

## THEOLOGY PROPER (25)

insight into His Character and Person. Dr. Chafer observes: "Bible names of persons have meaning, which meaning usually conveys some impression as to the intrinsic character of the one who bore the name. . . . This disclosure of character through a name is true of Deity to an absolute degree. God has not only inspired the pages whereon His names appear, but He has announced or revealed His names specifically to men and with special reference to the meaning of these names." (Vol.1, p.261)

In the Old Testament, there are **three** primary names used for Deity:

**O.T. Primary Name #1 - Elohim** in English "**God**", which clearly emphasizes there is some type of plurality, yet singularity to God (i.e. Gen.1:1).

**O.T. Primary Name #2 - Jehovah** spelled in English "**LORD**", which is a very sacred name which emphasizes that God is the continually self-existing One. This name is used for example in Genesis 2:4. A very helpful text in understanding the root meaning of the word and the name is found in Exodus 3:14. Another critical text concerning this name as it relates to God is Deut.6:4, which features both "Jehovah" and "Elohim", which clearly teaches singularity and plurality concerning God.

**O.T. Primary Name #3 - Adonai** spelled in English "**Lord**". It is a name that emphasizes the fact that God is the master and ruler. He is the owner and Lord of all things. The meaning of this name is especially seen when used in reference to men (i.e.Num.11:28; Deut.23: 15; Kings 16:24) When it is used as a name for God (i.e. Ex. 4:10) clearly the concept of master, ruler and owner is seen.

When it comes to the name Elohim (literally pronounced Elo heem), the emphasis seems to be on God's sovereign power, might and strength. When it comes to the name Jehovah, the emphasis seems to be on God's' sovereign, self-existing majesty. When it comes to the name Adonai, the emphasis seems to be on God's sovereign rule and control of all things.

When we carefully search through the O.T., we discover that there are several compound uses of these names, which give us a great deal of data concerning God. We may analyze this information by breaking O.T. names down into a couple of compound categories:

**(Compound Category #1)-** Compound names and titles used with Jehovah:

- 1) Jehovah Elohim- this emphasizes the self-existent, powerful God (Gen.2:4)
- 2) Adonai Jehovah- this emphasizes the ruling, self-existing Lord and master of all things (Gen. 15:2).
- 3) Jehovah Sabaoth- this emphasizes the self-existent God of Hosts, which includes the idea that

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God is the powerful God over angels and men, and He is able to use these "hosts" to work out His program and help His people (I Sam.1:3; Rom.9:29; James 5:4) (For an excellent discussion of this name, see the 1 Sam. 1 :3 footnote in the New Scofield Reference Bible.

- 4) Jehovah-Jireh- this emphasizes God will see the need and provide (Gen.22:14).
- 5) Jehovah-ropheka- this emphasizes God will heal and protect His people(Ex.15:26).
- 6) Jehovah-shalom- this emphasizes God is a God who can and does work out peaceful relationships (Judges 6:24).
- 7) Jehovah-tsidkenu- this emphasizes God is righteous and just and will deliver His people (Jer.23:6; 33: 16)
- 8) Jehovah-shammah- this emphasizes the fact that God's presence is there (Ez.48:35).
- 9) Jehovah-rahah- this emphasizes that God is a God who shepherds His people(Ps.23:1).
- 10)Jehovah-nissi- this emphasizes that God is the protecting banner of His people(Ex.17:15).

**(Compound Category #2)-** Compound names and titles used with Elohim:

- 1) El Elyon- this emphasizes God is the highest, the Most High Being in existence- Gen.14:18.
- 2) El Olam- this emphasizes God is indefinite in time, and is the Eternal, Everlasting God of all ages, with no time limits- Gen.21:33
- 3) El Shaddai-this emphasizes God is the Almighty One, the All Sufficient One, who can strengthen and satisfy and bless His people-Gen 17:1. Because of the Hebrew root, some believe this name emphasizes the might of God, while others believe it emphasizes the potential ministry of God to His people.

Every one of these names is a critical OT. names and each name reveals something special.

There are a group of cultish people who call themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses" who are heretics. In fact, they are not really witnesses for the Biblical Jehovah at all and they should be called "Russellites", named their heretical founder. **1.** The name "Jehovah" in Hebrew is really "YHWH" which means they do not emphasize the actual name. **2.** They pick one of the names for God "Jehovah" and disregard the other names for God, "Elohim" and "Adonai" thus lessening God's character. **3.** These names have a specific O.T. connection to O.T. Israel and to the promises God gave to Israel and they totally overlook this. **4.** They neglect and even reject the N.T. names God: gives to Himself, thus totally distorting God's word and revelation concerning Himself. **Many people do not realize that Russellites are forbidden to:** 1) Take or give a blood transfusion or organ transplant; 2) Vote; 3) Sing the national Anthem; 4) Salute a Flag; 5) Serve in military; 6) Celebrate a birthday or holiday-especially Easter or Christmas; 7) Smoke or chew Tobacco; 8) Cook in aluminum pots; 9) Attend another church even if a funeral or wedding; 10) Take communion; 11) **Worship Jesus Christ. Russellites teach they are saved by works.**

When it comes to O.T. names, God also chooses to identify Himself with several epithets which characterize Him and His relationship to Israel: Husband, Father, Tower, Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Savior, Judge, King etc. All of these descriptive words are designed to instruct us concerning the true character of God.

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In the New Testament, there are **three** primary names used for Deity:

**NT. Primary Name #1-** God is identified by the title God the Father.

**N.T. Primary Name #2-** God is identified by the title God the Son.

**N.T. Primary Name #3-** God is identified by the title God the Holy Spirit.

When the word "God" appears in the N.T., the context must be carefully searched to determine whether or not the reference is to One of these three Divine Persons, two of them or all three of them. When all is studied, however, one will conclude from the N.T. that "the full and final name for Deity is Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (Chafer, Vol.1, p.270)

Each one of these names may be more precisely analyzed to determine various concepts that God reveals of Himself and of each Divine Person. This careful analysis typically takes place under the heading of the specific doctrine of each Person. For example, an analysis of the names of God the Father, comes under the heading of Theology Proper; God the Son under Christology and God the Holy Spirit under Pneumatology. Also much information is gleaned in the doctrinal study of the Trinity, known as Trinitarianism. For the sake of this study a few examples will be cited:

### **In the New Testament, God the Father is identified in several ways:**

**(Way #1)-** He is identified as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor.1:3; Eph.1:3; Col.1:3).

**(Way #2)-** He is identified as the Father of everything (Eph.4:6).

**(Way #3)-** He is identified as the Father of all believers in Christ (Jn.1:12/10:29).

**(Way #4)-** He is identified as the Father of mercies (II Cor. 1 :3).

**(Way #5)-** He is identified as the Abba, Father (Mk.14:36; Rom.8:15; Ga1.4:6).

**(Way #6)-** He is identified as the Heavenly Father (Lk.11:13; Mt.18:35).

**(Way #7)-** He is identified as the Father of spirits (Heb. 12:9).

**(Way #8)-** He is identified as the Holy Father (John 17:25).

**(Way #9)-** He is identified as the Righteous Father (John 17:25).

**(Way #10)-** He is identified as the Father of Lights (James 1:17).

**(Way #11)-** He is identified as the Father of Glory (Eph. 1:17).

### **In the New Testament, God the Son is identified in several ways:**

**(Way #1)-** He is identified as God's only Son (John 3:16).

**(Way #2)-** He is identified by the term Lord, which means He is God (Romans 10:9).

**(Way #3)-** He is identified by the term Jesus, which is His earthly name that emphasizes He is the Savior (Rom.10:9).

**(Way #4)-** He is identified by the term Christ, which emphasizes He is the Messiah- the Anointed One of Israel predicted in the O.T. (Lk.9:20).

**(Way #5)-** He is identified by the term God (John 20:28; Rom.9:5; Titus 2:13).

### **In the New Testament, God the Spirit is identified in several ways:**

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- (Way #1)- He is identified as the Holy Spirit (Mt.28:19)
- (Way #2)- He is identified as the Spirit of Holiness (Rom. 1:4).
- (Way #3)- He is identified as the Spirit of God (Rom.8:9; I Cor.2:14).
- (Way #4)- He is identified as the Holy Spirit of God (Eph.4:30).
- (Way #5)- He is identified as the Spirit of Truth (John 16: 13),
- (Way #6)- He is identified as the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil.1:19).
- (Way #7)- He is identified as the Spirit of God's Son (Gal.4:6).
- (Way #8)- He is identified as the Spirit of the LORD (Lk.4:18).
- (Way #9)- He is identified as the Spirit of the Lord (Acts 8:39)
- (Way #10)-He is identified as the Spirit of Grace (Heb.10:29).
- (Way #11)- He is identified as the Holy Spirit of Promise (Eph.1:13).
- (Way #12)- He is identified as the Spirit of Adoption (Rom.8:15).

When all of the names, titles, epithets of God are studied and combined, one is able to better grasp the Person, the Work, the Attributes and even the Being of God. Names must be analyzed according to the context, but an understanding of these things promotes a faith that is stable, secure and accurate.

**(Revelatory Way #4)-** God reveals Himself through Miraculous demonstrations.

God reveals certain things about Himself through a variety of special, miraculous acts. These types of things are clearly designed to teach man much about the Character and power of God. Although a complete study of miracles is not the intent of this section, a few examples demonstrate this point:

Example #1- The Bible opens with Genesis 1, which reveals a creative power of speech which has never been, nor will ever be equaled (Gen.1:1,3,6,9,11,14-15). Obviously the opening chapter of God's word is designed to demonstrate the tremendous power of God's word. Every word of Genesis should be carefully examined for it is the first book which gives us information about God.

Example #2- A passage such as Exodus 14:13-30- God parts the Sea and destroys the Egyptians who are chasing His people- not only reveals the miraculous power of God, but we see the Divine care and plan that God has for Israel. We also learn by this miracle how God is faithful to His Word and promises(Gen.15:18).

Example #3- A passage like Ephesians 2:1-6 teaches us much about the miraculous spiritual creative power of God to transform a believer from death unto life.

We must remember that miracles of God are specifically given to make some kind of statement , about God. Miracles are not performed at all times in the Bible, but when they are, they must be carefully studied to determine the precise purpose and meaning of the miracle.