to our GOD.

A NEW NAME NEEDED

The children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who formed the nation of Israel, adopted a posture of serving the only NAME NATURE OF GOD that they knew, "EL SHADDAI." But after 500 years as slaves in Egypt, their children, Israel, needed to learn about a new NAME NATURE of God. So God told Moses that He was changing His NAME NATURE from the OLD NAME NATURE of "EL SHADDAI" to the NEW NAME NATURE of "YAHWEH." At the time of Moses, the nation Israel assumed a NEW posture - that of a well organized army. They were no longer slaves, so they needed a NEW NAME NATURE of GOD.

NO LAW FOR ABRAHAM

Abraham told his wife, Sarah, to tell the King of Egypt that she was Abraham's sister, join his harem and go to bed with the King (to save Abraham's neck). Most people have wondered how Abraham could break Moses' law by treating his wife the way that he did. The shocking progression of events shows that GOD did NOT punish Abraham for giving his wife to the King. Many people believe that Abraham should have

been punished; The reason that he was not punished is that the law of YAHWEH was NOT given to the people of Israel until about 500 years later (through Moses). Where there is no law there is no sin. (Rom. 5:13, 2:12, 4:8) Therefore, Abraham was counted sinless for his act because he did it about 500 years before there was any law that told him not to do it.

LAW OR LOVE

The NAME NATURE of "YAHWEH" manifests Himself as a masculine lawgiver and punisher. YAHWEH is the God of the nation Israel. So, Israel has always been very occupied with the law. In fact, when trying to solve problems, all religions based on Judaism (such as Christianity) seem to lean more toward the LAW, rather than toward LOVE. This thought is brought into sharp focus in the story of JESUS and the adulterous woman. (John 8:3-11)

The Jews (Israelites) were truly trying to serve their concept of God, "YAHWEH." They were willing to stone her because the process of law produced 1. LAW, 2. JUDGMENT, 3. CONDEMNATION, 4. PUNISHMENT and 5. DEATH. It is very obvious that their concept of GOD and JESUS' concept of GOD were as different as night and day.

In contrast, the Father of JESUS-CHRIST was "EL ELYON" (the Most High God, KJV) not "YAHWEH." (Luke 1:32, 35) Consequently, JESUS treated the woman a lot differently than the religious Jews. JESUS CHRIST brought the adulterous woman 1. LOVE, 2. LIGHT, 3. FORGIVENESS, 4. MERCY, 5. FREEDOM and 6. LIFE.

We all need to know when it is right to "lower the boom" on someone like the Jews wanted to do to the woman. But we all need to know when it is best to bring LOVE and LIFE like JESUS did. Our study of the different NAMES OF GOD will help us to know when it is right to apply the LAW NATURE (YAHWEH) and when it is best to apply the LOVE NATURE (EL ELYON) and what the difference is.

FORGIVE OR APPROVE?

Forgiveness does not mean approval. I know of some erroneous Christians who conclude that the refusal of JESUS to condemn the woman meant that He approved of her sin. JESUS never approved of what she did. JESUS CHRIST gave her the power to avoid sin in the future. He sent her away with the command, "Go and sin no more."

EL ELYON, THE MOST HIGH GOD

The second of the group of three scriptures that use all five NAMES of GOD is Genesis 17:18-22, "And Melchizedek King of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was priest of EL ELYON. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of EL ELYON, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be EL ELYON which hath delivered thine enemies into they hand."

"EL ELYON" is the MOST HIGH GOD, the possessor of heaven and earth, the deliverer of our enemies to defeat. "EL ELYON" is the father of JESUS CHRIST and our father too. (Luke 1:32, 35, 24:29, John 10:34, 35, Psa. 82:6) JESUS

became a priest forever, after the order of Melchisedec. (Hebrews 7:16-17) Melchisedec was/is a priest of EL ELYON, not YAHWEH. Those facts connect JESUS more with EL ELYON than with YAHWEH.

LIFE OR DEATH?

The astute Bible Student can see that the Bible teaches that those people who serve YAHWEH (the God of Israel) always end up with death. Contradistinctively, those people who serve EL ELYON always end up with life. If we want to overcome the last enemy, which is death, (I Cor. 15:26) we must learn to pattern our own lives after the NAME NATURE OF GOD, EL ELYON,

ELOAH, CONNECTOR OF HEAVEN WITH EARTH The third of the group of three scriptures that use all five NAMES OF GOD is Job 10:8, "I will say unto ELOAH (10:2), thine hands have made me...yet thou dost destroy me."

ELOAH controls human life and human death. (Job 3:4, 6:8 -9, 10:8, 19:25, 27:3, 27:8).

More the next time, LORD willing.

This Bible study is a part of the new book that I am writing about the NAMES OF GOD. It is not ready for you to order yet. I'll let you know when it is. Pray about saving this series of MONARCHS.

MISSING LESSONS?

If you have not received the first three MONARCHS on the "NAMES OF GOD," then I think you are missing a lot. Tell me what MONARCHS you are missing and I'll try to send them to you free and postpaid.

This ministry does exist because of the generous gifts and offerings of my students, readers and friends. It is a good idea to pause and think about that. Please pray for me because I need it.