



DAVID EBAUGH BIBLE SCHOOL

102 Park Terrace

Harrisburg, PA 17111-1667

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www.davidebaugh.info

NAMES OF GOD , part 2 .

(continued from last month)

GOD CHANGED HIS NAME

We have learned something that few Sunday School students know. God changed His NAME from EL SHADDAI to YAHWEH.

Exodus 6:2-3, "And ELOHIM (GOD) spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am YAHWEH (the LORD) I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the NAME of EL SHADDAI (GOD ALMIGHTY), but by my NAME YAHWEH (JEHOVAH) was I not known to them."

GOD DOESN'T CHANGE BUT HIS METHODS DO!

You may have already guessed that God changed His name many more times than just Ex. 6:2-3. Our GOD did not change Himself. He really hasn't changed a bit. God changed His method of dealing with us as we matured through the centuries.

Here is a little tip. Keep a watchful eye looking for the following parallel thoughts. As we study the history of our GOD's interest and care in dealing with His people, we will notice that there is a parallel between the raising of a child from infancy to manhood (a period of about 20 years) and the development of the nation of Israel from Abraham to Christ (a period of 2000 years).

In other words, A child's god (little "g") changes from Mama, to Mom, to Mother, to Dad, to Pop, to Father, as the child matures. The Nation of Israel followed the same basic pattern of NAME changes in the Bible. Watch for those parallel thoughts because they will reinforce each other and make it easier to understand why and how our GOD changed His methods of dealing with us as we matured.

TREATMENT OF ADULTERY

Now, let us try to examine a familiar story using the concepts of the NAMES OF GOD.

YAHWEH (Justice), ie., the law given by YAHWEH through Moses, demanded that the adulterous woman be stoned. She was caught in the very act. She was guilty. All the Jews knew that YAHWEH (Justice) demanded corporal punishment. They were willing and ready to execute her. They demanded LAW, JUDGMENT, CONDEMNATION, PUNISHMENT and DEATH.

But EL ELYON (the Most High God) told His son, JESUS, to bring no condemnation. She walked out of a very bad situation with LOVE, LIGHT, FORGIVENESS, MERCY, and LIFE.

John 8:3-11, "When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are there thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Repeat: **NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE: GO, AND SIN NO MORE.**

Yes, there was a great conflict. Yes, there is still a great conflict! JUSTICE and MERCY are in conflict. Our lives prove it, we seem to never know if we should "lower the boom" on someone (put them under the law and force JUSTICE on them) or if it would be better to love them, forgive them, and grant them MERCY. We still deal with that conflict in our own daily lives. The conflict ends when we shift our priorities and realign them in the same order that JESUS placed His. Most every person has tried to reconcile the God of love, mercy, forgiveness and peace with the God who hardens hearts, punishes, wounds and kills whole nations. Perhaps this study on the different NAMES OF GOD is helping.

ON WHICH SIDE ARE YOU?

L a w o r L o v e ?

J u d g m e n t o r L i g h t ?

C o n d e m n a t i o n o r F o r g i v e n e s s ?

P u n i s h m e n t o r M e r c y ?

D e a t h o r L i f e ?

CHANGE YOUR NAME?

Has anyone that you know ever changed their NAME like God did? Yes! About half of your friends have changed their names. Ladies change their last NAME, on the day they enter into a new relationship which changes their whole way of life. They change their name on the day they get married. The idea of changing your NAME, when you change your NATURE is not new at all.

NEW TESTAMENT NAMES OF GOD

We have learned to separate the three NAMES (natures) of GOD in the NEW Testament:

1. GOD the FATHER,
- 2.. GOD the SON, JESUS, and
3. GOD the HOLY SPIRIT (GHOST).

Christians agree that the three NAMES do refer to three different natures of the ONE and the SAME GOD. This concept is given the extra Biblical title, "The Trinity."

We don't see any reason for thinking that there should be much trouble expanding our thinking from THREE NAMES (natures) in the NEW Testament to FIVE in the OLD.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY NAMES?

This is a Christian oriented study about the NAMES OF GOD. Naturally there will be many references to JESUS CHRIST and also to the HOLY SPIRIT as part of the Christian Trinity. But

our main emphasis will be to try to find the answer to the question, "why did the Holy Spirit dictate so many different NAMES for the one true God"" And /or, "what did the Hebrew writer have in his own mind when he chose one of the 72 (or more) different ways to express the idea of God',"

NAMES ARE CAPITALIZED

When the New Testament uses words like "Highest" or "Most High" it is referring to the Old Testament NAME OF GOD, "EL ELYON." Here is an example: Luke 1:32, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest (EL ELYON)." Note that often the words High and/or Highest are capitalized in the N.T. because they are proper NAMES. "Most High" and Highest" are N.T. equivalents to "**EL ELYON**" in the O.T.

CONFOUNDED CORRUPTION

The Hebrew NAMES OF GOD were not copied consistently by the ancient scribes. As a result they were sometimes confounded as they were translated into English. One sad example of this confounding is demonstrated in many of the Bible passages that appear before Ex. 6:2-3. The NAME YAHWEH erroneously appears in a number of verses in Genesis (in the transmitted text) but the text in Ex. 6:2-3 says that it is impossible for YAHWEH to appear in the Bible before Ex. 6.

Scholars give us the answer to the conflict when they tell us that the sacred transmitted texts were purposefully corrupted by the ancient scribes. As the Bible was hand copied and passed from generation to generation the scribes purposefully substituted the NAME OF GOD that their (denominational) superiors commanded. A few modern Bible scholars have spent their whole lives in the attempt to right that wrong by restoring the NAMES OF GOD as they appeared in the original texts and/or to identify the corrupted verses. Some have even gone so far as to identify when they thought the corruption occurred and by which group of Priests or Rabbis.

NO LAW FOR ABRAHAM AND SARAH

Some Bible students have asked the question, "How did Abraham get away with treating Sarah like he did (gave her to the King of Egypt) when he should have been stoned under the law that YAHWEH gave to Moses?" The answer is that there was no law of Moses (from YAHWEH) at the time of Abraham. The law (from YAHWEH) did not come until nearly 500 years had passed after Abraham. Abraham was not under the law of YAHWEH because there was no law and there was no **knowledge of YAHWEH**. **Abraham only** answered to the commands of EL SHADDAI, the NAME (nature) of his understanding of God, at the time. EL SHADDAI gave commands to Abraham but YAHWEH gave the law to Moses. We will look into the difference between the law (of YAHWEH) and the commands (of EL SHADDAI) later.

Remember the quote from the JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA? "A new manifestation of His interest or care may give rise to a NEW NAME." For instance, as **slaves** in Egypt, Israel needed to know the NAME (nature) of EL SHADDAI (provider). But 500 years later, a newly trained **army** of Israelites (not slaves) under Moses needed a new manifestation of a new NAME (nature) of GOD, ie., -YAHWEH (leads to victory).

FAMILY OF GOD IN HEAVEN

"I bow my knees to the FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST of whom the WHOLE FAMILY IN HEAVEN and earth is named." (Eph. 3:14-ff)

Did that scripture say the FATHER GOD has a family in heaven? It looks like it did; and a family has several different members; doesn't it? Father? Mother? Son?

GODHEAD

"For in him (JESUS CHRIST, v6) dwelleth all the fullness of the GODHEAD bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." (Col. 2:9-10)

To understand the GODHEAD, one must attempt to understand JESUS CHRIST. The NAME JESUS means "SAVIOR," and that means to deliver from SIN and DEATH. The word CHRIST means ANOINTING, and that means the POWER and/or the life giving force which will accomplish that job.

There are many references to performing an (often miraculous) act in the "NAME OF JESUS." For example, "In the NAME OF JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth rise up and walk." (Acts 3.6) That means that all of the fullness of the GODHEAD (all 72 NAMES natures) is brought into play when the NAME of JESUS CHRIST is properly used.

All of the 72 (or more) NAMES OF GOD are summed up in JESUS CHRIST, because JESUS CHRIST is the "fullness of the Godhead bodily."

GODHEAD, PLURAL OR SINGULAR?

"For in him (CHRIST) dwelleth all the fullness of the GODHEAD bodily." (Col. 2:9-10) The words "fullness of the GODHEAD" cause us to notice a definite idea of PLURALITY. We know that there is only one GOD, but, the Bible concordance indicates that there may be a conflict about **ONE or MANY** Gods.

James STRONG wrote STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE which has become the recognized authority of BIBLE words to all the English speaking people of the world. STRONG wrote: "GODHEAD, 2320, Greek THEOTES, pronounced Theh-ot-ace, from 2306, divinity, godhead...This is a **PLURAL** form of 2316 ... GOD, 2316, Greek THEOS, pronounced theh-os, a deity, especially the supreme Divinity, at times a magistrate."

The word "GODHEAD" is a **PLURAL** form of the word "GOD." But we are MONOTHEISTIC (meaning belief in ONE GOD) not POLYTHEISTIC (meaning belief in more than one GOD).

Most all Christians and Jews recognize: **HEAR OH ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD.** (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Monotheism is such a well established fact that we need spend little time on it here. But the Bible uses words that confuse the issue by adding POLYTHEISTIC (several GODS) ideas, like the word "GODHEAD."

The JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA, NAMES OF GOD, volume 9, page 162 states, "The Rabbis as well as the Cabalists steadfastly maintained their belief in monotheism. Hence they recognize one proper name for the Deity (YAHWEH), considering other names as appellations (Webster: appellation - the name or title by which a person, thing or clan is called and known) or titles signifying divinity, perfection, and power, or as characterizing His acts as observed and appreciated by mankind in various stages of their development."

The ancient Rabbis and Cabalists did not admit that the Hebrew language in the O.T contains many different NAMES OF GOD. However-, many other Jewish scholars claim that there are 72 (at least) distinct and different NAMES OF GOD that are used in the Bible. If the Jews can't agree, its no wonder that Christians are confused.

The same Jewish Encyclopedia states, "A new manifestation of His interest or care may give rise to a NEW NAME (OF GOD)." In this case, I agree more with the scholars who wrote the JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA than I do with the ancient Rabbis.

NO SHADOW OF TURNING

Just because GOD's NAME changes does not make HIM change a bit. HE is the same, single, one God. But if we only know GOD by one NAME (nature) - then we will likely miss out on some other very satisfying natures of GOD.

MY NAME CHANGES

I have quite a few different names myself. My name is David Paul Ebaugh. Most people call me David. A few call me Dave. In the navy, my name was Ebaugh, D. P. '231-25-89 SIR (with a shout). Later, my name was Mister Ebaugh when I was a supervisor of engineers. Then my name changed to Reverend Ebaugh. At the same time, three young ladies and an airplane pilot call me Dad. Now, NINE children call me Grandpa, and I never planned on THAT at all. Some people have even called me by some unprintable names.

But really - I'm only ONE person. You know that? But, did you ever consider the curious fact that the name by which you choose to call me indicates the type of response you expect to receive from me? No engineer who worked for me ever called me Dad; and no child of mine ever called me Mr. Ebaugh. That is so important I'll try to say it another way. The name we use for a person indicates our relationship to the person. And the name also indicates our understanding of the nature of the response that we expect from that person.

RELATIONSHIP AND RESPONSE

Mr. Ebaugh does not **respond** the same way that Dad does. And David doesn't act like Rev. Ebaugh, but you know - they are all the same man. That is not so hard to see about me. You know that it is true about yourself. And now you conclude that the same thought probably holds true regarding the different NAMES OF GOD. That's probably the reason that JESUS taught us to use a new NAME for GOD. The name is ABBA. That means "Dad". (Galatians. 4:6, Romans 8:14 & Mark 14:36)

It would probably be a bad idea for you to use the word "Dad" in your public prayers because our society can only stand a little change at a time. "Dad" is probably too much change all at once. But, your own SPIRITUAL sensitivity will probably increase greatly when you start to **relate** to our Heavenly Father as Dad, especially in your private prayers. And, I suppose that there are a precious few places where you could get away with using "Dad" publicly.

So, the NAME (nature) OF GOD that you choose to use, expresses your **relationship** with your God. It also indicates the nature of **response** that you are expecting to receive from your GOD.

DO YOU KNOW THIS PERSON?

The uninformed Christian only knows GOD in one (or a **few**) **NAMES (natures)**. Naturally, that person will pattern their life after the NAME (nature) that they know. Consequently sometimes that kind of person is not very nice to be around because they are so narrow. Of course, that is also true of some Jewish people, too.

AN ENDLESS LIFE

The Christian who wants to overcome the last enemy - which is death - (I Corinthians 15:26) desires to know GOD as JESUS knew Him. JESUS served GOD as a priest after the order of Melchisedec - through the power of an endless life. (Hebrews 5:6)

JESUS and Melchisedec served GOD as EL ELYON, the MOST HIGH GOD. (Genesis 14:18) JESUS and Melchisedec entered the EL ELYON priesthood through the power of an endless life. (Hebrews 7:17-16) Those who overcome the last enemy - death - will do it the same way, that is, through the power of an endless life (they won't die). They will have a balanced knowledge of all of the NAMES (natures) of GOD and they will become priests of EL ELYON, the MOST HIGH GOD.

Here are the scripture references for that last powerful paragraph.

Genesis 14:18-24, "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most High God (EL ELYON)." Note that EL ELYON is the Most High God. Read the whole section, when you have time.

Hebrews 5:5, "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest **FOR EVER** after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 6:20, "Even Jesus, made an high priest **FOR EVER** after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 7:15, "After the power of an **ENDLESS LIFE**. For he testifieth, Thou art a priest **FOREVER** after the order of Melchisedec."

Hebrews 7:21, "Thou art a priest **FOR EVER**, after the order of Melchisedec."

The Melchisedec priesthood lasts **FOREVER** because Melchisedec priests **DO NOT DIE**. This is in direct contrast to the Levitical (Aaronic) priests who do die. The book of Hebrews calls special attention to this contrast. I hope that you can take the time to read chapters 5, 6 and 7 of Hebrews.

I Corinthians 15:26, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is **DEATH**." This will be accomplished by believers in JESUS CHRIST, who are alive and remain to the coming of Christ; perhaps you. It is possible that you also may enter the Melchisedec priesthood through the power of an **ENDLESS LIFE**.

This Bible study is from 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. Lots of people tell me that they have saved every MONARCH, since the first one dated Jan. 1976.

This ministry does not exist apart from the gifts of our friends, readers and students.

History has shown that many authors, poets and artists have had to live in poverty while creating their great works. After their death someone else possessed their creations and became wealthy. That does not seem Godly to me so I reject that destructive pattern. Some precious students have also rejected that awful route by sending gifts to bless this ministry. They are providing my support as we destroy a destroyer and create a creator.