TITLE: Names of God (part 1)

TEXT: Gen.1:1; Ps. 19:1; Gen 14:18-20; Is. 14:13-14; Gen 17:1-2;

Ps. 91:1; Is. 40:28-31; Mal. 1:6; Phil. 4:19; Gen. 22:13-14; Ex. 17:15;

Jud. 6:24; Josh 5:13-14; Ex. 31:13; Ps. 23:1; Jer 23:6; Deut 31:8; Ex 15:26

INTRODUCTION: Names are very significant in Scripture. Most often the name given a child at birth would reflect that child’s life and character as an adult.

For instance:

Abram =*ab-rawm'* *high* *father*

*God changed Abrams name to:*

Abraham= *ab-raw-hawm'*

to *be* *populous*); *father* *of* *a* *multitude.*

Then God made a covenant with Abraham telling him his seed, his descendants would be as numerous as the sand of the sea or the stars in the sky!

*Isaac = yits-khawk'*

*laughter* (that is, *mockery*);  Compare H3446 “He laughs”

 God told Abraham and Sarah to name their son this after God told a 100 year old Abraham and a 90 year old Sarah that they would be parents when they were already well past the child bearing years and Sarah laughed at the prospect In mockery.

Jacob= *yah-ak-obe'*

*heel* *catcher* (that is, supplanter, deciever);

When Jacob was born he literally came out of the womb with his hand upon the heal of his twin brother Esau who had come out first. This was to be a picture of what was to come as Jacob deceived Esau out of his birthright as the firstborn.

 Esau= *ay-sawv'*

in the original sense of *handling*; *rough* (that is, sensibly *felt*); Esau was a very hairy man and when Isaac was old and blind he felt Jacobs arm that had been covered with animal fir to convince his dad that he was really Esau while receiving the fathers blessing of the firstborn!

 David=*daw-veed',*

 *loving*; *loved of God*!

 David was the man describe by God to be a man after His own heart! David was dearly loved by God!

Names are very important in Scripture and what I want to look at this morning is the names of God

El is the primary name of God   . Elohim the plural form of El is one of the first names used of God in the OT. It is Used 2,570 times, it refers to God’s power and might.

**Genesis 1:1****: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”**

**Psalm 19:1****: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”**

In the OT there are several compounds used with El to describe God.

1. Elyon: The strongest strong One.

 We have the account of Jerusalem’s first sovereign (Melchizedek) greeting Abraham after he had been successful in battle in:

**Genesis 14:18 - 20 (NIV)** **18Then Melchizedek king of Salem£ brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,** **19and he blessed Abram, saying,     “Blessed be Abram by God Most High,     Creator****£** **of heaven and earth.** **20And blessed be****£** **God Most High,     who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.**

    History’s first sinner (Lucifer/Satan)

**Isaiah 14:13 - 14 (NIV)** **13You said in your heart,     “I will ascend to heaven;     I will raise my throne     above the stars of God;     I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,     on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.****£****14I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;     I will make myself like the Most High.” (ElYon)**

2. El - Roi: The strong One who sees. In Genesis 16 an angered and barren Sarai had cast into the wilderness her pregnant and arrogant handmaiden Hagar. When all hope for survival had fled, this pagan Egyptian girl was visited and ministered to by El Roi himself—the strong God who sees.

3. El- Shaddai: It is normally translated "God Almighty who is all sufficient".
**Genesis 17:1 - 2 (NIV) 1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty****£****; walk before me and be blameless.  2I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.**”

 This revelation of God came to Abraham at a much needed time in his life. His sin in marrying Hagar had doubtless prevented that full and unhindered fellowship which had previously flowed between him and God. In addition, he now was an old man, nearly 100, humanly unable to father the long-anticipated heir.

**Psalms 91:1 (NIV) 1He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High     will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.****£****”** (El Shadai)

5.   El-Olam: The everlasting God.

 Isaiah 40 is usually regarded as one of the greatest Old Testament chapters. The prophet begins by predicting both the first and second advent of Christ. He then contrasts the awesome power of the true God with the miserable impotence of all idols. But carnal Israel had trouble accepting all this, wondering just how these wonderful events could transpire. to answer their doubts. Isaiah declares:

**Isaiah 40:28 - 31 (NIV)** **28Do you not know?     Have you not heard?     The LORD is the everlasting God,     the Creator of the ends of the earth.     He will not grow tired or weary,     and his understanding no one can fathom.**

**29He gives strength to the weary     and increases the power of the weak.**

**30Even youths grow tired and weary,     and young men stumble and fall;** **31but those who hope in the LORD     will renew their strength.     They will soar on wings like eagles;     they will run and not grow weary,     they will walk and not be faint.** (This speaks of El-Olam The everlasting God)

6.  El-  Adonai: Master, Lord.

God owns all his creation.

**Malachi 1:6 (NIV)** **6“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty. “**

(God is El Adonai---Master Lord)

The Hebrew Old Testament name *Adonai* and its Greek New Testament counterpart *Kurios* describe the relationship between master and slave. *Adonai* thus carries with it a twofold implication.

1.    The master has a right to expect obedience.

 Robert Lightner writes:

*“In Old Testament times the slave was the absolute possession of his master, having no rights of his own. His chief business was to carry out the wishes of his master. The slave had a relationship and responsibility different from that of the hired servant. The hired servant could quit if he did not like the orders of his master. But not so with the slave; he could do nothing but obey*

1. The slave may expect provision. Again, to quote Lightner:

 *“The slave had no worry of his own. It was the master’s business to provide food, shelter, and the necessities of life. Since the slave is the possession of the master, his needs become the master’s…. Obedience is the only condition for this provision.*

*This truth is marvelously displayed in Paul, who declared himself to be a bond slave, when he assured the Philippians that God would supply all their needs!*

 **Philippians 4:19 (NIV) 19And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.**

Only the obedient slave can expect this from his master.”

The other prominent name for God used in Scripture is Jehovah.

Jehovah. God’s most common name. It occurs 6,823 times.

 Jehovah means: The self-existent One, the God of the covenant

There are 9 compound names of Jehovah in Scripture:

1.   Jehovah- Jireh: The Lord will provide.

**Genesis 22:13****,****14****: “And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.”**

2. Jehovah  - Nissi: The Lord, my Banner.

**Exodus 17:15****: “And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi.”**

 This passage is significant, for it marks the first battle and subsequent victory of Israel on its march after leaving Egypt. (Flag-Banner represent what stands behind it--an army)

3.   Jehovah- Shalom: The Lord is Peace.

**Judges 6:24****: “Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Jehovah-shalom:**

As one studies the thrilling account of Gideon he reads how Jehovah-shalom did indeed bring peace to Israel over the Midianites through this warrior and his 300 trumpet-blowing soldiers.

4.  Jehovah- Sabaoth: The Lord of hosts. *Sabaoth* is derived from the Hebrew word *tsaba,* meaning “host.” The Lord of hosts is a reference to the captain of heaven’s armies. These armies are said to be composed of angels. Christ himself is their leader.

**Joshua 5:13 - 14 (NIV) 13Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” 14“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord****£** **have for his servant?”**

Joshua had a personal encounter with Jehovah- Sabaoth---The Lord of hosts!

5. Jehovah- Maccaddeschcem: The Lord thy Sanctifier.

**Exodus 31:13 (NKJV) 13“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the Lord who sanctifies you.**

This great name for God, first mentioned in Exodus, appears many times in the book of Leviticus.

 To be sanctified is to be set apart unto God, and that is what God desires to do for his people—to set us apart for special service. Set us apart for Himself!

6.   Jehovah- Rohi (Raah): The Lord my Shepherd.

**Psalm 23:1****: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”**

Of all the compound names of Jehovah, this is at once the most easily understood title—that good, and great, and chief Shepherd God.

7.   Jehovah- Tsidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness.

**Jeremiah 23:6****: “In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

According to Jeremiah the official name for the Messiah during the future millennium will be Jehovah-Tsidkenu. THELORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.”**

8. Jehovah- Shammah: The Lord who is present.

 **Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV)** **8The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”**

Jehovah- Shammah: The Lord who is present.

9.  Jehovah-  Rapha: The Lord our Healer.

 **Exodus 15:26 (NIV)** **26He said, “If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”**

By this new name God introduced to Israel the terms of his heavenly “Medicare” health plan while they were on their way to Canaan. If only they had accepted this gracious policy. Jehovah-  Rapha: The Lord our Healer.

All of these names of God describe to us the attributes, nature and character of our God!

Jehovah- Jireh: The Lord will provide.

Jehovah  - Nissi: The Lord, my Banner.

Jehovah- Shalom: The Lord is Peace.

Jehovah- Sabaoth: The Lord of hosts

Jehovah-   Maccaddeschcem: The Lord thy Sanctifier.

Jehovah- Rohi (Raah): The Lord my Shepherd.

Jehovah- Tsidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness

Jehovah-   Shammah: The Lord who is present.

Jehovah-  Rapha: The Lord our Healer.

 All these speak of the very nature and character of our God!

These are names that we need to reflect upon in our times of need as a Christian!

When we find ourselves in times of personal need we need to call upon Jehovah- Jireh: The Lord who will provide.

When we find ourselves fighting the spiritual or physical battles that we so often go through in this life we need to call upon Jehovah  - Nissi: The Lord, my Banner.

Whenever we are going through times of difficulty and find ourselves struggling in turmoil we need to call upon Jehovah- Shalom: The Lord our Peace.

When the enemy comes against us like a flood Scripture tell us that the Lord will lift up a standard against him! That standard that the Lord will lift up is Himself, Jehovah- Sabaoth: The Lord of hosts!

 As we strive to live a Christ like life and find that we are struggling with overcoming the everyday temptations to sin we need to call upon Jehovah-   Maccaddeschcem: The Lord our Sanctifier.

As we find ourselves walking through those shadow of death experiences of life, whether it be as we face death, the last great enemy of mankind itself, or just the dark and threatening times we all eventually face we need to call upon Jehovah- Rohi (Raah): The Lord my Shepherd.

 As we strive to live up to Gods expectation for our life and strive to become Holy as He is Holy we need to call upon Jehovah- Tsidkenu: The Lord our Righteousness!

Whenever we feel all alone and become fearful or distressed or depressed by living in a world fallen to the sin that so often leaves us feeling helpless we need to call upon Jehovah- Shammah: The Lord who is ever present!

Whenever we go through those times of sickness for our self or for the ones that we love and know that in and of ourselves we can do nothing and fear starts to grip our heart we need to call upon Jehovah-  Rapha: The Lord our Healer!

God has given us all these compounds of His name to help reveal to us, help open our eyes to just how great and powerful and wonderful our God is!

Each name reveals to us an awesome truth about our God!

He is our provider, our banner, our peace, the captain of heavens armies watching over us, the one who sanctifies us and sets us apart unto God! We are His sheep and He is our shepherd! He is our righteousness! He is ever-present with us and He is the God who heals us both physically and spiritually!

I love to pray the names of God!

I encourage you to try this! Memorize these compound names of God and then use them in your prayer time! Lift them up to God as acts of praise to His great and wonderful name!

 They do act as praise from our lips to Him but they also constantly remind us and reinforce to us the greatness and all-sufficiency of our God!

 I have printed many of these compound names of God on the back of your bulletins. Try using them in your prayer and praise to God! Let them reinforce in your heart just all who God is!

**(Play song) Jehovah Jireh)**

This morning, have you allowed, are you allowing God to become all of these things to you?

Next week we will take this same subject about the names of God on to the New Testament…. And it only keeps getting better there!