



The NAMES OF GOD, A Bible Study For the Alabama Legislative Staff

Our next installment in our study of God’s names, as revealed in Scripture, is here! As stated before, it makes sense that a Being as infinite and impressive as the Creator of the universe might have many specific names, each adding to our understanding of Him. So far we have covered: #1 Elohim (God), #2 Jehovah, or Yahweh (covenantal name for I AM, the self-existing One), #3 El Shaddai, God Almighty, #4 El Elyon, God Most High, #5 El Olam, Everlasting God, #6 El Roi, God Who Sees, and #7 El Gibbor, Mighty Warrior God. NOTE: Past Bible Studies are posted at: <https://capitolcom.org/bible-studies/alabama/> .

8. YWHW YIREH - יְהוָה יִרְאֶה “The LORD Will Provide”

We turn now to names beginning with YWHW, or Jehovah. Recall YWHW is a contraction for the covenantal name of God as revealed to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3. Perhaps you have heard this name as “Jehovah Jireh”, and thanked Him for the many ways He meets our daily needs. But when that name is introduced in Scripture it has special relevance to our faith: This name points to one of the richest and most meaningful events in the life of Abraham, and all of Scripture.

So Abraham called the name of that place, “**The Lord will provide**”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” Genesis 22:14

The setting for this verse is the near-sacrifice of Isaac, the son of promise for whom Abraham and Sarah have waited literally decades. God asks Abraham to offer his only heir up as a sacrifice, on a mountain of God’s choosing. They traveled three days to reach Moriah—and all the while Abraham is vexed by God’s command. Yet he trusts God, even stating to his servants that he and the boy would return (Gen 22:5, implying that even if he was to offer the boy God would restore Isaac somehow (see Hebrews 11:17-19)—what faith!). Of course, God stops Abraham from executing Isaac and commends him for being willing to offer up his only son. A ram, caught in a nearby thicket provides the burnt offering in Isaac’s place.

The name of the place then becomes “YWHW Yireh” because on the mount of the Lord “it” shall be provided. What is “it” in this context? Mount Moriah, as noted in 2 Chronicles 3:1, is where King Solomon builds the first temple, which means Abraham was guided to the future site of Jerusalem. When Abraham says “it” will be provided, he is prophetically speaking to the crucifixion of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who is the propitiation (or substitutionary sacrifice) for all. Thus, before the ancient city of Jerusalem was founded, Abraham had already named it YWHW Yireh in anticipation of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross!

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9. YWHW RAPHA – יְהוָה רָפָא “The LORD Who Heals”

When our bodies heal we often take it for granted. The Hebrew word meaning “to heal” is *rapha* and it appears 62 times in the Old Testament. We see it associated with YWHW as a name in Exodus 15:26—

There the Lord made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, ²⁶ saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.”

In this context, God has just given Moses instructions to make the bitter waters of Marah drinkable. Without water the millions of Hebrews would soon perish in the arid desert. But God had called them out of bondage in Egypt to take the Promised Land and inhabit it, so He preserves them. He then calls them to obedience to His commandments and laws, promising none of the diseases which afflicted the Egyptians (the plagues of Exodus 7-11), because those were judgments of the Egyptians’ pantheon of false gods and idols.

God designed our bodies to heal when wounded but they do not do it automatically. God is always behind the healing process. When Jesus came, His ministry was characterized by many acts of physical healing to demonstrate He is YWHW Rapha and those who follow Him will find spiritual healing for their souls in salvation. God’s salvation in Christ makes us spiritually alive when we were dead in our sins. It is the most wonderful healing God promises.

10. YWHW NISSI - יְהוָה נִסִּי “The LORD My Banner”

In ancient times, banners unfurled to identify armies from each other. When I served in the military overseas, the sight of the banner of the American flag signaled a protected space for me to return to when traveling in hostile territory. This name first appears in a battle context as well, from Exodus 17:15:

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, **The LORD Is My Banner**,

This verse concerns a battle with the Amalekites, descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau. This people will vex the Israelites through the reigns of Saul (when he defeated Agag the Amalekite but did not destroy them fully) into the time of Queen Esther in Persia (Haman the chief antagonist in that book was an Agagite). Moses celebrates the victory over Amalek by building an altar and naming it YWHW Nissi. The next verse has the meaning of God swearing an oath by His own throne that this war with Amalek will continue generationally. This points to the fact all of the world’s conflicts are a reflection of the greater spiritual battle between God and our enemy, the devil. We do not exist on a neutral ground between these forces, we are born into the enemy’s field of battle. But God calls us to His banner (see Psalm 60:4-5) to live eternally under His protection (Song of Songs 2:4). Have you run to the banner for the healing YWHW provides? Call upon Him today!

Questions? Please feel free to contact me if I can be any assistance in helping your understanding of God’s Word!

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