

TOPIC: KNOW THE GREAT NAMES OF GOD

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SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

As we begin the year, it's good to know the great names of God.

Psalm 72:17-19

"His name shall endure forever. His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him, all nations shall call Him blessed. Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

He is the God who does wondrous things. He is the personal God who knows every detail of our lives.

Introduction

The name of a person reviews his/her:

- Character
- Reputation
- Attribute
- Personal Traits

While living in Joo Chiat, Senior Pastor knew of a guy who was the son of an owner of a bicycle shop. People called him 'Ah Tzu,' nickname for pig. This was probably because there was a pig sty in the backyard. Our names reveal our personhood. One of Senior Pastor's sister had her name changed by her mum-in-law; that change in name was to align with that of the almanac. But doing such had opened her to a curse. In the mid-80s, she contracted cancer and in the midst of it, came to know the Lord. Thank God she recovered as she applied His covering over her name. Names are important.

#1. THE GLORY OF GOD IS IN HIS NAME.

Exodus 33:18,19

Then Moses said, "Now show me Your Glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My Name, the LORD, in your presence..."

In English, the word, 'LORD' means 'Yahweh' It is the personal name of God. In Hebrew, the name of God is unpronounceable. In due reverence to God, the letters "YHWH" is used. In English, "YAHWEH" is used. The word "LORD" is to be differentiated from the word, "Lord" which means master, owner.

#2. WE KNOW GOD AS WE KNOW HIS NAME

Exodus 3:13-15

"Moses said to God...the Israelites...they ask me, 'What is His name?...what shall I tell them? God said: I AM WHO I AM....The LORD, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham...'This is My Name forever, the Name by which I AM to be remembered from generation to generation.

This is the name of God, "I AM." God is over everything. By way of application, we can see God in this manner: I AM your savior; I AM your redeemer, healer, provider, peace, etc.

Next, we know the Names of God by revelation. Ignorance and unbelief drags our faith down. A restored knowledge / revelation of God bring faith up. Psalm 9:10 – those who know Your Name will put their trust in You. In the world, all kinds of slander will be poured on you. In Isaiah 54:17, it says, "No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD."

In Daniel 11:32, it says, "The people who do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."

#3. PRAISING GOD INVOLVES CONFESSING/DECLARING/PROCLAIMING HIS NAME

Hebrews 13:15

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His Name."

This means we need to know God and His name. This knowing comes from a relationship with God. Psalm 23 spells 7 redemptive names of God. He is our provider. When we know Him as our Shepherd, Jehovah Rohi, "I shall not be in want." He is our Shepherd and will look after His sheep. Our evidence of trust is that we will pray and get others to pray. If He is our Shepherd, He will provide. In Hebrews 12:2, He will perfect our faith. As we deal with 2 things: (1) put away the sin that entangles and (2) the weight that hinders. If we still nurse unhealed hurts, and carry unforgiveness, our faith cannot move on. If we are constantly disturbed by news in the market, or worried about many things, it's sin. We will not know His peace that guards the mind.

In Heb 13:15, we are called to offer God a sacrifice of praise. Praise is defined as fruits of lips that confess His name. As we enter 2010, be an intentional worshipper. Don't come as a spectator or guest but as a worshipper. How do we do that? We do so by deliberately connecting with God. How? Closing our eyes will help us not to be easily distracted. We come to give Him glory and praise. The worship leader can never lead you in worship. All he/she does is to facilitate the raising of hands. Phil 3:3 says we put no confidence in the flesh. Worship occurs when our spirit connects with the Holy Spirit. It's when we move from our mind to our heart. By 2Cor 3:18, our lives will be changed. Focus on God. Psalm 149:6 says "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand," Read Psalm 110 and see that we will rule someday.

Psalm 34:3

"O magnify the Lord with me." How do we do that?

A) Our faith is little if our view of God is little. Our faith is weak if our view of God is weak. We must see God as He is (reality). We need to develop clear biblical view of God. Right believing leads to right living. We must therefore seek for God to be magnified in our minds and hearts. Lofty concept of God will lead to awe, wonder, fear and delight.

ELOHIM & ADONAI

ADONAI ELOHIM

The Lord God

ELOHIM = The Mighty and Power CREATOR. The English word "God"

1. God has always been there.

Revelation 1:8 – "I AM the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "Who is and Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty."

He is the source and origin of all things good. James 1:17 says He gives good gifts. In Revelation 1:8, He was and is and is to come. Jesus was the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world. The cross today is empty and so is the tomb. We do not worship the crucifix.

2. There was a time when there was no time.

Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

There is a dimension known as eternity.

Deuteronomy 33:27. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. Isaiah 57:15a – The high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is holy.

In Isaiah 57, we see the first address, ie, He inhabits eternity. Secondly, He always dwells with the humble and the contrite. God is the Self-Existent One. He has no beginning and no end.

3. God created the spiritual world of His angels and heavenly hosts.

Nehemiah 9:6

"You alone are the LORD; You have made haven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You."

Psalms 148:2 – Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him all His hosts!

Colossians 1:16

"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on heaven, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

Where do demonic spirits come from? They are the fallen angels. There are more angels than there are demons. We have authority and power over them.

4. There was a time when God created time.

Genesis 1:14

“Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons and for days and years.’”

Time is a created dimension.

5. Then God created space.

Jeremiah 51:15

“He had made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, and stretched out the heaven by His understanding.”

Isaiah 45:18

“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens. He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited, "I am the LORD, and there is none else.”

The space out there is one of immensity and vastness. We are part of the Milky Way. The Milky Way is a disk-shaped galaxy. Imagine a piece of fried egg that represents the Milky Way. Right at one corner near the fringe is a tiny dot, the size of a pin. In that tiny dot consists the solar system. Imagine how big the Milky Way is. What more the size and immensity of the universe. There are just millions of galaxies out there. Our God is a great God where the universe cannot even contain Him.

6. Then God created the living creatures in the sky, on the earth and under the earth.

Genesis 1:20-25

Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind” cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind” and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

7. Finally, within the dimension of time and space, God created man.

For us, there is a yesterday and today but for God, all is present instantaneously and simultaneously. We are however, bound by time and space. We cannot be at two places at one time. When He created us, he did so in His image, giving man a will, a choice and with the choice we make have resultant consequences. In Galatians 6:8, it says that when we sow to the flesh, we reap corruption whereas when we sow to the Spirit, we reap everlasting life. If 99% of your life is lived in the flesh, it does not profit you when you die. Given that we are spiritual beings, we will reap what we sow.

There are two fundamental things about man.

a) We are finite. God is infinite.

b) We are made a person. God is himself a personal being. He created us so that we may have relationship and fellowship with God. When we choose our way, there is a breakdown in relationship with God. The root of sin is our independent self. Sin is fallen self-hood. Man is incomplete until relationship is restored with God. Matthew 5:48 says, 'Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.' To be perfect means to be complete.

Consequence of the 'Breakdown' of man's relationship with God:

a) God cannot intervene in his life to bless and be man's helper.

Just like the cell phone where the power is off, there is a disconnect.

b) Everything then reverts to the Laws and Principles in life, eg the Laws of Sowing & Reaping

Just like the PC screen, it defaults to the home page. Everything will revert to the laws of life. We will reap what we sow.

John 16:33

"...in the world you will have tribulation..."

We are now living towards the end of the birth pangs. Towards the time of Jesus' coming, things that happen will be more frequent – more earthquakes, wars, uncertainties, fear and volatility of market. Bad news will get worse but in Jesus, we will have peace. If we are not connected to Him, we will be exposed to the evil one. If we are, the evil one cannot touch us. We are complete/perfect only as we relate in willing-loving submission to God as our God, our Lord, our Adonai, our Master.

ADONAI = Lord = Master-Owner

1. Created man must recognize and submit to his Lord Creator

Isaiah 29:16

Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Honor the cell leader. Matthew 10:41 says he who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

There is a protocol. If a minister comes to church, we will put in place the protocol. There is protocol in worship. If worship leader says, "Church, let's raise our hands." And we say, "Why must I?" we are in the wrong place. We submit to the worship leaders as we are to the Lord. We submit to our spouse or cell leader as we are to the Lord.

Isaiah 64:8

But now, O LORD, You are our Father, we are the clay and You are our potter, and all we are the work of Your hand.

We come on the same level before God. Created man must submit to God the Creator.

Order – Accountability and Covering

In this church, we need to exercise A & C. it's the responsibility of leaders to provide covering.

2. Created man will be in trouble when he rebels against his Lord Creator.

Isaiah 45:9

Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, "What are you making? Shall the clay say to him who forms it, "What are you making? Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?"

The words above are very strong words. We need to be aligned to our Maker.

3. Created man must realize he belongs to the Lord Creator.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's

We cannot do whatever we want. We are bought with a price. On the other hand, because we belong to Him, He will take care of us. A good mistress will take care of her maid, her salary and her welfare. God, the Master will take care of everything concerning His servant.

4. When created man experience the goodness, love and kindness of his Lord Creator, he will choose to remain a bond-servant for life.

We see this in Ex 21:1-6. Although the servant is free to go at the 7th year, he may choose to stay on to serve. The master will then pierce his ear and he becomes a bond servant.

5. In the new covenant, the relationship is elevated from that of a servant to a friend.

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

As a friend, we don't just do what we do without understanding. This is what servants do. But as a friend, there is revelation, word and understanding. Why do we tithe, obey Him, come to church and why do we honor leaders? The closer we walk with God, the more we realize the corruption of our sinfulness. The closer we are to God, the more contrite we are. Every leader worth his salt will have experienced brokenness in one way or another. We have true spiritual authority to the degree we submit to earthly authority.

Prov 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

We need to have a right reverential fear of God. On the other hand is disobedience.

Romans 1:18-32 says that disobedience is the beginning of foolishness. When our thinking is futile, we end up with a reprobate mind. When we think we are smart and try to outwit another or connive, our plan will be futile. Why? This is because we have lost the connect with the Divine Source of wisdom. Don't be afraid of the wisdom of the world. The fear of the Lord will guide us on.

Conclusion

Elohim and Adonai

The Lord God

Jesus is Lord!

What's the application?

Walk in holiness. Be set apart. What is permissible for others may not be so for us. What was permissible last year may not be so for us this year. There are two sides to holiness: (a) Separation from and (b) separation to. The company we keep; the way we spend, our attitudes and values – such may be permissible in 2009 but not so in 2010.

SEPARATION TO

Let there be a partaking of God. His name is the Bread of Life. He is the Milk that invites us to taste and see that He is good. He is the Refuge, Tower and Strength. He is one who makes hind feet walk on high places. We don't want to make mistakes at place of work; we don't want to slip. Let's come to God. He is Elohim, the Creator God.

Roman 1:21 talks about a people who know God but are ungrateful. We need to develop gratefulness and give thanks to God.

One other application is to have no other gods, no idols. What is an idol? It is any activity, power, position, people or possession that takes over the place of God. Covetousness is idolatry.

In summary, be thankful and have no idols. Are we submitting to His authority and such which He has placed in our lives, church and family? Are we submitting our career, BGR issues, even dollars spent, our children, etc to Him? Is He Lord? He is Lord not for selfish reasons but that He may bless you. When we fail to submit, it is to our loss.

End.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are some names of God that you know? List them down. Pause for a moment, reflect and thank Him for who He is.

2. What is your experience like during worship on Sundays? What kind of posture has been of help to you as you seek to connect with Him during worship?

3. His name is Elohim, the mighty and powerful Creator. The universe is so huge and vast, awesome and inspiring. Yet the heavens cannot contain Him. What are your thoughts as you reflect on the awesomeness of His being? What kinds of application would you go back with?

4. His name is Adonai, meaning Lord, Master-Owner. He has created us with the capacity to relate to Him and he looks for communion and fellowship with Him. If God is standing by your side right now, what do you think He would be saying to us? What would He be looking forward to with regards to our response?

5. This being the first message of the year, what would be some practical things you would do to grow deeper in your communion with Him? Are there some things which you would separate from so that you may be separated to God?

6. What is it about God that compels you to live differently this year?

No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...