

HIS GREAT NAME

Understanding the Character of God
Through His Names

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ISBN: 9798767873616

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HALLOWED BE THY NAME

OVERVIEW OF HIS GREAT NAME

LESSON ONE

Meditation

Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You. - Psalm 9:10

Main Theme

When we know God's names, we will learn to trust Him. We will see that God never forsakes those who seek Him. He reveals Himself to them. As we study *His Great Name*, His distinctive character and nature will be revealed to us. As we draw near to Him, He will disclose more of Himself to us, and we will learn to trust Him more. Bible scholar Elmer Townes describes God's attributes like the rays of the sun, "As the rays from the sun give meaning to the sun and reflect its nature, so the Lord's attributes reflect His nature." (His Great Names)

I. Seeking God

- Key Passage: Jeremiah 29:11-13

Throughout the Scriptures, we learn that if we seek God, we will find Him and that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. (Jeremiah 29:13, James 4:8) For years I didn't understand the importance of my seeking the Lord and intentionally drawing near to Him. I thought that it was God's

job to move me closer to Him! As I have studied the Scriptures, I am now more aware that our relationship with God is similar to our relationships with friends. In order to grow closer to someone, we must spend time with him or her and communicate by both listening and sharing with one another in order to learn more about each other. God created us to know Him intimately and to be His closest friend. As we begin this study of *His Great Name*, we will grow in our understanding of the character of God, not so that we can have more head knowledge, but so that we can draw near with our hearts to the One who has revealed Himself to us through His Word. Each of His names reveals dimensions of His awesome power and love for us. What an incredible journey we have ahead of us as we draw near to “Elohim,” the One who created us to be His friends.

Having read the Key Box, note your insights.

Read the Scriptures below. Their contents will help you in answering the questions in this section. As you are reading reflect on the theme of *Seeking God*.

I Chronicles 28:9, Proverbs 8:17-18, James 4:8

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What was the admonition that was given to King Solomon before he was to build the temple? (I Chronicles 28:9)

What has the Lord called you to do?

Why do you think it is difficult for some to seek the Lord?

What kind of devotion is key? (Jeremiah 29:13, I Chronicles 28:9)

Why do you think the Scriptures teach us to draw near to God and then God will draw near to us?

II. Significance of Names

- Key Passage: Psalm 8:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) Jesus was with the Father at the creation and was sent to earth to reconcile us to the Father. When Jesus came to earth, He revealed “in the flesh” the character of His Father. He demonstrated and proclaimed God’s kingdom and gave us insight into the nature of God. At creation, God named Adam and Eve and then instructed Adam to name the animals. A name is an intimate thing and often identifies our relationship with individuals. For example, I have nicknames for each of my children because it identifies my unique and close relationship with each one. In the account in Genesis 32, Jacob wrestles with a man whom we identify as the pre-incarnate Christ. After Jacob wrestled with Him, the Man changed Jacob’s name to Israel, thus identifying him with the nation that God was establishing. The name Israel now defined who he was and what his purpose would be. God calls us by name. He also asks us to call Him by name and to know His names that we might know Him better.

Having read the Key Box, note your insights.

Read the Scriptures below. Their contents will help you in answering the questions in this section. As you are reading reflect on the theme of *Significance of Names*.

Genesis 32:22-30, John 1:1-5

Why did the Man tell Jacob that his name would no longer be called Jacob? (Genesis 32:22-30)

Why do you think God changed Jacob's name, and how do you think this name change affected Jacob?

How do you think knowing the character of God revealed through His names will impact your life?

Why do you think that the Israelites attached significance to the names of their children?

How do you think that Jesus, the Living Word, reflected the names and character of God? (John 1:1-5)

III. Honoring His Name

- Key Passage: Psalm 29:2

The Psalms inspire us to praise and honor the name of the Lord. As we study *His Great Name* together, we will learn to honor Jehovah God, Adonai, El Shaddai, Jehovah Nissi, Jehovah Shalom, and many others. He is our Master, our Sufficiency, our Banner, our Peace. As His names are revealed to us, we cannot help but praise and honor Him for who He is to us. The psalmists were full of praise for His

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name. Jesus taught His disciples to pray by hallowing (honoring) the Lord. We, too, are called to honor His name, “the name that is above every name.” (Philippians 2:9)

Having read the Key Box, note your insights.

Read the Scriptures below. Their contents will help you in answering the questions in this section. As you are reading reflect on the theme of *Honoring His Name*.

Psalm 29, Psalm 68:4, Matthew 6:9, Philippians 2:4-11

After reading the psalms, describe how the psalmist honored the Lord.

How do you honor God’s name? (Matthew 6:9)

How did God exalt Jesus? (Philippians 2:6-11)

As we seek God, He will reveal His character to us through His names, and we will learn to honor His name, “the name that is above every name.” (Philippians 2:9)

Life Applications

- Seek the Lord with wholehearted devotion.
- Ask the Lord to reveal to you who He is as we study His names.
- Pray that as you study His Great Names, the Lord will change you to be more like Him.

Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:9

