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NAMES OF GOD, part 3.

GOD

God changed His NAME from EL SHADDAI to YAHWEH. What is GOD? It is the Teutonic word for a personal object of reverence or fear. It is like the Greek word "THEOS" and the Latin word "DEUS." It is applied to all superhuman beings of mythology who exercise power over nature and man. When the Teutonic races converted to Christianity, the word "GOD" was adopted as the name of the Supreme Being, the Creator of the universe and the Persons of the Trinity. The result is a very unfortunate mixture of ideas. That produced a real literary mess. One purpose of this study is to try to help identify the parts of this mess and try to find out what they really mean.

GENDER OF GOD

Different words for GOD also have gender in many languages. As our study develops, we are going to see that different Hebrew words for GOD also have gender. In Hebrew, the last characters of the word tell the gender. We will see that Hebrew words tell a new and amplified story in the Bible when the gender is noticed. We will also see that we lose a lot when we are limited to our English genderless words.

MALE AND FEMALE

For instance, YAHWEH is masculine, EL SHADDAI is feminine in context usage. When the masculine YAHWEH and the feminine EL

SHADDAI come together to operate in concert, they become the creator, ELOHIM. The word "ELOHIM" is androgynous (meaning both

masculine and feminine) in gender in the Hebrew language. The androgynous word "ELOHIM" (creator) was unfortunately translated into the

genderless word "GOD" in our English Bible. In our English language we lose the gender idea because our word "God" brings no idea of gender

to us. In the creation story we lose the idea that there must be a masculine YAHWEH operating *in* concert with a feminine EL SHADDAI *in* order for them to become the androgynous creator, ELOHIM. Now, this next scripture will make more sense because it will add meaning to the words "us and our." Even Sunday school kids ask, "What's God doing, talking to himself?" Even you may have wondered.

IT TAKES TWO TO CREATE

Genesis 1:26, 27, And God (androgynous ELOHIM) said, Let us (masculine YAHWEH & feminine EL SHADDAI) make man in our (YAHWEH & EL SHADDAI) image, after our (YAHWEH & EL SHADDAI) likeness... So God (androgynous ELOHIM) created man in his own (androgynous) image, in the image of God (androgynous ELOHIM) created he him; male and female (an androgynous creature) created he them.

ADAM WAS BOTH MALE AND FEMALE

You probably remember that at first Adam was created as an -androgynous person because Eve was still within his own body. In other words, Adam was both male and female at first. That is exactly the same as ELOHIM, - male and female. That explains why ELOHIM said I'll make man like I am - in my image. Most students say that understanding the different genders of the various name natures of God really do add a lot of meaning to the Bible. They don't get as much meaning from the simple English.

What you think about the gender of God shapes, to a great degree, what you think God will do, and consequently, what you should do. For instance, since the GOD of Israel is masculine YAHWEH, most Jews (and most Christians) of today have developed a personal profile and a national profile which reflects their understanding of how their masculine GOD YAHWEH would want them to handle a problem. They usually apply the law instead of mercy, like a man usually does. This narrow minded view is unfortunate because God is far more than just masculine. Many times it is better, to offer mercy rather than the law, like a woman usually does.

The NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY points out that the old Teutonic word "GOD" is neuter,. But in Christian applications the word GOD became masculine. In Gothic and Old Norwegian the construction is masculine even where the earlier neuter form is still kept. Popular etymology has connected GOD with GOOD; exemplified by the corruption of "GOD BE WITH YOU" into "GOOD-BY." We plan to use the word "ETYMOLOGY" several times in this study so now it won't hurt to remind ourselves what that means.

ETYMOLOGY

"ETYMOLOGY" means to study the history of a linguistic form such as a word. It is studied by tracing it's phonetic, graphic and semantic development since its earliest recorded occurrence in the language where it is found. It is studied by tracing the course of its transmission from one language to another by analyzing it from its component parts from which it was put together. The subject word is studied by identifying its emanates in other languages. The word and its cognates are traced back to a common ancestral form in a recorded or assumed ancestral language. ETYMOLOGY is a branch of linguistics. It helps us to find out what the ancient author meant.

For instance, when I was in the Navy during the Korean war, the word "TOUGH". meant hard to break or tear. About 410 years later, when my daughters were in high school, I found, to my surprise, that it then meant a good looking guy. That is quite a bit of difference. Now, if we read the word "tough" we need to know a lot about it - or we will get the wrong idea. We must know the etymology of the word "tough." The same is true for Bible words.

There is another, problem. Even in the same society a word can mean something very different. When I was in the Navy 40 years ago) "GAY" meant to have clean fun. Nowadays, to some

people, it means to have sex with a person of the same sex. I think that, now, it means to be very twisted, contorted, unnatural, sick and repulsive. So you see, when someone uses a word, we really don't know for sure what they mean. Sometimes I think that's why we have lawyers and preachers. If we all knew what each other meant we might eliminate the jobs of 99% of those expensive people.

DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

The Father of our LORD JESUS CHRIST was identified as EL ELYON, THE MOST HIGH GOD. (Luke 1.32 & 35) While it is true that YAHWEH was the Father of the Jewish religion, YAHWEH is never referred to as the Father of JESUS. That's why JESUS didn't act the way that the Jews expected Him to act. For instances, the Jews wanted to stone the adulterous woman, but JESUS brought no condemnation. (No condemnation does not mean approval). YAHWEH and EL ELYON have completely different name natures - and yet they are THE SAME GOD.

I think that the differences in the name natures of God produce a major reason for the existence of different major religions such as Jewish or Christian, and also the reason for different denominations such as Catholic, Baptist, Methodist or Pentecostal. Each group shapes their own religious belief system based on their own singular concept of a single name nature of God. I think that is the major reason that we don't get along very well, and I hope that will soon change for the better.

ATHEISTS

I can not find any Bible arguments made to demonstrate the reality of GOD. The existence of GOD is presupposed throughout. The controversies of the Prophets never examine the fundamental question of GOD'S existence or nonexistence. My own personal experience with a personal GOD has settled the question for me. The existence of GOD seems so basic to me that the arguments of an atheist seems absurd and are hardly worth any of my time at all.

WHICH NAME?

Even though some of my friends will not publicly use the word "GOD" anymore, substituting words like "YAHWEH, ELOHIM and EL ELYON," I have elected (for myself) to NOT abandon the word "GOD." I do not condemn or find fault with anyone who now uses the original Hebrew names publicly. I don't feel comfortable in telling students to use this word or that, even though I use the original Hebrew names in my private prayers and contemplation. For the time being I'm publicly using the word "God." Here's why.

The word "GOD" is almost universally accepted as to its general meaning. I teach Bible lessons in a lot of churches where the use of YAHWEH or EL ELYON, etc. would be unintelligible. I recognize that the word "GOD" has a strange and a foreign meaning from its original use. But, if I removed the word "GOD" from my vocabulary, then it logically follows that I should correct the meaning of all of my other words from their present use to their original use. In that case, I would have to change a major portion of my vocabulary. I would no longer be understood and I just don't have the time to develop a new language (or revive an old one).

But Bible study is different. In that special case, we must endeavor to find the meaning that was in the mind of the writer, in terms which we presently use. That's why we must study the word "GOD" with all of its various Hebrew words and many English translations.

In some languages GOD is: Gothic, GUTH; Danish and Swedish, GUD; German, GOTT; and Dutch is the same as English, GOD.

There are seventy two (72) Hebrew words, and combinations of words used in the O.T. that mean GOD to us. It is no wonder that no one agrees with anyone else, as to what GOD is like!

I really believe that God will respond to the proper prayer of any believer, no matter which name is used. But I also have discovered that the Bible stories make more sense when a person knows what is the nature of the name that is being used. I think that the best word to use is "DAD," which is a pretty- good translation of ABBA." But, you better not use "DAD" too many places in public. Mark 14:36, "And he said, Abba, (DAD) Father-, all things are possible unto thee."

DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS FOR THE WORD GOD

It is hard to imagine that the Hebrew word "EL" was translated into all of the following different English words in our Bible. God, strength, mighty, Almighty, these, those, to about, according to, after, against, among, as for, at, because, both, and by, concerning, for, from , hath, in, into, near, out of, over, through, to, toward, under, unto, upon, whether, with, within. That is an incredible list of words, all with different meanings, which have been translated from one word, "EL." Look up "EL" in Strong's Concordance if you want to confirm this list.

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

If you are as surprised as I was to find that "GOD" was translated into so many other different words, then what do you think of this,-:

Another Hebrew word "ELOHIM" was translated, God, gods, magistrates, angels, exceeding, goddess, godly, very great, judges, mighty.

So, the Hebrew words for God have a whole lot of other meanings, too.

When we look up the other. Hebrew words for. God, we find that they were also translated into many other words in addition to God. I think the list is too long for a detailed study here, but if you want to, look up the following words.

1. GOD 3069 YAHWEH,
2. ALMIGHTY 7706 SHADDAI,
3. LORD 3068 YAHWEH
4. LORD 136 ADONAY,
5. HIGH (Most) 5945 ELYON,
6. GOD 433 ELOAH.

Next notice the large number. of Hebrew words for GOD, and then notice that the translators from Hebrew to English did not render them consistently. In fact they confounded the meaning by often exchanging the same English word for several different Hebrew words. When we also notice the large number of variations, it becomes easier to see why there is a lot of disagreement as to what GOD is like.

Who knows? Maybe you are born at this time so you can fix the world with your new found knowledge of the different name natures of God. Who knows if you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this'-, (Esther 4.14)

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.

MISSING LESSONS?

If you have not received the first two MONARCHS on the "NAMES OF GOD," then I think you are missing a lot. Here is the recent history of the mailings of the MONARCHS about -the "NAMES OF GOD."

MONARCH - "NAMES OF GOD," Part 1 was mailed free Aug.-Sept. '89.

MONARCH - "NAMES OF GOD," Part 2 was mailed free Oct. 89.

This MONARCH - "NAMES OF GOD," Part 3 was mailed free in the month of Feb. 1990.

No MONARCHS were mailed in the months of

Nov. 89, Dec. 89, Jan. 90, because I couldn't.

(That means 3 months are missing from your file

of MONARCHS, if you are saving them.)

If you missed any of these MONARCHS on the "NAMES OF GOD," you are invited to send for them. If you are poor and have no money we'll send them free and postpaid.

THE MAIL BAG

The teachings on the "NAMES OF GOD" are already changing many people, churches and denominations for the better, according to the letters we have received. In fact, when a Christian asks, "What's new?" the answer most often given is, "The study on the 'NAMES OF GOD.'"

Prayer in the right name of GOD seems to work better. Why? You have several names that you go by. When people use your name, you respond differently than when they say, "Hey you!" So does GOD. Jesus told us to call Him Daddy.

The only negative letters that I have received about the "NAMES OF GOD" teachings are from people who feel that the name YAHWEH should be used in preference to any other name of God. If I was in the British Israel or the Identity movements then it would be as easy for me to embrace that idea as they have. That's because YAHWEH is the God of Israel and it follows that a person who is dedicated to the Israel Identity Movements should follow the name nature of the God of Israel. But, my priority is toward the name nature of the Father of JESUS CHRIST, EL ELYON.

MORE LESSON PLANS

I send MONARCHS when I can. We had three recent months when I couldn't. Presently I have 22 more files already prepared on the NAMES OF GOD for use in at least that many MONARCHS (if necessary) and for use in the book that I am writing. But current events also demand that I dedicate a few issues of these MONARCHS to THE BERLIN WALL, THE 70 YEAR FREEDOM CYCLE, THE END OF THE DISCIPLESHIP MOVEMENT and also to THE CHURCH IN THE 21st CENTURY.

I plan to intersperse MONARCHS of contemporary interest (like those above) within the series on the "NAMES OF GOD." I shall do intensive work to publish the book way before all the chapters are published in the MONARCH. I do not plan to publish the whole book in the MONARCHS. Students can get the whole story on the "NAMES OF GOD" from 'the book'. Then I will return to other Bible subjects, Lord willing. Pray for me.

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

CASSETTE TAPES ABOUT THE NAMES OF GOD

We request a contribution of \$5.00 for single cassettes and \$10.00 for longer lessons requiring 2 cassettes.

Please circle the tapes and books -that you want to order. We will send a NEW REPLACEMENT MONARCH to you with your order.

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ELYON came to correct YAHWEH religions. \$5.00

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TAPE & BOOK CATALOG - - - - - free.

History has shown that many authors, poets and artists have had to live in poverty while creating their great works. After the death of the worker someone else became the possessor of 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 together we destroy the works of the destroyer and create the work's of the creator. Pray for me, please.

Love, David