

Understanding the Old Testament 5a

We decided to take a week to focus on the names of God presented in the period we covered. The name of God is the summary of His attributes. Remember that to the Hebrews, your name was a summation of who you were. In the Hebrew mind, the name of the LORD meant the very character and nature of God. Lets begin by looking at Psalm 145. In the first verse David says he will praise the name of the Lord forever. That is similar to saying, "I will forever praise God for who He is." Then the second verse says he will extol His name forever. That would be the same as expounding on all that God is forever. The rest of the psalm does just that. We see the expression "The Lord is..." repeated again and again, because extolling His name is speaking favorably about who He is. Let's read through the Psalm and note the attributes of God that David mentions.

Understanding that the name of the Lord is His nature and character, let us look at revelations of His name revealed in the period of the Exodus. (this first one we skipped from our second session) El Elyon – the Most High God – Genesis 14:18-22 Melchizedek was a priest of the Most High God. He was a witness of the Creator to the people of Canaan. They heard the truth, and yet 400 years later, they were worshipping false gods. Abraham paid tithes to Mel and made a vow to the LORD, the Most High God, Creator.

To the people of Canaan there were many baals (gods). To call God the Most High was to declare that He was greater than all gods. None can compare. In our world today we might not worship images of stone or wood, but we place our trust in other things like money, ability, intelligence, or even other people. If God is our Most High God, it means we will turn to Him first. We trust ultimately in Him, for He is over all other things we may tend to trust in. Is He your Most High God?

Jehovah Rophe – the Lord our Healer – Exodus 15:26 This name of God is conditional. God will be this to us IF... To those who listen to God's voice and obey His commands, doing what is right, they will find the LORD to be their healer. The diseases that were commonplace among the Egyptians would not plague Israel. The Lord afflicted Israel a number of times to draw them back to Himself. When they turned back to Him, to hearing His voice, and obeying Him, then He healed them. Though the Lord heals today, He also uses affliction to heal our spirit. David and Paul both speak of the blessing that affliction can be, but they both knew Him as the The Lord our Healer too. When illness affects your life, do you turn to Him first?

Jehovah Nissi – the Lord is my Banner – Exodus 17:8-15 The people of Israel were attacked by the Amalekites. Moses had Joshua lead the battle for Israel while he and two helpers went up on a hill. As long as Moses held up the rod of God, Joshua and his forces would prevail. Whenever his arms grew weary and

lowered, the Amalekites would prevail. Moses helpers brought him a stone to sit on while they held up his arms. That is how Israel prevailed. Then Moses built an altar and called it The Lord our Banner.

Looking up and seeing the rod of God held high gave the Israelites courage. Moses was implying that we can look up at anytime and see the Lord as our banner held high. He does not grow weary. We know that when He is watching over us we will not lose the spiritual battle of life. Do you look up to the Lord your banner when the battle gets heavy?

Quanna –Jealous – Exodus 34:14 Moses said that the Lord’s name is Jealous. He won’t tolerate other lords in your life. This reminds us of being the Bride of Christ. We are not to be unfaithful by having other loves. We consider jealousy an evil attribute. Consider that the Lord is good. What He is jealous about is your heart turning toward evil. That is because of His great love for you. He wants only goodness for you. It is not a selfish jealousy, but a selfless jealousy. It is a jealousy out of real love.

Is there something in your life that makes God jealous? He will work in your life to help you see that other things are nothing compared to Him. It can happen by gentle revelation or through difficult circumstances, but either way, He loves you too much to not confront the other loves.

Jehovah M’Kaddesh – The Lord Who Sanctifies- Leviticus 20:7-8 This was an early revelation that holiness was not something that was attainable by good works. It can only be the work of the LORD. He alone can sanctify us.

In the passage where it is first mentioned, we are forbidden to seek guidance from mediums and spiritists. Moses said that when we follow them, we prostitute ourselves. This is the language of the Jealous God who sees our seeking after spiritual things from any other source as unfaithfulness. If we are seeking to be made holy, the only place to turn is to The LORD Who Sanctifies. If then, we go to a medium or spiritists, it is not to be holy, on the contrary, it is to be defiled with evil. It is often seeking things that God has kept from us as in the case of King Saul and the witch at Endor. If God keeps something from us, you can be sure it is kept from us for our good.

How could you speak these names of God in prayer?
Do you have a better understand of God’s heart because of them?

We are going to take some time of corporate prayer at the end of each of our Wed. night Bible studies. I encourage you to pray for this church, the body of Christ in Sedona, and the lost of our city. Pray that we grow and mature spiritually and that those who don’t attend the Bible studies develop a hunger to participate. Pray that Wayside becomes all that God intends it to be.