

Bless HIS Holy Name

A study of the Old Testament Names for God

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STUDY SUGGESTIONS for this series:

PREPARING YOURSELF - As you begin your study time, it is always wise to quiet your heart and mind – to be still. Put aside the details and distractions of your life, so that you can begin to focus on the God who loves you. This is an important time for you to come in to the presence of the Lord God and to invite Him to open your mind, soften your heart, and teach you the truths that He wants you to learn. There may be some things that you need to confess to Him and receive His forgiveness so that there is no barrier between you.

INFORMATION – Read the Scripture passages carefully. Through them you will learn about one of the names of God, who used it, when it was used and why. You might want to have 2 or 3 different translations. Take some notes so that you can go back and reflect on the verses that particularly caught your attention or where you want to consider the implications more carefully or ask questions.

REFLECTION – As you come to God’s Word, you are not alone. The Holy Spirit is your teacher and your companion, but it takes time to listen to His voice, to think about God’s Word, to meditate, and to let those thoughts be absorbed into your heart and soul, so that God can change you on the inside to be more like Himself. Let Him draw to your attention through considering His name who He really is and what He wants you to understand.

INVITATION – Now that you know more about the God that loves you through one of His names, why not spend time “calling upon that Name” and “blessing His Holy Name”? You might want to use that name throughout the week as you pray. That is His invitation to you.

Bless HIS Holy Name

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Lesson 1

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Blessed Be His Name

**"I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and forever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.**

Psalm 145: 1 – 3 (NKJV)

One of the primary ways in which God has chosen to reveal His character is through His names. No single name could adequately express the "fullness of God", but each name instead gives us additional insight into His glory, His nature and His attributes. God is protective of His names and has carefully given His people guidelines about their use, their value, and their importance. He wants you and me to know and to understand His names because they are one of the ways that we can come to know HIM and to love HIM more completely. Is this your heart's desire?

PREPARATION – Make a list of the names of God that you know. Take some time to praise God for that name and for the characteristics that it represents to you. Ask God to open your heart and mind as you come to this study about His names.

INFORMATION – Here is a list of verses which will help you learn about the way that God feels about His name. Take your time as you read each verse. Then write a statement about what you think God wants to teach you about HIS NAME through that passage. Is there a verse you want to memorize this week?

Genesis 4: 26
Exodus 3: 13 - 15
Exodus 20: 7 & Deuteronomy 4:11
Deuteronomy 18: 17 – 22
Deuteronomy 28: 9 - 10
I Samuel 17: 45 – 47
I Kings 5: 3 – 5
I Kings 18: 24, 32
Psalm 7:17
Psalm 9: 9 - 10
Psalm 29: 1 - 2
Psalm 20:7
Psalm 33: 20 – 21
Psalm 66: 1 – 4
Psalm 72: 17 -19
Psalm 116: 3 – 6, 12 – 14
Psalm 124: 8
Proverbs 18: 10
Isaiah 50: 10
Joel 2: 28 - 32
Micah 4: 5
Micah 5: 2 - 4
Acts 2:21
Romans 10: 12 – 13

REFLECTION – Consider the following questions prayerfully as you listen to the One whose Name is above all names.

1. Why do you think His name is so important? In what ways is it important to you?
2. What makes His name so holy, so glorious, so powerful, and so incredible?
Recall some times when you have experienced power in His name.
3. What is God impressing on your mind and on your heart about His name today?

INVITATION – God has invited you to "call upon His Name" and to "put your trust in His name".
Every day and throughout your days how will you respond to this invitation?

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“In the beginning ELOHIM . . .” - Genesis 1:1

ELOHIM – the mighty and strong Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

The name “Elohim” is used over 2,500 times in the Old Testament and is the only name that is used to describe the omnipotent and sovereign One Who has absolute authority as Creator and Ruler of the universe in Genesis 1. The Hebrew word “El” means supreme, mighty and the ending “him” makes the word both plural and masculine. (The verbs used with it are singular, however.) The Canaanites used this word in relation to something (or someone) that was to be worshipped. The Bible uses the name “Elohim” to emphasize the majesty of the one and only true God. There is a hint of the Trinity in the name as well as an indication that He is in a covenant relationship with His creation through its usage. This is THE GOD, ELOHIM, who brought “cosmos out of chaos, light out of darkness, habitation out of desolation, and life in His image”. (Names of God by Nathan Stone) How well do you know HIM?

PREPARATION – This is a personal and private appointment time, an opportunity to meet with God and get to know Him as ELOHIM. Introduce yourself and ask Him some questions . . .

INFORMATION - In the following passages of Scripture, the name **Elohim** will be the Hebrew word translated as God. Learn as much as you can about His characteristics, attributes, and desires. How does ELOHIM relate and interact with the people in these Biblical stories?

Genesis 1
Genesis 5: 1 & 21
Genesis 6: 9 – 22
Genesis 17: 3 – 22
Genesis 28: 10 – 22
Genesis 50: 19 – 25
Exodus 2: 24 – 3: 18
I Kings 8: 22 – 26
II Chronicles 30: 6 – 9
Nehemiah 1: 4 – 7
Job 1: 1 - 9
Psalm 42: 1 – 5
Psalm 56
Psalm 67
Isaiah 40: 27 – 29
Isaiah 46: 8 – 13
Daniel 9: 3 – 19
Amos 4: 11 – 13
Micah 6: 8

Bonus reading: Elohim is used almost exclusively in Ecclesiastes, Daniel and Jonah

New Testament verses related to Elohim – John 1: 1 – 4, Acts 17: 24 – 28, Romans 1: 20 C
Colossians 1: 25 – 29, Revelation 21: 1 - 4

REFLECTION – Taking the time to let the “information” move from your head to your heart, to your feelings and responses is so very important. Consider these questions and other thoughts that God is bringing to you as you wait quietly for Him to speak to you.

1. “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth . . .” Do you? (Apostles’ Creed)
Why is this bedrock reality for our faith?
2. Martin Luther declared “God – Elohim – created the earth out of nothing. If you become nothing, He can make something out of you.” Do you think this is true?
3. Psalm 46: 1 - 3 and 10 – Thank God that He is Elohim in your life and in the world today.

INVITATION – This week, pray often to ELOHIM with a new sense of confidence in the one true God!

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Lesson 3

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"I will cry to EL ELYON, to God who fulfills His purpose for me." Psalm 57: 2

EL ELYON – "The God Most High" or "Most Exalted God"

What an expressive and descriptive name for God! A Gentile king & priest named Melchizedek met Abram as he returned from rescuing Lot and a victory against some very evil kings. He was the first one in the Bible to use "El Elyon." He blessed Abram and he blessed God Most High. Immediately Abram used this new name. God had revealed to this "father of the Jewish nation" that He was the "possessor of heaven and earth" and his deliverer. Abram is making progress in his understanding of God and is learning that He can be trusted completely – a life-long process which comes through both failure and victory.

PREPARATION – Wouldn't you like to know the "Supreme God" personally? He has invited you to come into His presence and to know that He is God Most High. He wants to spend time with you through His Word, so come just as you are and take time to open up your heart and mind to what He is waiting to tell you.

INFORMATION – Read these stories and verses and think about why "El Elyon" might be the chosen name. Take note of the situations and by whom this name is used.

Abram & Melchizedek – Genesis 14: 18 – 15: 5

Daniel & Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel – Chapters 3 – 7

Lucifer – Isaiah 14: 14

Prophecy in Hosea – Hosea 11

Psalms 7: 8, 10, & 17
9; 2
18: 13 (David – II Samuel 22)
21: 7
46: 4
50: 14
73: 11
77: 10
78: 17, 35, 56
83: 16 - 18
91: 1, 9
107: 10 – 15

New Testament (a parallel Greek word – "highest")

Mark 5: 1 - 7 or Luke 8: 26 – 28

Luke 1: 32, 35, 76

Acts 7: 48

Hebrews 1: 3, 7: 1

REFLECTION – The Psalms teach us how to listen and respond to EL ELYON:

In praise – take time to exult His name

In conversation with others –

As your deliverer

As your refuge

How does this name of God help you to understand who He really is?

How does the use of this name in the Bible clarify His desires for you?

INVITATION – This week, pray regularly to EL ELYON – "God Most High, . . ."

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When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him and said.

"I am EL SHADDAI, walk before Me and be blameless.

I will confirm My covenant between Me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.

Genesis 17: 1 – 2

EL SHADDAI – "God Almighty", "The All Bountiful One", "All-Sufficient One"

Just when things looked absolutely impossible, God introduced Himself to Abram as EL SHADDAI. Abram had believed for years that God's covenant with him would come true, but it wasn't getting any easier to have faith and to "walk with Him and be blameless". Now God has come one more time and while Abram's reactions may be quite understandable, he does realize that God is the Almighty One. Abram and Sarai both got new names, instructions for circumcision were clearly explained, and Abraham was strengthened in his faith, giving the glory to "THE ALL SUFFICIENT ONE". Is there a circumstance in your life in which knowing God as EL SHADDAI would change your outlook?

PREPARATION – "Come unto Me . . ." This is God's invitation to you. Put your list of "things to do" aside for now and confess to God your desires and your needs, your joys and your concerns. He is listening to you. Get ready to listen to Him for awhile.

INFORMATION – Read these stories and verses and think about why "El Shaddai" is the chosen name.

What difference does it make?

Abram – Genesis 17 : 1 – 8

Romans 4: 13 – 22

Isaac - Genesis 28: 1 – 4

Jacob (Israel) – Genesis 35: 9 - 15

Genesis 43: 11 – 14

Genesis 49: 22 - 25

God to Moses – Exodus 6: 2 – 4

Job – In the book of Job "El Shaddai" is used 31 times out of the 48 in the Old Testament.

Job's "friends" use the name, often misunderstanding both Job and God.

Psalms 91: 1 – 2

Isaiah 13: 6 & Joel 1: 15

New Testament references are all in the Book of Revelation except for II Corinthians 6: 18

Revelation – 1: 8

4: 8

11: 17

15: 3

16: 7, 14

21: 22

REFLECTION – The Hebrew root word from which "Shaddai" most likely comes is "Shad" which means "breast" or more specifically "mother's breast", giving the idea of a place that nourishes, supplies and satisfies. God reveals Himself to be not only the mighty God but also the One with self-sacrificing love and the source of blessing and fruitfulness for those who will abandon their own ways and plans in order to follow Him. El Shaddai is waiting and wanting to be your "All-Sufficient One", the One who satisfies & strengthens you each day. Self-sufficiency is the biggest enemy of this reality. What do you think God is telling you or asking of you?

INVITATION – This week, pray every day to EL SHADDAI , God Almighty.

Then pray to EL SHADDAI, The All Bountiful One.

Then pray to EL SHADDAI, The All Sufficient One

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Lesson 5

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Have you not known? Have you not heard?
THE EVERLASTING GOD, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth,
neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40: 28

EL OLAM – The Everlasting or Eternal God

Where does your mind go when you think of the words: eternal, everlasting, timeless, eternity, forever and ever. Even our imagination can hardly open up a glimpse into the vast and unlimited expanse of "Olam". Reality tells us that this is our God – EL OLAM. While this name is used only 4 times in Scripture, the concept is repeated throughout the Bible – His laws, His promises, His covenant and His kingdom. God has had one unchanging purpose throughout the ages. Isn't it amazing that you and I are included in that plan?

PREPARATION – You live in time – so busy, so limiting, so precious. God created it and understands.
As you come to Him and His Word, ask Him for a glimpse of the eternal and Himself.

INFORMATION – As you read these verses, consider what attributes God must have because He is eternal and those He loves live in "time".

The name "El Olam" – under what circumstances was this name actually used?

Genesis 21: 22 – 34

Deuteronomy 33: 24 – 29

Psalms 90: 1 – 2

Isaiah 40: 28 – 31

The timelessness of God is expanded throughout Scripture. What do these verses teach you?

Genesis 9:16 (to Noah)

Genesis 17: 3 – 8 (to Abram)

Exodus 15: 18

I Chronicles 16: 34 – 36

Nehemiah 9: 5-6

Psalms 41:13

Psalms 102: 11 – 12

Psalms 103: 17 – 18

Psalms 136

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 26: 3 – 4

Isaiah 57: 15

Isaiah 63: 16b

Jeremiah 10: 10

Jeremiah 31: 3

Daniel 4: 2 – 3

There are many New Testament references using the word "eternal"? What ones can you think of or find?

REFLECTION

What comfort or encouragement do you find in knowing EL OLAM?

How does your relationship with "The Eternal God" influence your view of time?

God so loved that He gave His One and Only Son so that you could have everlasting life!

Spend a few minutes in thanksgiving and praise and worship of EL OLAM.

INVITATION – As you pray this week, both quietly and out loud, use this name of God – eternal, everlasting, the Alpha and Omega. It will increase your trust and confidence that God really is at work in this world and in your world today. He is changeless!

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God said to Moses, **"I am who I am."**

This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'

Say also, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. Genesis 3: 14 -15

YHWH - Yahweh– Jehovah – LORD

"The Name", "The Unutterable Name", "The Ineffable Name", "The Holy Name"

When God came to redeem His people from their bondage in Egypt, he revealed Himself in a new dimension and depth through a new name – the name YHWH. Because there were no vowels in this name, it could not be uttered out loud. For many centuries the Jewish people said the name "Adonai" when they came to this name and then in the tenth century the vowels from Adonai were inserted between the "Tetragrammaton" – the 4 Hebrew consonants. With this name God expressed His essential moral and spiritual attributes and came with His reassurance that the promises He has made will be fulfilled because He is a God of love, of righteousness, and of holiness. He is The LORD.

PREPARATION – The purpose of studying God's names is to get to know Him.

Read John 17: 3 and Philippians 3: 10 – How important is this to you?

INFORMATION –

Exodus 3 and 4 -Anytime you see "LORD" in all capital letters it is the name Jehovah.

Why did God reveal this name to Moses at this particular time?

Exodus 6 – 7: 13 - Moses in Egypt

While the patriarchs had heard the name before (Gen. 13:4b, 15: 7, 8 and 28: 13, 16) they had no idea what the depth of the meaning was. Why was it important for them to hear this name?

Exodus 33 – 34 – At the second giving of the Law

What attributes does God emphasize at this time?

Leviticus 19: 1 -4

Deuteronomy 6

Psalms 11: 7

Proverbs 3: 26

Proverbs 18: 10

Psalms 103

Psalms 107: 43

Isaiah 43: 11 – 13

Jeremiah 31: 3

REFLECTION –

THE LORD your God = **Yahweh your Elohim** – Consider Deuteronomy 10: 12 – 22

What difference did the coming of Jesus, GOD's Son, make in our understanding of YHWH?

Did it change any of God's plan for His people? Mark 12: 28 – 34

INVITATION –

Psalms 91 – "He who dwells in the shelter of EL ELYON - Most High

will rest in the shadow of the EL SHADDAI – the Almighty One

I will say of JEHOVAH – the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,

My ELOHIM, - God in whom I trust."

Come, dwell, rest, and trust . . .

Pray often to YHWH – Jehovah – this week.

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So Abraham called that place "the LORD will provide." Genesis 22:14

Yahweh-Jireh

"Jehovah will Provide" "The LORD Sees" "The LORD Sees To It"

Can you even imagine what it must have been like for Abraham and his son, Isaac, and their servants to travel those 3 days (50 miles) from Beersheba to Mount Moriah. That very hilltop where God directed Abraham to go became the site of the temple in Jerusalem years later and some day God is going to reclaim it and there will be a new temple in HIS honor once again. Why do you think that God asked Abraham to do this? What about His covenant and His promises? This was Abraham's only son. Do you think Abraham spent his time asking "why" or is there a better response at times like these?

PREPARATION – Spend some time thinking about specific times in your life when "God has Provided" for you and those you love. How would understanding this name help you in your present circumstances?

INFORMATION – While this is the only time that this specific name is used for God, the concept is repeated throughout the Bible. The name "YHWH" or Jehovah is used in combination with a variety of other descriptive words. "Jireh" means to "see beforehand". The two ideas "prevision" and "provision" exist as one attribute of the LORD.

Genesis 22: 1 – 19 - Make a list of your observations about Abraham and about his GOD.

Hebrews 11: 17 – 19 – What additional insight do these verses give to you?

James 1: 2 – 12 – Was God tempting or testing Abraham?

New Testament Promises – "The LORD Sees – The LORD Provides"

Matthew 6: 25 – 34

Romans 5: 1 - 11

Philippians 4: 19

James 1: 2 - 8

II Peter 1: 3 – 4

REFLECTION –

1. What do you think this experience did for Abraham?
2. What do you think this experience might have done for Isaac, who was about 30 years old at that time. What kept him from resisting his father's instructions?
3. "Because you have not withheld . . . , I will bless you and make your descendants."
Genesis 22: 16 – 17 Abraham willingly lived with an open hand rather than a clenched fist.
What made this possible? Is it any different for you and me?

INVITATION -

"Man's extremity is ever God's opportunity"

Are you headed to "Moriah" in your life right now – a journey of the testing of your faith?

Trust the LORD – Jehovah – He sees and He provides - Jireh!

Are you headed home to Beersheba in your life right now?

Thank "Jehovah Jireh" for His provision and blessing!

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“. . . for I am the LORD WHO HEALS YOU.” Exodus 15: 26

Yahweh-Rapha (Rophe, Rophi)
“Jehovah Who Heals” “Jehovah - The Physician”

You can call it whatever you want to – complaining or grumbling. It was as contagious in the camp of the Israelites as it is for us today. They couldn't find the sweet water that would satisfy their thirst so rather than go and ask Moses what he could do about the problem, they began to murmur and mutter among themselves. When Moses learned about the situation, he went immediately to the LORD. It became a moment of truth for all of them. Not only was the water problem solved, but God used the opportunity to teach them one more thing about Himself. He told them that He was the One Who could heal them – Yahweh-Rapha. He was the One who could protect them from all kinds of disease if only they would live life as He wanted them to live it. What do you do when you are tempted to grumble and complain?

PREPARATION – Take some time and make a list of the things that are troubling you today.

What are the circumstances and situations that you feel like complaining about?

God is very willing for you to be honest before Him. He is a very patient listener.

INFORMATION – It's an absolutely amazing time in the life of the Hebrew people. After years of slavery and bondage, God has delivered them. The Egyptian armies are buried in the Red Sea behind them. However, it only took 3 days before God had to come to them with a very important reminder of not only how He wanted them to live but who HE was.

Exodus 15: 22 – 26

Deuteronomy 32: 36 – 39

II Kings 20: 1 – 6

II Chronicles 7: 13 - 16

Psalms 103: 2 – 5

Psalms 147: 3

Isaiah 57: 14 – 21

Malachi 4: 1 – 3

New Testament Insight:

Luke 4: 14 – 22 (Isaiah 61: 1 – 2)

Luke 8: 22 – 53 and 9: 1 – 2

James 5: 13 -16

REFLECTION –

The God Who Heals – How would you explain this attribute of God to a new believer?

The God Who Restores – What does God most want to restore and why?

We are often more interested in being “cured” of our physical ailments or having the circumstances which are causing us to suffer change. From God's perspective what are the most important aspects of “healing”. How does this affect the way we pray?

INVITATION –

JEHOVAH – RAPHA invites all those who are “weary and heavy laden to come unto Him”.

He offers rest for your soul and He is gentle and humble in heart. Matthew 11: 28 - 29

Come and experience His healing. Bring your family and friends to Him this week.

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Lesson 9

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“Moses built an altar and called it **The LORD is my Banner**.
He said, “For hands were lifted up to the throne of the Lord.” Exodus 17: 15 – 16a

Yahweh–Nissi – Jehovah Is My Banner

Whether it is a flag, a shining symbol or a carved emblem held high, a “banner” can be a reminder of loyalties, a place of gathering, or a call to defend or protect. It can be just the encouragement that someone needs to keep on going in a race or to keep on pursuing the goal. Other times it gives the reassurance that you are not alone or lost. Moses technically named the altar “The Lord is My/Our Banner”, but it clearly represents the LORD Himself, for as Moses lifted up his arms to God, the victory was accomplished. Under what “banner” are you marching today?

PREPARATION – “LORD, I lift Your name on high. LORD, I want to sing Your praises.”
Before you rush into your study, take some time to praise JEHOVAH, your God.

INFORMATION – This is the first battle against a physical enemy since leaving Egypt just a few weeks before, so the lessons learned here will be very important for the future. What do you think these lessons might include?

Exodus 17: 8- 15 (Previous miracle Ex. 17: 1 – 7)

What was Moses' role in this battle? Make some observations about Moses.

What was Joshua's role as he fought his first battle under Moses?

Why did Moses need help from Aaron and Hur?

Two armies – the Israelites and the Amalekites (Deut. 25: 17 – 19)– make some observations.

What did the upheld rod/staff of God accomplish?

Leviticus 26: 1 – 13

Numbers 21: 4 – 9 Another kind of battle and solution. Do you see any correlation?

I Kings 8: 44: - 45 and 56 – 61

Psalm 18: 30 – 36

Proverbs 21: 31

REFLECTION – There are New Testament passages which refer to the battle that believers experience continually as they pursue holiness and Godliness. Do you see any ways in which this Old Testament story gives us clues to the way God still wants to give His children victory? He revealed this name to His people for some very good reasons!

I Corinthians 15: 56 – 57

Ephesians 6: 10 – 18

I Timothy 6: 11 – 12

II Timothy 4: 1 – 7

I John 5: 1 – 5

INVITATION – In the amazing portrayal of God's love given in the Song of Songs by Solomon we are reminded that **Jehovah-Nissi** has a banquet hall to which we are invited and His banner over you and me is love. Focusing on that banner will invigorate your life and your communication with Him.

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Lesson 10

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O Yahweh, **our Adonai**, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! Psalm 8: 1

ADONAI (Adonay) - Lord, Master

It is one thing to recognize God as LORD of the universe, Creator, Sustainer, and the great I AM. It is a very different concept to recognize God as Lord, *your* Master/Owner, the One on whom your whole life is dependent. To have a master, there must also be someone who is subservient. It is a two-person relationship. Sometimes a servant is hired for a day or an hour, but a "bond servant" is one who has been purchased and is owned by the master. That servant has not only the responsibilities, but also the protection, provisions and privileges that are within that relationship. Do you see God primarily as Jehovah - LORD or as Adonai - Lord or are both equally important to you?

PREPARATION- There is a connection, an intimacy, that is opened up to you as you come to God as your Lord, your Master, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. There is security and confidence. There is faithfulness and love. There is hope and satisfaction. What are you grateful for today? Make a long list – even if it takes your study time!

INFORMATION – The name "Adonai" (plural form for master, owner, ruler) was used by God's servants generation after generation. They understood and cherished this relationship

Abram - Genesis 15: 2 – 8 – Sovereign LORD is Adonai Jehovah

Moses – Exodus 4: 1 – 13 – All of Moses' responses as Adonai – Lord

David - !! Samuel 7: 18 – 29 – Sovereign LORD – Adonai Yahweh

Nehemiah – Nehemiah 4: 14 – 15

Isaiah's commission – Isaiah 6 – both LORD and Lord (Adonai)

Paul – Acts 27: 23, Romans 1:1

Jesus – Isaiah 42:1
John 13: 12 – 17
Philippians 2: 2 – 9

REFLECTION –

There are many New Testament passages which confirm the blessings of this relationship between ADONAI (Greek = Kyrios or Lord) and those who belong to Him.

Matthew 6: 24 (Luke 16: 13)
Matthew 7: 21 – 23
John 12: 26
Romans 8: 8 – 17
Ephesians 6: 5 – 9
Colossians 4: 1
Ii Timothy 2: 24 – 25
Revelation 19: 5

INVITATION – Come with thanksgiving to ADONAI – the Lord.

Why not turn everything over to The Master and simply enjoy being a steward, living life according to His plan and directions and letting all the glory go to Him? Think of the relief from stress and worry, the freedom and the rewards that He promises to give to you now and throughout eternity.

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Lesson 11

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"This is the name by which He will be called: **The LORD Our Righteousness**

YAHWEH-TSIDQUENU – Jehovah, Our Righteousness

Did you know that originally "righteousness" was spelled "rightwiseness"? It's not a word that we use in our everyday vocabulary, is it? How often do you describe a friend as "righteous" and would it be a high compliment if you did? The Bible dictionary explains the "righteousness of God" as meaning "essentially the same as His faithfulness, or truthfulness, which is consistent with His own nature and promises". God is not indifferent to the sinfulness of man, but because of His holiness, His rightwiseness, He not only condemned sin, but provided a way for the sinner's penalty to be paid. There was absolutely no way that man could merit or earn righteousness (a right relationship with God) on his own, but through faith in Jesus Christ, he can receive it from Jehovah, Our Righteousness.

PREPARATION – As you begin this study and the Christmas season of 2013, ask God to show you what it meant for Him to send His Son. Why was the LORD GOD willing to send Him and why was Jesus obedient and willing to come and be made a man so that you and I could be forgiven and made righteous?

INFORMATION – The prophet, Jeremiah, had just told King Zedekiah that God's patience and protection over Judah had ended - "woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness" – Jeremiah 22:13. Babylon would take them captive and it seemed like the promises made to Abraham would never come true. Right in the middle of these predictions, God came to those who have been faithful and loyal to Him and reminded them (and us) that He had not forgotten them and that there will be a day coming when a righteous King from David's line will reign. It is in that message of hope that the LORD uses the name YAHWEH-TSIDQUENU.

Jeremiah 23: 1 – 7

Jeremiah 31: 30 – 37

Jeremiah 32: 16 – 41

Isaiah 45: 21

Isaiah 45: 22 - 25

Isaiah 62: 1 – 12

More about the One who was to come –

Isaiah 9: 6 – 7

Isaiah 53: 4 – 12

Micah 5: 2 – 5

REFLECTION – The whole sacrificial system, innocent blood sacrificed for the remission of the sins of the people, was a glimpse in to God's plan and purpose to be fulfilled in His Son, Jesus. Think back about the things you learned from the prophets of old and then read a few of the New Testament passages about Jesus, our Righteousness. What are some of the prophecies and their implications that impress you?

Luke 2: 1 – 15

Romans 3: 21 – 4: 25

Romans 5: 18 - 21

Romans 6: 15 - 23

Philippians 3: 7 – 9

Hebrews 1: 8 – 9 (Psalm 45: 6 – 7)

I Peter 2: 24

INVITATION – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Jehovah – Tsidquenu), for they will be filled."
Matthew 5: 6

Are you hungry and thirsty? What do you hear Jesus promising to do for you?

Bless HIS Holy Name

A study of the Old Testament Names for God

Bonus Lesson

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For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.
And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

MIGHTY GOD

EVERLASTING FATHER

PRINCE of PEACE

Centuries before Jesus arrived, Isaiah told about His coming and gave Him these names.

How do they help you to understand the Son of God, who so loved you that He left heaven and came to rescue you and me and to give us the gift of His love and life everlasting?

Additional Old Testament Names for God and their Biblical source:

EL CHAY	"The Living God"	II Kings 19: 15 – 16, Jeremiah 10: 3 – 5
JEHOVAH – M'KADDESH	"The LORD Who Sanctifies" "To make whole, set apart for holiness"	Leviticus 20:8
JEHOVAH-SHALOM -	"The LORD Our Peace" Also translated – whole, finished, perfected, well	Judges 6: 24
JEHOVAH – ROHI (RAAH)	"The LORD Our Shepherd"	Psalms 23
JEHOVAH – SHAMMAH	"The LORD is There"	Ezekiel 48: 35
JEHOVAH – SABAOTH	"The LORD of HOSTS" The commander of the angelic host and armies of God.	Isaiah 1:24, Psalm 46: 7, 11, etc.
ABHIR	"Mighty One"	Genesis 49: 24, Deut. 10: 17, Isaiah 1: 24
BRANCH	"The Branch"	Zechariah 3: 8, 6:12, Isaiah 4: 2
KADOSH	"Holy One"	Psalm 71: 22, Isaiah 40:25, 43: 3, 48: 17
MIZWEH YISRAEL	"Hope of Israel"	Jeremiah 17: 7 – 8, 13
QEDOSH YISRAEL	"Holy One of Israel"	Leviticus 19: 1 – 2
SHOPHET	The Judge	Psalm 7: 8, 94: 15, 96: 13

Bless HIS Holy Name

A study of the Old Testament Names for God

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