

God's Names

- Bavinck: “We do not name God; he names himself”
- Definition of “God’s names”: “any word(s) whereby God makes himself known”
 - Hence there are thousands of names! But no single name can do him justice.
- Important rule: to speak well of God, we must sound forth all his names!
 - Tozer: Heresy often emerges “from overemphasizing certain true things so as to obscure other things equally true.”
- Preeminent naming texts: Exod 3:14; 34:6–7; Deut 10:17; Matt 28:19; Phil 2:10
- Proper names / titles:
 - Yahweh; Yahweh of hosts; “I Am Who I Am”
 - God; the Lord; the Almighty God; God Most High; God of all comfort; God of all grace; God of hope; God of love and peace; God of our salvation; God of all flesh; God of heaven and earth; God of knowledge; God of my praise; God only wise; the incorruptible God
 - King of kings; Lord of lords; God of gods; King of glory
 - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Abba; Father of Glory; Father of mercies; Father of the fatherless; Father of spirits; Father of lights
 - The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the “fear of Isaac”; the God of Israel; the Holy One of Israel
 - The Alpha and the Omega; the Beginning and the End; the Ancient of Days; the Everlasting God; the Everlasting King
 - Creator, Redeemer, Husband, Comforter, Judge of all the Earth, Savior
- Phrases: “he who alone does great wonders”; “he who searches the minds and the hearts”; “The God who sees”; “the Lord who sanctifies you”; “he who was, and is, and is to come”; “You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel”; [thousands left out here!]
- Attributes:
 - Incommunicable: incomprehensible, triune, simple, unchangeable, a se (his aseity, self-existence, independence on anything), eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, most free, most absolute
 - Communicable: knowable, jealous, wise, loving, just, gracious, merciful, forgiving, patient, good, blessed, faithful, true
- Metaphors:
 - Shield; rock; fortress; my high tower; refuge; my strength
 - Farmer (Ps 1:3; 80:8); shepherd; consuming fire; warrior; horn of my salvation; our banner; Light; my song; rivers of water
 - Dwelling place (Ps 90:1); my portion; “your inheritance, your very great reward”
- The sum of all these: his perfection!
- For a nice list, see www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/namesofgod.html
- God’s names are on display in all that he does, but they are preeminently seen in the cross and resurrection of Jesus

Conclusion

- Psalm 96:8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name!
- Psalm 48:10 As is Your name, O God, So is Your praise to the ends of the earth
- WCF 2.2 “To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them.”