

God's *name* is "glorious" & "awesome"!

We often talk about the **LORD** being glorious and awesome. And certainly, no one would dispute that. But the Bible also tells us that His "**name**" is glorious and awesome!

...revere this **glorious** and **awesome name**—
the LORD your God
(Deuteronomy 28:58b *emphasis added*)

In the priestly command called "Aaron's Blessing", GOD actually **put His name** on the children of Israel to bless them.

- 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:
24 ""The LORD **ble**ss you and **keep** you;
25 the LORD make his face **shine** on you and be **gracious** to you;
26 the LORD turn his face toward you and give you **peace**."
27 "So they will put **my name on** the **Israelites**, and I will **ble**ss them."
(Numbers 6:23-27 *emphasis added*)

GOD didn't do this because Israel was **worthy**. He chose Israel solely because He wanted to restore the relationship between Himself and His creation through Abraham's Seed (Y'shua)—just as He had promised in Eden and had sworn to Abraham hundreds of years earlier.

- 7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.
8 But it was because the LORD **loved** you and **kept the oath** he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the **faithful God**, **keeping** his **covenant of love** to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.
(Deuteronomy 7:7-9 *emphasis added*)

Putting His own distinctive name on them was the same as an adoptive parent giving their surname to their adopted child. It was an unprecedented demonstration of His **outrageous love** and **utter pleasure** in them! His name was also a **guarantee** of His constant **provision** and **protection** and that they possessed all the rights of **sonship**.

Wherever I cause my **name** to be honored,
I will **come** to you and **ble**ss you.
(Exodus 20:24b *emphasis added*)

And now . . . because of what Christ accomplished on Calvary in giving Himself as payment for our sins, GOD's Word says that **we** are also adopted into that same heritage of **love**, **care**, **authority**, and **protection**!

...the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption** to sonship. And by him we cry, "**Abba, Father**."
(Romans 8:15b *emphasis added*)



The Bible references the *use* of GOD's "*name*" more than 170 times!

During the course of this study, I became aware of phrases referencing, not only GOD's actual name, but the *use* of His name. I discovered that He's not only zealous about us *knowing* His name and making His name known; He also cares very deeply about *how, where, why,* and *in whom* His name is used!

- At least 16 times, He says that His reason for doing certain things is so people will "know [His] name," "fear [His] name," or that His name will be "declared."
- More than 50 times YHWH refers to a place for His "name to dwell" or His name being in a person or place.
- At least 19 times YHWH says He does certain things for His *name's sake*.
- More than 30 times He says, not only that He is holy, but that His *name* is holy and worthy of glory.
- At least 58 times GOD's Word uses phrases such as "*My* name" and "*Your* name," indicating that He wants everyone to *know* His *name*.

God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, '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* you shall *call me* from generation to generation."
(Exodus 3:15 *emphasis added*)

But I have raised you up for this very purpose,
that I might show you my power and that
my name might be *proclaimed* in all the earth.
(Exodus 9:16 *emphasis added*)

Then to the place the LORD your God will choose as a *dwelling*
for *his Name*—there you are to bring everything I command you:
your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts,
and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the LORD.
(Deuteronomy 12:11 *emphasis added*)

For the *sake of his great name* the LORD will not reject
his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.
(1 Samuel 12:22 *emphasis added*)

Those who *know your name* trust in you, for you,
LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.
(Psalm 9:10 *emphasis added*)

But you, Sovereign LORD, help me *for your name's sake*;
out of the goodness of your love, deliver me.
(Psalm 102:21 *emphasis added*)

In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, *proclaim* his
name; make known among the nations what he has done,
and *proclaim* that his *name* is *exalted*."
(Isaiah 12:4 *emphasis added*)



"Therefore my people will **know my name**; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I."
(Isaiah 52:6 *emphasis added*)

In particular, YHWH cares about His **reputation**, about His name being **profaned** among those of us who claim to belong to Him.

"Tell Aaron and his sons to treat with respect the sacred offerings the Israelites consecrate to me, so they will **not profane my holy name**. I am the LORD.
(Leviticus 22:2 *emphasis added*)

"**Do not profane** my **holy name**, for I must be acknowledged as **holy** by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who made you holy"
(Leviticus 22:32 *emphasis added*)

19 "I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks **in my name**.

20 But a prophet who presumes to speak **in my name** anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

(Deuteronomy 18:19-20 *emphasis added*)

10 "and then come and stand before me in this house, which **bears my Name**, and say, 'We are safe'—safe to do all these detestable things?

11 Has this house, which **bears my Name**, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching!" declares the LORD.

12 "Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a **dwelling for my Name**, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel.

13 While you were doing all these things," declares the LORD, "I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.

14 Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that **bears my Name**, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your ancestors."

(Jeremiah 7:10-14 *emphasis added*)

Notice in the above verses from Jeremiah how angry GOD becomes about the corrupt activities of those who represent His **name**! He was saying that because of their iniquities, He was going to deal with them in the same way as He had dealt with Shiloh. Although the ark had been at Shiloh, the LORD made it a victim of His wrath (Psalm 78:58-64). Now He was going to do the same to Jerusalem and her temple. He had commanded them to **not profane** His **name** and yet, by their evil deeds, that's exactly what they had done!

A few of the other verses referencing the **use** of YHWH's name include: Exodus 6:3, 27, 3:21; Leviticus 19:12, 20:3, 22:32; Numbers 1:9, 6:27; Deuteronomy 14:23, 16:2-11, 26:2; 2 Samuel 7:13, 26, 20:8-9, 22:50; 1 Kings 5:5, 8:16-19, 33-48, 21:4-7, 23:27; 1 Chronicles 22:8-10; 2 Chronicles 6:5-10, 20-38, 7:14-20, 33:4-7; Ezra 6:12; Nehemiah 1:9-11; Isaiah 29:23, 48:9-11, 52:5-6; Jeremiah 14:7-9, 14-15, 23:25-27, 29: 21-23; 34:15-16; Ezekiel 20:9-44, 36:20-23, 43:7-8; Daniel 9:18-19; Amos 2:7, 9:12; Zechariah 5:4, 13:9; Malachi 1:6-14, 2:2-5.



Obviously, YHWH is really passionate about us knowing His **name** and making His **name** known. He's even more passionate about blessing those in whom His **name dwells** and He's jealous about how we represent His name to a watching world!

Why did YHWH tell us His name and unique characteristics?

His purpose in revealing His distinctive name and ±75 other names and titles was so that we might **know** Him better, **draw near** to Him, and **receive** from Him all that He desires to lavish on us.

Unlike all the other gods of the nations, the GOD of the Bible is the **only** One who demands **nothing** from us in order to pursue a relationship with Him. Even under the Old Covenantal blood-sacrifice system, GOD didn't command the sacrifices to indulge some unquenchable thirst for blood. Rather, He required the sacrifices...

- to help us understand that sin is such a grievous matter that He cannot simply disregard it, but that atonement must be made for it;
- so we would accredit to Him absolute, uncompromising holiness, morality, and perfection; and
- to then **make a way** for Him to draw near to us without discrediting His holiness.

And, under the **New** Covenant, GOD provided the perfect, once-for-all-time sacrifice in the Person of Y'shua haMashiach (Jesus the Christ). In the most dramatic and outrageous expression of His abounding love for us, the Almighty paid the ultimate price required for our detestable sin. The Lawgiver and Judge—who determined the requirements for His blessings as well as the necessary consequence or punishment for our disobedience—stepped down from the throne and **paid our debt** for us! He **permanently destroyed** the veil that separated us from Him (Matthew 27:51).

No other god throughout all of man's history has ever done that! That's because no other god throughout history **could** do that...!

That's why He wants us to know His name!

We didn't decide what name to call the GOD of the Bible. Jehovah's Witnesses didn't decide what His name should be. No! **YHWH** told us His name . . . **HE** determined which Hebrew words best describe His nature . . . and then, **HE** disclosed His personal name and various attributes to us!

He did this to distinguish Himself from all the other "gods" because **none** of His distinctive attributes can be ascribed to **any other** being—including the cuddly and convenient "gods" of today's megalomaniac gurus!

Translating YHWH's name into lesser words like "God" and "Lord" entirely eclipses His **unparalleled beauty, power, authority, and love**. As Dr. Adam Clarke wrote in his *Commentary on Genesis*:

"Jehovah is translated into English by two words, LORD and GOD. In both of these words the centralising identity of the supreme Creator is lost, for they are used indiscriminately of the deities of the heathen and the God of the Christians; it would be far better if in the authorised Version of the Scriptures this 'name of God' had been transferred untranslated. 'Shaddai' is invariably translated 'Almighty,' in which word again the identity is lost;



for the word 'Almighty' is merely a word in common usage as a name of God, and for the designation of the ordinary powers of the universe."¹

Meditation

Let's look at a simple comparison between YHWH and the other so-called "gods" of the world.

All other "gods" require strict adherence to a list of rules, ritualistic observances, and prescribed payments and penalties (even blood sacrifices as continue to this day in Muslim countries, Israel, and in Hinduism).

YHWH asks only that you "act **justly** and love **mercy** and to **walk humbly** with your God." (Micah 6:8)

All other "gods" say if you work really hard and if your good deeds outweigh the bad, then **maybe** you'll be saved; but you never know if/when you've done enough.

YHWH says "**no one** will be declared **righteous** by the works of the law, but that through the law we **become conscious** of our sin" (Romans 3:20); and "what the law was powerless to do . . . **God did** by **sending his own Son** . . . to be a sin offering" (Romans 8:3).

All other "gods" heap guilt and shame upon you for your mistakes and allow you to carry that burden for the rest of your life.

YHWH **invites** "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will **give you rest**" (Matthew 11:28); and promises "He is faithful and just to **forgive** your sins..." (1 John 1:9)

All other "gods" promise nothing, but say **you** are responsible for your own safety, provision, and wellbeing.

YHWH promises to "never leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:5); to "meet all your needs" (Philippians 4:19), "forgive all your sins and heal all your diseases, redeem your life from the pit, crown you with love and compassion, and to satisfy your desires with good things..." (Psalm 103:3-5)

Considering the differences between YHWH and all the pagan gods, I believe we would all agree that He **deserves** to be praised.

Only YHWH is the *Creator* and *Sustainer* of all that exists . . . **only YHWH** is *thrice glorious* in holiness . . . **only YHWH** is absolutely *just* while also being overwhelmingly *merciful* . . . **only YHWH** is both *Judge* **and** *Redeemer*!

Only YHWH is fully **worthy** of our love . . . **worthy** of our devotion . . . **worthy** of our praise . . . **worthy** of our **adoration**!



Oh, precious brother and sister! Draw near and know this most **glorious** and **awesome name**! And in the knowing, know His **heart** . . . know His **plans** for you . . . know **HIM**!

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be **praise** and **honor** and **glory** and **power**, for ever and ever!"
(Revelation 5:13b *emphasis added*)

¹ Clarke, Dr. Adam (1762-1832). *The Adam Clarke Commentary*, Genesis 1, Verse 1. Public Domain.

This work is intended for devotional purposes only
and does not insist on the use of certain names of
GOD as a point of doctrine or fidelity to Scripture.

