

**BIBLE STUDY**

# **I AM THAT I AM**

Exploring The Names of God



'Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13-14

What's in a name? When you meet someone for the first time typically one of the first things to do is to ask the person his/her name. This helps you identify the person in future and forms the basis for having a meaningful relationship with the person.

In historical times a person's name reflected the circumstances surrounding the person's birth or family at the time he/she was born, or who the parents believed the person would become. So, a name was very important in the time of Moses.

When Moses asked the Lord his name in Exodus 3, Moses wanted to provide his fellow Israelites with an idea of the attributes of the deity that was sending him and God showed Moses first-hand that He could not be limited by anyone's idea of who He is or should be. By introducing Himself as, "I Am who I Am", the Lord demonstrates that He already is whoever we need Him to be and so much more...

In this study we will be exploring some of the names of God with the understanding that each name reveals a different attribute. We certainly cannot exhaust all His attributes on this side of eternity, so the goal is for us to identify how He has revealed Himself to us already and also gain some understanding of how much more there is to Him.

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## Day 1

### Yahweh

'And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.' Exodus 3:15

In Exodus 3:15 God shares His name with Moses as the "LORD" which was originally written as YHWH in Hebrew. Bible translators say the meaning of YHWH is built out of the Hebrew phrase for 'I Am'. In English Bibles today where you see 'LORD' written in capital letters, the original Hebrew version had YHWH. In the Old Testament, YHWH was used quite frequently in demonstrating His covenant relationship with Israel. In modern times, YHWH is more often depicted by its phonetic pronunciation of Yahweh or Jehovah.

Bringing this to a relational level, God says, 'this is my name', personalizing His name beyond a title or a function. He is THE LORD and as such we must always recognize His lordship over all creation. To make this more personal, we must also recognize His lordship over all that concerns us.

'This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens...' Genesis 2:4

There is none like You, O LORD; You are great, and great is Your name in might. Jeremiah 10:6

'I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.' Isaiah 42:8

**Reflect:** Everything that is, was, and will ever be is made by The LORD. With the busyness of life, we will always have many things striving for lordship over our lives. Though we may at times place things over God, there's really only one who is LORD over all. Never forget that.

## Day 2

### Elohim

'In the beginning God (Elohim) created [by forming from nothing] the heavens and the earth.'  
Genesis 1:1 (AMP)

Elohim means 'supreme' or 'mighty one' and is one of the most frequently used Hebrew names for God in the Bible, reflecting His attributes as God, Creator and was historically depicted as 'Yahweh Elohim'. Why is this distinction important? Because there may be many 'mighty ones', but there is only one supreme LORD.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" Deuteronomy 6:4

'Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me' Isaiah 46:9

'...yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.' I Corinthians 8:6

God is truly mighty and awesome, indeed there is none like Him. But keep in mind as we shared yesterday, He is also relational – He created us to have a close relationship with Him. So in spite of his might and supremacy, we have the privilege of having a direct relationship with Him as His children.

**Reflect:** How do you know this God and how do you approach Him? Do you know him simply as a mighty/supreme one and a higher power that's far away in the heavens? Or do you also know Him as Your supreme God whom you relate with daily recognising that your relationship with Him is the most valuable one you'll ever have?

## Day 3

### El Elyon

'Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High...And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.' Genesis 14:18,20

'El' means God and 'Elyon' means most high. El Elyon therefore means 'God Most High', This name expresses the extreme sovereignty and majesty of God and reflects His pre-eminence in all things. The beauty of this name is that it leaves us in no doubt as to God's rightful position in all creation and in our lives.

'I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.' Psalms 9:2

'I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me.' Psalms 57:2

'Then they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.' Psalms 78:35

'Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.' Daniel 3:26

**Reflect:** Is God the 'Most High' in your life? Do you give Him priority in all things, do you give Him the best of yourself – your gifts, talents, skills, time, worship, attention. Or do you only let Him have what's left after you've paid attention to other things? Recall the occasions in your life or the lives of others where God has shown up and left all in no doubt that He is indeed the most high God.

## Day 4

### El Olam

'Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.' Genesis 21:33

El Olam means 'The Eternal God' or 'The Everlasting God', a reflection of the fact that God exists out of the confines of time and is eternal. Eternity is a concept that may be difficult for people to comprehend as we are used to living our lives using time as a basis for reference. But because God is the one who created time, He functions without any limitations.

'Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.' Psalms 90:2

'Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.' Psalms 93:2

'But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.' Jeremiah 10:10

'Trust in the Lord forever, For in YAH, the Lord, is everlasting strength.' Isaiah 26:4

**Reflect:** God is everlasting, His existence isn't limited by times, circumstances or situations. Whatever He said in His Word concerning His children was not limited to only those in Biblical times. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence (2 Peter 1:3). Take time to study your Bible, search God out for yourself with the goal of knowing Him. In Him is all you could ever need for every stage and circumstance for your life.

## Day 5

### Adonai

'But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"' Genesis 15:2

Adonai means 'Lord', 'Master', 'Owner' or 'Sovereign Ruler', signifying God's sovereignty, reflecting His role as the foundation of all creation as well as the foundation of our lives.

'O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.'" Daniel 9:19

To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens! Psalm 8:1

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob... Psalm 114:7

So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth." Zechariah 4:14

**Reflect:** How would you live life with the daily consciousness of God as your master and sovereign ruler. How would you spend your time if you truly believe that everything you have or are actually belongs to God? Would you be more cautious about taking decisions without involving Him and seeking His counsel? have you been asking Him to bless the things you have orchestrated for yourself without His involvement? Remember Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father (paraphrasing James 1:17). If God isn't in it, it's not worth doing. If God didn't give it to you, it's not worth having. The Bible tells us to trust in Him, acknowledge Him in everything and not lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). This is a strategy well worth adopting for our lives.

## Day 6

### Jehovah Raah

Jehovah Raah means, 'The Lord My Shepherd'. One of the many wonderful things about God is that in spite of all His might, He cares intimately for each of His children as shepherd cares for his flock. The shepherd feeds, nurtures, and attends to the needs of his sheep. The shepherd guides the sheep, leading them in the way they should go and should any go astray, the shepherd goes in search of it and brings it back to the fold. The shepherd also protects the sheep from wild animals and anything seeking to cause harm to his sheep. Knowing what we know of God, isn't it truly amazing that He has chosen to care for us as a shepherd?

'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.' Psalms 23:1

'And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,' Genesis 48:15

'Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!' Psalms 80:1

'But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),' Genesis 49:24

**Reflect:** Jesus called himself the good shepherd. Things even earthly shepherds wouldn't do, He has already done for us by giving His life for us so that we may have victory. He shepherds not just our bodies, but our souls as well. Our great shepherd loves us deeply and desires that we yield ourselves to Him so He can lead us along the best pathway for our lives (Psalm 32:8). Take some time to reflect on Psalm 23 today and personalize it with the understanding that the Lord indeed is Your shepherd.



## Day 7

### Jehovah Nissi

'And Moses built an altar and called its name, The- Lord -Is-My-Banner..' Exodus 17:15

Jehovah Nissi means, 'The Lord is My Banner'. To put this in context, in Biblical times, when nations went to war, opposing armies would usually fly their flags on a pole which acted as a focal point for hope and encouragement for the soldiers. Moses understood that the Lord was Israel's focal point and source of victory and built an altar in recognition of this after the Lord had given Israel victory over the Amalekites.

'And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.' Exodus 17:11

Israel did not win the battle against the Amalekites because of their superior army, but because God was fighting for them. Today we may not necessarily be in a physical war against another nation, but there is constant spiritual warfare going on against our understanding of our identity in Christ and the knowledge of God in our lives.

'For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.' II Corinthians 10:3-6

**Reflect:** What issues are you dealing with right now that are causing you to despair? What is it that is causing you to feel discouraged? The more we focus on something, the larger that thing becomes in our mind and ultimately affects our reality. Take your focus off your issues and look to Jehovah Nissi, the true source of hope and encouragement as your focal point. Keep His words on your lips and in your heart with the confidence that He never loses and the understanding that it is impossible for Him to fail.



## Day 8

### Jehovah Rapha

'...and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."  
Exodus 15:26

Jehovah Rapha means 'The God that heals'. God revealed Himself as Jehovah Rapha in the scripture above and throughout the Bible we see numerous illustrations of God's attribute as the God that heals, the Great Physician who heals not just people but nations as well.

'For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,' says the Lord, 'Because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; No one seeks her."  
Jeremiah 30:17

'if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.'  
II Chronicles 7:14

'Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.'  
Isaiah 30:26

'But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.'  
Luke 13:12-13

**Reflect:** Are you in need of healing – physically, emotionally, mentally? His thoughts and plans for us are always for good so it is His desire that we are healthy in all aspects of our lives. He is the Lord that restores our health and when He heals, He goes to the root of the issue so that we are restored and made completely whole.

## Day 9

### Jehovah Jireh

'And Abraham called the name of the place, The- Lord -Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'" Genesis 22:14

Jehovah Jireh means, 'The Lord Will Provide' and was first used when the Lord provided Abraham with the ram he would use as a burnt offering instead of His son after Abraham had obeyed God's instructions (note that obedience came before the provision). God has not ceased providing for us, He is the true source of all good things and when we understand that, our striving for material things will cease.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.' Matthew 6:31-33

He is also the provider of all spiritual blessings.

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...' Ephesians 1:3

'The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.' Proverbs 10:22

**Reflect:** Are you laboring to engineer your own blessings? Are you striving for these things at the cost of your family, your health, your soul? Don't give yourself a burden that you need not carry. God wants us to lead healthy, productive and fruitful lives, that's why He says that He will teach us to profit and lead us in the way that we should go (Isa 48:17). Today why not ask. "Lord what would you have me do?" and listen for what He says to you?

## Day 10

### Jehovah Sabaoth

'Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.' 1 Samuel 17:45

Jehovah Sabaoth means. 'The Lord of Hosts' or 'The Lord of Armies' or 'The Lord of Heaven's Armies', reflecting God's universal sovereignty over every army, both spiritual and earthly and His supremacy and sovereignty over heaven and earth. This name was often used when Israel was facing some kind of crisis or when the person using the name recognised God as someone needed to fight a battle on their behalf.

'The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah' Psalms 46:7

'So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.'" Isaiah 6:5

'Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah' Psalms 24:10

"For thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land...' Haggai 2:6

'So David went on and became great, and the Lord of hosts was with him.' 1 Chronicles 11:9

**Reflect:** As the Lord of hosts was with Israel, He is also with His children today. Don't try and fight battles in your own strength, call upon Jehovah Sabaoth to show up on your behalf. That's the only way your victory will be guaranteed. He is the only one who opens doors no man can shut and shuts doors no man can open (Isaiah 22:22).

## Day 11

### El Shaddai

'When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." Genesis 17:1-2

El Shaddai means, 'The Almighty', or the 'The All Sufficient One'. This speaks to God's sufficiency – His ability and willingness to completely nourish, sustain, care for and satisfy all our needs. It speaks of a God who desires to freely bless His children with all manner of blessings. In God we have all that we could ever need.

"May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples;" Genesis 28:3

'Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me..." Genesis 48:3

'Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.'" Genesis 35:11

**Reflect:** Have you ever desired something really badly, gotten it and then wondered: so what next? Whether it's a job, business, financial breakthrough, relationship, whatever it may be. Whenever we focus solely on pursuing these things and then eventually get them, something in us will still ask the question: what next? The truth is nothing material has the capacity to truly satisfy all our needs. Everything we could ever need is already in God. As we draw nearer to Him in fellowship and intimacy, we begin to realize that He alone can satisfy as nothing and no one else can. Our pursuit should be for a close relationship with Him, not for what we can get, but because of who He is.

## Day 12

### Jehovah Shalom

'Then the Lord said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.' Judges 6:23-24

Jehovah Shalom means, 'The Lord is Peace'. The very presence of God brings peace, absence of strife, fear, worry. When Gideon built the altar, it was after an encounter with the Lord who had assured Gideon of His peace. We also have the assurance of our peace in God's presence.

"Do not be afraid, you who are highly esteemed," he said. "Peace! Be strong now; be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Speak, my lord, since you have given me strength." Daniel 10:19

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

'Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." John 20:19

'Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.' Romans 15:33

'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord...' II Peter 1:2

**Reflect:** Peace is an attribute of God that He willingly gives to us. Our peace is with Him and in Him. When we are with God, His peace automatically is with us and increases as we grow in our knowledge of Him. The presence of peace does not necessarily mean everything is perfect, but it does mean we can be at peace internally even in the middle of challenges. That's why Paul encourages us: 'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.' Philippians 4:6-7



## Day 13

### Jehovah Mekoddishkem

“Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.’ Exodus 31:13

Jehovah Mekoddishkem means, ‘The Lord who Sanctifies You’ or ‘The Lord who sets You apart’. Sanctification is the separation of an object or person to the dedication of that which is Holy. In this revelation of Himself, God shows us that He is the one who sets us apart and makes us holy.

‘And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the Lord who sanctifies you.’ Leviticus 20:8

‘Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.’ Ezekiel 20:12

In the Old Testament, there were many stringent laws concerning the process of sanctification. However, with the sacrifice of Jesus which paid for all our sins, we are sanctified by His blood shed for us on Calvary. We no longer have to strive to be sanctified by our own efforts because Jesus cleanses and sanctifies us (Ephesians 5:25-26).

‘Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.’ Hebrews 13:12

‘For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?’ Hebrews 9:13-14

**Reflect:** Jesus has paid the price for those who believe in their hearts and confess with their mouths that He is Lord. If we believe and have made this confession, then we can stand in the confidence that our past – whatever it may be – no longer has a hold on us because Jesus has set us apart. ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new’ (II Corinthians 5:17).

## Day 14

### Jehovah Tsidkenu

'In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' Jeremiah 23:6

Jehovah Tsidkenu means, 'The Lord our Righteousness'. This name reveals God as one who will always do what is right, because He is righteousness. There is no unfairness or partiality in Him.

'He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.' Deuteronomy 32:4

On our own we cannot be righteous – as flesh it is impossible for us to do what is right all the time – that is why our righteousness is in God alone. Thank God that in His mercy, He gave us the Lord Jesus who saved us and covered us in His righteousness.

'I will greatly rejoice in the Lord , My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.' Isaiah 61:10

'But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.' Hebrews 1:8

'But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— ' I Corinthians 1:30

'For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.' 2 Corinthians 5:21

**Reflect:** We are made righteous in Jesus and Him alone. This understanding should free us from the burden of trying to make ourselves righteous and help us be more loving to those who are struggling. If we are standing, it is by grace and grace alone. Thank God for His grace upon your life and pray for those who are yet to come into the knowledge of His grace to help.



## Day 15

### El Rohi

'Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"' Genesis 16:13

El Rohi means, 'The God Who Sees'. This name is introduced when Hagar ran away from Sarah (then Sarai) after she (Hagar) had become pregnant with Abraham's child. Genesis 16:4-6 says that on becoming pregnant, Hagar had become contemptuous of Sarah, causing Sarah to deal harshly with her.

'Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."' Genesis 16:7-8

It's interesting to note that Hagar didn't have to introduce herself, neither did she have to explain the circumstances of her pregnancy or why she was fleeing. Rather the focus was on her direction – where have you come from and where are you going? Hagar knew where she was coming from and the issues she was trying to escape. However, she didn't necessarily know where she was going.

The same question can be asked of us today: where are you going? Perhaps like Hagar you are in the wilderness, unsure of your next step? Perhaps you've been dealt with harshly or mistakes have brought you to a point where you just don't know what to do. The Lord didn't discuss Hagar's circumstances with her, He didn't ask her what she did/didn't do to get to this point. He simply spoke regarding the future and gave her instructions on what to do.

**Reflect:** The God who sees not only knows you, He knows what you're going through. He sees the quiet tears, He sees the struggles, He sees all. He's not asking you how you got there, but He is asking, where are you going? He is ready to lead you in the way you should go. 'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' Matthew 11:28. Don't carry unnecessary burdens on your own. The Lord is willing to carry them for you if you come to Him.



## Day 16

### El Kanno

'(for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),'  
Exodus 34:14

El Kanno, (also spelt Kanna or Qanna) means 'The Jealous God'. He says in Exodus 20:5, "For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God...". But what does this mean? God is not jealous in the sense that He is afraid that our placing something/someone other than Him will affect Him. He is God all by Himself, nothing we do or don't do will ever alter that.

When we professed His lordship over our lives, we entered a covenant relationship with God – meaning we gave Him alone the right to our total allegiance. If we start placing other people or things over God, we are saying to Him that those things have taken what should be His place in our lives. So His jealousy is for us not against us. Meaning He is jealous for His agenda, plans and purposes for our lives and seeing them come to fruition. He has told us that His thoughts for us are for good to give us a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

God takes His relationship with us very seriously. He thinks about us and watches over us lovingly and faithfully as a bridegroom watches over his betrothed. He expects the same commitment from us.

It's with this understanding that Paul says in 2 Corinthians 11:2: 'For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.'

**Reflect:** If we really want to have a deep relationship with God, we must understand that whatever we place over Him, we give lordship over our lives and make them idols. And He will not tolerate that. Ask yourself: "How committed am I to my walk with God? Do I jealously guard my relationship with Him so that nothing else will take His place?" When we don't, we rob ourselves of the fullness of the relationship we could have with Him.

## Day 17

### El Hakkavod

'The voice of the Lord is over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The Lord is over many waters.' Psalms 29:3

El Hakkavod means, 'The God of Glory'. The Hebrew word "kavod" means 'glory, honour, heavy or weighty' and was originally used in the context of battle armour. It speaks to God's majesty, honour, strength, amongst others. While we can attempt to put definitions around it, God's glory cannot be fully explained or understood by human wisdom. Moses found out first-hand while on Mount Sinai that God's glory is powerful and tangible.

'So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.' Exodus 33:22

Ezekiel also attempted to describe the glory of God: 'Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.' Ezekiel 1:27-28

The Lord our God is the King of Glory, there's none greater than His. The glory of God is so pure and holy and awesome that the Bible notes all have sinned and fallen short of His glory (Romans 3:23). That is why it is only by the blood of Jesus that we can gain access God without being consumed.

**Reflect:** Take some time to meditate on the glory of God – what does it mean to you? How does this understanding impact how you reverence and approach God as the King of Glory?

## Day 18

### El Gibbor

'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6

El Gibbor means, "Mighty God" or "Powerful God". This speaks to God's strength and might as a warrior. Time after time we see examples in the Bible of God winning battles on behalf of Israel, displaying his unstoppable might in the face of incredible adversity. With Gideon, He used an army of 300 to defeat an army of over 100,000 Midianite soldiers. With Joshua, He brought down the walls of Jericho which were previously thought to be impenetrable. And so many more.

Jehoshaphat recognised God's might when the Moabites, Ammonites and others came to attack Judah 'and said: "O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?" 2 Chronicles 20:6

'And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel.' 2 Chronicles 20:29

'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'" John 16:33

**Reflect:** Whether your battle is physical or otherwise, there's nothing that can withstand God's power and might. Notice what Jehoshaphat did when he found out about the impending attack: he went to God first.' So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.' (2 Chronicles 20:17).

When we seek God first and involve Him in whatever we're going through – not as an afterthought or last resort – He takes up our issues and fights on our behalf. And remember, it is impossible for God to lose a battle.

## Day 19

### Jehovah Shammah

'All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.'" Ezekiel 48:35

Jehovah Shammah means, "The Lord is there". This name was introduced when Ezekiel was given a vision of Jerusalem indicating that God had not abandoned it, but it would be restored and His presence would dwell there. If we look at this in the context of our daily lives, we will see that God's presence makes the difference to any situation.

'And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.'" Exodus 33:2-3

When Moses was leading the children of Israel through the wilderness, there came a point where God told Moses His presence would not go with them due to their rebellious nature, but an angel would go with them instead. Note that the Israelites would still have entered the land because God is faithful and always keeps His promises, however had Moses not intervened the presence of God would not have gone with them.

**Reflect:** This means that it is possible for someone to be seen to be achieving results simply because of God's mercy and faithfulness, not necessarily because His presence is with that person or situation. Therefore it's critical that we constantly ask the Holy Spirit to examine our hearts and cleanse us to ensure that there's nothing in us that will take us away from God's presence. There is too much at stake for us to take this for granted.

'God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.' Psalms 46:5

'You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.' Psalms 16:11

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.' John 15:5

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, so please connect with us on:

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