



Teachers' Manual

2004

The Names of God

LESSON PLAN 2 THE NAMES OF GOD

Equipping the Saints
to do
the work of the ministry

Thanks for using Equipping Ministries lesson plans. We pray that it will be a blessing to you and your students.

Please visit our website at www.equippingministries.com.

This Lesson:

Jehovah



Thy word is a light unto my path

Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are from the Authorized Version of the Bible. (AV=KJ)

This month we will focus on developing a more personal relationship with God. Because in order for us to grow spiritually we must have a strong, viable relationship with God. This requires us to know God.

Knowing God necessitates us to develop an intimacy with Him through

prayer and studying His word. The depthness of your relationship with God depends solely upon how much you are willing to invest in it. Throughout the bible we are told that God longs to have a relationship with us.

This month we will look at the attributes and characteristics of God as

we move forward in our relationship with Him.

*And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.***
Daniel 11:32

What's In a Name ? - Lessons Preview

Please read prior to first lesson

In biblical days personal names were more than labels to distinguish one person from another. Names expressed not only identification, but also attributes. There was significant meaning attached to a name. The names served as an explanation of the character and various attributes a person possessed. Remember what Abigail said about her husband Nabal? "He is just like his name — his name is Fool" (1 Sam 25:25).

God's covenant names reveal His character and His relationship to us in the various areas of our lives. The names or titles given to God in the Bible reveal much about His characteristics - who He is, what He is like, and what He does. When the Bible uses the phrase the "name of God" or "in the name of the Lord" it refers to His total person - all that He is.

There are three main names of God: Jehovah, Adonai, and Elohim. They are indicated throughout the Bible in very unique ways. The word *Jehovah* (*Yahweh* / *I AM*) is often spelled out as Jehovah. It

is also spelled as LORD (all capital letters). Jehovah is the most frequently used name of God in the Bible. It expresses the totality of God and what He is and what He represents. It is in Genesis chapter 3 when God first revealed Himself as "I AM". Because the Hebrews misinterpreted the Commandments in referencing "taking the Lord's name in vain" they feared to pronounce the name of *Yahweh* (Ex. 20:7; Deut. 5:11). Therefore they substituted in text with the word Adonai.

In the Bible *Adonai* is spelled out *Lord*, with the first letter capitalized. **Jehovah** and **Adonai** are both translated in the New Testament Greek and as **Lord** in most English versions of the Bible (see Mark 12:36).

The word *God* is used to represent *Elohim* in our English bibles. You first see reference to Elohim in Genesis 1:1. Jonah and Daniel used Elohim almost exclusively.

Other Names Referred to as Names of God

Jehovah Nissi - The Lord my banner (actually this was the name of an altar Moses built [Ex. 17:15-16]).

Jehovah Shalom - The Lord send peace. This too was the name of an altar (Judg. 6:24).

Jehovah Jireh - The Lord will provide. (This was the name Abraham gave to the location where God provided a ram in the bush [Gen. 22:14]).

Jehovah Makaddesh—The Lord Sanctifies (this was taken from the statement in Ex. 31:13 when God told Moses 'I am Jehovah who sanctifies.'

There are numerous other names listed today as names of God. This month we will only take the primary ones found in the scriptures to enlighten our understanding of God and who is to us.

That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone *is* JEHOVAH, *art* the most high over all the earth
(Ps 83:18). (KJV)

Studying For Yourself

Below is a list of names and meanings commonly known as the names of God. We invite you to study the scriptures for yourself to see where the names derived from. Although today they are being called the names of God, many of them are actually names of locations and/or altars.

Elohim (God) means "might or strong one"; it denotes the power and pre-eminence of God and is especially used in relationship to creation and strength. (Genesis 1: 1; Psalm 68: 1)

Adonai (Lord) means "master, sovereign ruler or Lord" and generally denotes the authority and position of God. (Psalm 68: 32; Isaiah 6: 8-11)

Yahweh or Jehovah (Lord) means most likely the self-existent one (I am who I am or I am the One who is) and denotes God's personal name and His eternity. It is often used in relationship to God as redeemer and covenant keeper. Yahweh is the most common name for God in the Old Testament. God's personal name was so sacred to most Jews that they feared to write or say it lest they misused it and usually substituted Adonai for Yahweh. Jehovah is an English word created from the other two to stand for God's personal name. (Genesis 2:4; Exodus 3:14; Psalm 68:14)

El Shaddai means "God Almighty" and pictures God as the all powerful source of

blessing and comfort. (Genesis 17:1; Exodus 6:3; Psalm 68:14)

El Elyon means "God most High" and pictures God's strength and sovereignty. (Genesis 14:18; Psalm 9:2)

El Roi means "God who sees" and denotes God's personal care and presence (Genesis 16:13)

El Olam means "Everlasting and Eternal God" and pictures God's eternity and infinite strength. (Genesis 21:33; Isaiah 40:28)

The following are the main Old Testament Yahweh/Jehovah **compound names**:

Yahweh Jireh means the "Lord provides" and was used by Abraham when God provided a sacrificial lamb instead of Isaac. (Genesis 22:14)

Yahweh Sabaoth means the "Lord of hosts" (hosts is sometimes translated almighty or army) and pictures God as the commander of the heavenly armies. (Joshua 5:14; I Samuel 1:3; Psalm

24:10)

Yahweh Rophe (or Rapha) means the "Lord who heals" and denotes the physical and spiritual healing power of God. (Exodus 15:26)

Yahweh Shalom means the "Lord is peace" and denotes the lack of tension, conflict and strife in God. (Judges 6:24)

Yehweh Nissi means the "Lord is my banner" and signifies that the battle is the Lord's. (Exodus 17:15)

Yahweh Tsidkenu means the "Lord our righteousness" and signifies God as the only source of true righteousness. (Jeremiah 23:6)

Yahweh Maccaddeschem means the "Lord our sanctifier" (or the Lord who makes you holy) and signifies that God is the one who sets people apart and makes them holy. (Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 20:8)

Yahweh Raah (rohi) means the "Lord our Shepherd" and denotes God's loving care, protection and provision for His people. (Psalm 23:1)

Unit 1
Lesson 2

Yahweh / Jehovah - The I AM

Memory Verse: And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I *am* the LORD: *{the LORD: or, JEHOVAH}* And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).

Lesson: Exodus 3:11-15

Read Exodus 2-3, 6:1-6

Scripture Lesson Text

Ex. 3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them?

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

15 And 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 for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations.

Lesson Exposition

Before Moses' encounter with God in the Midianite desert, God was known generally as the God of the Fathers (Ex. 2:24; 3:15). The extent of the children of Israel's knowledge of God was that He was the God of their forefathers and He was the creator. They did not doubt God's existence but they did not have an understanding of who He was. They did not

have a relationship with God for themselves.

YWHW is the Hebrew name God used to reveal Himself to Moses. It is referred to as the Tetragrammaton" ("*The Four Letters*") because it comes from four Hebrew consonants. When vowels are put to it then it is spelled 'Yahweh', often translated as Jehovah. JEHOVAH is

the personal name of God in His relationship as Redeemer. God told Moses that this is His name forever (Ex. 3:13-15).

The Hebrew had such a reverence for God that they would never dare say the name of Yahweh. This custom, which had its origin in reverence, was founded upon an erroneous rendering of Leviticus

Unit 1
Lesson 2

(cont)

24:16, from which it was inferred that the mere utterance of the name constituted a capital offence. According to Jewish tradition, it was pronounced but once a year, by the high priest on the day of atonement when he entered the holy of holies. In place of the word Yahweh he would substitute the name 'Lord'. Many translations of the Bible have kept this practice and have used LORD, all in capital letters to refer to God as Yahweh.

Jehovah is used more than any other name for God in the bible. The name is related to the Hebrew verb "to be", meaning "the unchanging, redeemer, covenant keeper, eternal, self-existent God." Also meaning, "He who is (I AM), or He who causes to be (I AM THAT I AM). This name really encompasses all that God is. Whatever you need, from healing to finances, from peace and provision, I AM.

The I AM

Exodus 3:11-15

Verse 11 - The nation of Israel had been in bondage

to Egypt and because of God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, God raised up a deliverer (Ex. 2:23-25).

Moses had been a shep-



herd taking care of his father-in-law's flock. One day he was leading the flock through the desert and he noticed a bush on fire but not being consumed. Moses was intrigued and moved closer to the bush and God began to reveal Himself to Moses. God also informed Moses that he was chosen to lead the nation of Israel out of bondage. Moses' replied, "Who am I?"

How many times has God asked us to do something and our reply is "Who am I?" We respond this way because we are looking at our strength when we are to focus on God's strength empowering us to accomplish the assignment. Moses also

failed to realize that God had been training him for this role all his life.

Verses 12-13 - God assured Moses He would be with him and that once they were delivered they would worship God upon that very mountain.

Moses was being asked to trust God at a level he had not experienced before. It takes faith to move forward in the things God is calling us to do. And in order to have faith we must know (*be intimate with*) God. The more personal your relationship with God, the more easily you will flow in your purpose. Remember, we minister according to degree of our faith (Romans 12:3-8).

It is important to realize as today's Memory Verse expresses, even though the name YHWH (Yahweh/Jehovah) appears in Genesis chapter 2, God did not reveal Himself as YHWH until Exodus chapter 3.

Moses had not only himself to convince but the people he was to lead. He needed to know more. He

(cont)

asked God, "what is your name?" Remember, in the biblical days the name represented who you were, what you were to do. Therefore, Moses was not asking "what should I call you?" He was asking, "who are you; what are you like; what have you done?"

He needed a God who could make a difference. The Israelites had grown accustomed to seeing the worship of false gods in (Dt. 29:17) and Moses wanted to know how could he distinguish God from the false gods.

Moses also probably remembered the time when they asked him "Who made you a prince and a judge over us" (Ex. 2:14)? He wanted to be totally prepared, so not to be caught off guard.

Verses 14-15 - God replied to Moses by unveiling Himself as "I AM THAT I AM". He is self-existent. He has His being of Himself, and has no dependence upon any other. He is eternal and unchangeable. He whatever is needed. He will be what He will be, and what He is.

To help Moses explain

who God is to the children of Israel God wanted Moses to remind them that He was still the same God of their fathers (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). He wanted them to know that He is Jehovah, the covenant keeping God. The promises that He made to their forefathers would be kept.

He needed for them to understand there is more to Him than what they knew. He is more than just Elohim (the creator). He is more than just the God of their fathers. He is their God. He is Yahweh/Jehovah - the personal, living God. He is the God who is present to act. He is the covenant keeping God. He is the self-existent God who depends on no one.

He wanted to take their faith to another level.

Note Taking

Equipping Ministries

Equipping Ministries

P O Box 11422
Goldsboro, NC 27532
Phone 919-778-1557

Pamela R. Smith



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS
TO DO THE WORK
OF THE MINISTRY



Lessons prepared by Pamela R. Smith

Visit our website at www.equippingministries.com

He Is Everything To Me

In His Life, Christ is an example. In His death, He is a sacrifice. In His resurrection, He is a conqueror. In His ascension, He is a king. In His intercession, He is a high priest. Christ is full and sufficient for all His people. He is bread, wine, milk, living waters,

to feed us; He is a garment of righteousness to cover and adorn us; a Physician to heal us; a Counselor to advise us; a Captain to defend us; a Prince to rule us; a Prophet to teach us; a Priest to make atonement for us; a Husband to protect us; a Father to pro-

vide; a Brother to relieve; a Foundation to support; a Root to quicken; a Head to guide; a Treasure to enrich; a Sun to enlighten; and a Fountain to cleanse.

~John Spencer (1630-1693)

Looking for a great Christian play: visit www.playsbypam.com.