*The Heights Baptist Church * Sermon Series: Doctrine*
* Topic: The Names of God * Various Verses * 2/15/26 *

MAIN POINT

The names of God reveal His character. These names of God help us better understand how to joyfully worship Him.

INTRODUCTION

Share a story from your childhood (or from one of your kids or grandkids) about when you (or they) did something that damaged or endangered your home or room in some way. Did you admit fault? Did you try to hide or fix the damage yourself? What does your response say about you?

We don't always do what is right, but God does. Righteousness is the attribute of God by which He does what is right and in accordance with His nature and law. God always acts rightly, and He has imputed His righteousness onto us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We are predisposed to unrighteousness, and our only hope of righteousness is in Christ alone.

Last week, we discussed the attributes of God. Today as we continue our series on doctrine, we will continue looking at the attributes of God as revealed in the names God is given in scriptures.

Note 1 to study leader: Consider listing the names of God on the white board as they are discussed.

Note 2 to study leader: There are many names ascribed to God in the Bible, and this lesson only covers a few of them. Even so, you may not have enough time to cover the names for God in this lesson plan. While preparing to teach, prioritize the names you definitely want to cover in the available class time.

UNDERSTANDING

ELOHIM and BARA ELOHIM

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ GENESIS 1:1

In the first verse of the Bible, we come to the first name used for God in the scriptures. The word in this verse is the Hebrew word "Elohim", which can be translated as gods, angels, rulers, or judges. When used to describe God, it means the supreme God.

It is interesting to note that in the New Testament, which is written primarily in Greek, the writers felt comfortable using the Greek word for God, "theos", which means "a deity", or "the supreme deity", in a very similar sense to the way Elohim is used in the Old Testament.

In Gen. 1:1, the Hebrew verb "bara" is included with "Elohim" to describe God creating the heavens and the earth ("bara Elohim"). How does it help us understand God to see Him as God who created all things?

Here in Genesis 1, we see that Elohim is the powerful Creator who created all things. Elohim is not the best among many gods; He is the one true God who created and sustains all created things.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ DEUTERONOMY 10:17-18 AND PSALM 136:2

How is Elohim described in these verses?

Elohim is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is great, mighty, awesome, incorruptible, and loving.

JEHOVAH and I AM

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ EXODUS 3:4-6 and 11-15

When God meets Moses in the burning bush, Moses was living in exile in the wilderness. God informed him that He intended to use Moses for His purposes despite his weaknesses and failures.

What did God's presence do to the ground around Him, and what does this say about God?

The ground was holy, because God is holy, meaning he is perfectly pure and set apart above all creation.

What excuses (v. 11,13) did Moses make in these verses? How did God answer his excuses?

What names did God use to describe Himself in these verses, and what does this reveal about God?

"I AM WHO I AM", "I AM", and "JEHOVAH" (This Hebrew name can also be translated as "YAHWEH". Both translations come from the Hebrew "YHWH").

Note to study leader: The Hebrew words translated as "I AM and "YAHWEH" are closely related and both come from the same Hebrew root meaning "To be".

The divine name "Yahweh" literally means "I am." It occurs 7,000 times in the Bible. By describing Himself this way, God was communicating to Moses that He is eternally in the present as the self-existent, immutable (unchanging) God. Moses needed to focus on God's power and provision rather than on his own inadequacies. While we are incredibly blessed to be allowed to call Yahweh our Father, we must remember that we serve an everlasting, self-sufficient, all-powerful God from whom and through whom all things exist.

EL ROI and JEHOVAH JIRAH

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ GENESIS 16:7-13

In this passage we see God intervening in the life of Hagar at a point in her life where she had nowhere to turn. What name did she give God in this passage, and why is this significant?

She called Him, "The God who sees me" (El Roi). This shows us God isn't a god whose far away, but rather God who is actively involved in our lives.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ GENESIS 22:5-14

In this passage we see God intervening in the life of Abraham after He had given him an incredibly difficult test. What name did Abraham give God in this passage, and why is this significant?

"The LORD will provide" (Jehovah Jirah) shows us God is actively providing for us.

These two accounts show God intervening in the lives of Abraham and Hagar, who were both facing difficult trials. Both had arrived at the end of their own abilities to solve their problems. What do these two passages together show us about the significance of God's two names, "The God who sees me" and "The LORD will provide"?

God will never leave us or forsake us. We have nothing to fear, ever, if we are walking with Him.

"When God doesn't make sense, it's time to worship." Tony Evans (Lifeway lesson on the names of God)

JEHOVAH TSIDKENU

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JEREMIAH 23:5-6

What title does God use to describe Himself in these verses, and why is this significant?

"The LORD our Righteousness" (Jehovah Tsidkenu) shows us God is morally perfect.

Why do you think God announced the promise of the Messiah with the names, "righteous Branch" and "The LORD Our Righteousness"?

We are not capable of earning righteousness before God. It is only available through His Messiah Jesus.

JEHOVAH NISSI

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ EXODUS 17:10-15

What determining factor decided the outcome of the battle?

Moses, Aaron, and Hur kept the rod of God skyward focusing on God during the battle. Our God is Jehovah Nissi, which means "the Lord is our banner." God was the banner under whom the Israelites fought as they battled against the Amalekites. To go into battle under the banner of the Lord is to guarantee ultimate victory.

What do these actions of Moses tell us about the kind of battle the Israelites were fighting?

The Israelites were facing a visible, physical threat in the Amalekites, however there was also a much more significant, invisible, spiritual element to this battle in which only God could give the victory.

What name did Moses give God in verse 15, and why is it important?

Moses described God as "The LORD is my banner" (Jehovah Nissi). The context surrounding this name was God giving Israel victory in battle. Throughout history, armies rallied behind the banner representing their nation. This name shows us God leads us in spiritual battles, and in life in general. He is present with us, and is our rallying point, source of protection, source of victory, and the anchor for our souls.

APPLICATION

Which of the names of God do you need to remind yourself of this week?

What can I do this week to help me get my eyes off of the craziness going on in the world and back on to "Jehovah Nissi" (The LORD our Banner)?

How might you be able to incorporate the names of God into your worship of Him this week?

PRAYER

Praise God that He is the great I AM, the eternally self-existent one. Praise Him that He created all things, and that He is all-powerful, righteous, and holy. Thank Him for seeing us and providing for us. Thank Him that He is our banner, leading us and protecting us. Ask God to help us rally behind Him.

Note to study leader: Since this lesson is comprised of many individual passages from scripture rather than one larger chunk of scripture, the usual Commentary section is not included in this lesson.