

The Israel of God Bible Study Class

2515 E. 75th Street

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(773) 374-6413 or (800) 96-BIBLE

WHAT IS THE FATHER'S NAME?

When a child is born in this world one of the first things we do is give this new life a name. Some name the child after their father, grandparents or even someone they may admire. Many parents give their child a name simply because it just sounds good to them. If you take a look at names in the bible we find that most have very special significance and meaning. A person's name described something about them. "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. (Genesis 3:20). In the Hebrew language, Eve means "living one." In Genesis 17:5, the Lord gave Abram the name of Abraham; "Neither shall thy name any more called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." Abraham means "father of many nations" or father of a multitude.

Certain traits or characteristics are often suggested in a name, like Esau ("hairy"). There are even names that refer back to the Godhead. With God being translated from the Hebrew word Elohim, we find many names throughout the bible with "el" in them (the abbreviated form of Elohim) Daniel - god is my judge, Ezekiel - God will strengthen, Ishmael - God will hear, and Emmanuel - God with us, are just a few examples. Names were, and still are assigned, either at birth, or at the circumcision on the 8th day, as in the case of Isaac (Gen. 21:3-4).

But what about God's name? How do we address the creator of all things? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?" (Proverbs 30:4) some groups call him Jehovah, Jah, Yahweh, Lord, that Great Spirit in the sky and many say God is only known as he reveals himself. If anything can be said what is god's name surely the bible can tell us.

According to bible scriptures, Jesus is the Father's name, for Jesus said in John 5:43 that he comes "in his father's name and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." Therefore, Jesus is the name of the Father! In fact, while praying to the Father in John 17:6, Jesus stated "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me."

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Also at John 17:25-26, Jesus stated, "O, righteous father, the world hath not known thee and I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it."

Another important name to address is Jehovah (or Yahweh). Exodus 6:2-3 mentions god's name as Jehovah. It stated that God appeared unto Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by the name of God almighty (El Shadday in Hebrew), but by his name Jehovah he was not known to them. The Hebrew characters translated here as Jehovah are the same ones found at Exodus 3:15 for "The Lord." But wait a minute! Can this really be Jesus name before he was given the name Jesus by the Father? It most definitely is. Isaiah 12:2 states, "For the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song: He also is become my Savior!" (See St. John 4:42 and Philippians 3:20). Since the Bible cannot contradict itself, Jesus Christ and Jehovah are the same. In the Old Testament he is called Jehovah; in the New Testament he is called Jesus.

Jesus is the God who instructed Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and all of the prophets. Concerning Moses and the children of Israel in the wilderness, the bible says this "for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them: and that rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:1-4) Jesus even said "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I (meaning Jesus) have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! (Matthew 23:37) Even at St. John 1:18 it states, "No man has seen god at anytime; the only begotten Son, which is I the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." So if no one has seen the Father at any time that means Moses and the elders of Israel saw Jesus (Jehovah) in Exodus 24:9-11. Jesus also states before Abraham was born, some time in 1800 B.C. Jesus was there. This is what Jesus said to a group of Jews of his day "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was I am." Then took they up stones to cast at him, but Jesus hid himself. (John 8:56-59) These examples clearly show Jesus existed a long time before his birth thru Mary, when he walked the earth as a man.

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Another thing worthy of mention is the name Lord, as it relates to Jehovah. In Exodus 3:13-15, Moses asked God what he should tell the Children of Israel when they should ask what is the name of the God of their fathers. God replied, "I AM THAT I AM." This quote is translated from the Hebrew words EHEYE ASHER EHEYE. Asher is a relative pronoun equivalent to the word "that". Eheyeh is a 1st person conjunction of the Hebrew verb "Hayah" which means "to be, to exist, to become." Hence, we have a presence - one who exists eternally, one who is. God said moreover unto Moses, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, THE LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob hath sent me unto you; this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

In most cases (not all) in the Old Testament, the name Lord was translated from the Hebrew word adonay (or ashonai) which means "Sovereign Lord." Afraid of pronouncing God's name, the custom arose where one would replace God's name with adonay when speaking of it. This custom carried over into the written translations of the bible. The actual word for "The Lord" corresponds to the Hebrew characters yod, he, waw, which are equivalent to the letters Y H W H. These letters are known as the Tetragrammaton. In English it is sometimes written as J H W H. when Hebrew was originally written down, only consonants were recorded, not vowels. Despite this fact, most scholars agree to one of two original pronunciations of the tetragrammaton YAHWEH or YAHOWAH (or YEHOWAH) When we replace the Y and W in Yehowah with their English equivalent J and V, we get the name Jehovah, which is used in English translations of the Bible.

Now that we know the meaning of Yahweh (Jehovah), some people may still insist that we should call upon Yahweh (Jehovah). But that same Yahweh (Jehovah) took on him the seed of Abraham and was given the name Jesus. Matthew 6:9, "After this manner, therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Also, at St. John 17:11, Jesus stated, ".Keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me." Even at Revelation 14:1 it states, "And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion and with him an hundred forty and four

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thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads" will be Jesus, because he came in his Father's name. See John 5:43.

Maybe some are not yet convinced that Yahweh (Jehovah) is the Son's name and not the Father's. In Psalms 118:14, 21-22, we can read "The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation. I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." The stone which is become the head of the corner is Jesus Christ! "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." That name is Jesus. (Acts 4 verses 10-12)

Jesus is the only name given for salvation. Why? Because Jesus is the Father's name: (Philippians 2:9-11) "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ Is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!