

How the Lord Reveals Himself

by John Isaac Edwards

A lesson to be learned during the Period of the Judges is how the Lord reveals Himself. It is recorded, “Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him” (1 Samuel 3:7). Connect this with 1 Samuel 3:21 which says, “And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.” A principle that must not be overlooked is that the Lord reveals Himself by His word! One way the Lord reveals Himself by His word is through the names by which He is designated. Thus, we look to the Lord’s word and consider some names by which God is called to learn more about God.

Jehovah, the Great I AM. When God called unto Moses out of the burning bush and instructed him to lead His people out of their Egyptian bondage, Moses said, “Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you” (Exodus 3:13-14). Later God said, “...I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them” (Exodus 6:3). He

is the God who was, who is, and who always will be!

The Strong and Mighty One. The terms “El,” “Eloah” and “Elohim” point to God as the strong and mighty One, or as the object of fear. In Numbers 23:22, God is spoken of as bringing Israel out of Egypt with “...as it were the strength of a unicorn (wild ox).” Deuteronomy 10:17 records, “For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible...” “In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). We owe our entire existence to God!

The Almighty Ruler to Whom Everything Is Subject. The word “adonai” is translated “Lord,” and points to God as the almighty Ruler, to whom everything is subject, and to whom man is related as a servant. This is illustrated in Malachi 1:6, “A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear?...” Jesus asked, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). God is the absolute Lord over His creation, and His creation is responsible to obey Him! “...Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

The Almighty Whose Power Enables Him to Perform Anything He Promises to Do for Man. The designation of God as “El Shaddai” first appears in Genesis 17 where God appeared to Abram and said, “I am the Almighty God...I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly...and thou shalt be a father of many nations” (verses 1-4). As the question “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14) implies, God has the power to accomplish whatever He desires to do. Thus, we can stand on the promises of God!

The Holy One of Israel. This designation of God appears 32 times within the prophecy of Isaiah. For example, Isaiah accused the Lord’s people of having “...provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger...” (Isaiah 1:4). God is holy, separate and apart from sin. As Isaiah 6:3 records, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” Peter exhorted first century Christians, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

The One Who Sees. Hagar “...called

the name of the Lord that spake unto her, Thou God seest me...” (Genesis 16:13). This was in response to God’s appearing unto her, when she fled the presence of Sarah realizing she was hated in her sight, and promising to multiply her seed. God promised, “Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction” (Genesis 16:11). The designation “El Roi” reveals God as one who knows our needs and who cares. God knows our every need, even before we ask (Matthew 6:32). Peter penned, “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

The only way man can know the Lord is as He reveals Himself. This He does by His word. Though man can know there is a Creator from the things which are made (Romans 1:20-21), we must look to His word to learn about God. “God is a Spirit...” (John 4:24). He is both good and severe: “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God...” (Romans 11:22). John wrote, “...God is light...” (1 John 1:5) and “...God is love” (1 John 4:8). Many have misconceptions about God, having listened to what men have told them about God. We just need to explore the word of God, and accept what God has revealed about Himself.

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