



SUNDAY
JULY 2

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



SCAN FOR PHJW
SERMON NOTES

The Name of the Lord, Part 1

Exodus 20:7

A SERMON BY

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Date: July 2, 2023
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley
Sermon Title: “What’s in a Name? The Name of the Lord, Part I”
Scripture: Psalm 124:1-8 and Exodus 20:7 (KJV)

Psalm 124:1-8

1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say; 2 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us: 3 Then they had swallowed us up quick, When their wrath was kindled against us: 4 Then the waters had overwhelmed us, The stream had gone over our soul: 5 Then the proud waters, Had gone over our soul. 6 Blessed be the LORD, Who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. 7 Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: The snare is broken, and we are escaped. 8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Exodus 20:7

You shall not invoke the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain.

SERMON SUMMARY

What’s in a name? Pastor Wesley introduces our new sermon series where we will explore some of the 60+ names of God. This week’s sermon sets the stage by illustrating the importance of names. Names connect us to culture, history, and stories. Parents often name their children after a family elder. Some choose names to foretell a child’s future or purpose. Names provide meaning. Names are important.

The first step in establishing a real relationship with someone, is knowing their name. Even though a person may have many names (e.g., Dad, Pastor, Howard-John, etc.), we address people based on how we know them. Not everyone can call us by all of our names. *But this is not so with God.* God has many names, and God wants us to know, understand, and rightly call on all of the names of God. God’s many names are an invitation to know God in the fullness of who God is. God is Jehovah-Jireh, our provider. God is Jehovah-Shalom, our peace. God is Adonai, the Lord. God is Emanuel, God with us.

Not only are God's many names an invitation to *know* God, but they also provide an opportunity to *see* God's power and *trust* God's character. Each of God's names represent a blessing God has in store for us. Our task is to call on God's many names and trust that God will deliver us and show God's self strong.

Pastor Wesley encourages us to remember God's names, call on God's full name, and know that God is always with us. What's in the name of the Lord? As this sermon series reveals the answers, we will be blessed.

KEY POINTS

1. The names of God represent an invitation to know God, see God's power, and trust in God's character.
2. Names are the first step in getting to know a person. Not knowing a person's name signifies that the relationship is unimportant.
3. Names hold meaning, history, and promise.
4. Demanding that people call you by the name you choose shows your understanding *of* and pride *in* your name.
5. God offers us many names to show God's ability to meet our many needs.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU QUESTIONS

1. If you could choose any name for yourself at this moment, what would it be and why?
2. The sermon reminds us that there is power in God's name. Please share a time when you called on the name of God and your circumstances changed. What did you learn in that moment?

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Wesley notes that the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) are God's instruction for the structure and conduct of Israel's life together. The first four commandments are about God, the fifth is about familial relationships, and the final four are about communal living. Which of the commandments about God are the most difficult for you to obey? Why? How might learning about the names of God assist you in this challenge?
2. Pastor Wesley began his message with a story about Muhammad Ali demanding people respect his new name. In this story, we hear how Ernie Terrell refused to use Ali's proper name, even though he knew it (please see a video of this conversation in the resource section). Sometimes the world

holds on to our past and sees us in old, outdated ways. How might we move the world to see us, not as we once were, but who we are in God today?

3. There are many names of God. An abbreviated list is included in the resource section. Please review the list, select a name of God, and describe how it helps you to know who God is.
4. What promise from God do you hold dear? What name is associated with that promise?

For Individual or Village Study

SPIRIT WORK

1. Do some research on your name. Write out what it means to you. Create a prayer asking God to use your name's meaning to guide you this summer as we learn about the names of God.
2. Pastor Wesley listed many of God's names. List the names you are familiar with and from where the name derives. Then, list ones you aren't so familiar with, and from where they derive. Try using the unfamiliar names in your conversations with God. Journal your experience in using different names for God in your prayer life.

"CAN I PUSH IT?" QUESTION

Pastor Wesley referenced an episode of the Breakfast Club radio show. In that episode, Birdman, the Cash Money Records mogul, exploded, cursing out the hosts about their disrespect of his name. Cursing someone out may be a way of demanding respect. But as Christians, how might we demand respect for our names, our community's name, and our church's name?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ali v. Terrell: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu2bW70K6JE>

Trigger Warning: This video contains footage from an actual boxing match where blood and swollen eyes are evident.

Names of God: https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/misc/name_god.cfm

Names of Jesus: <https://sermons.logos.com/sermons/36843-100-names-of-jesus>

"More than Enough"- Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir: <https://youtu.be/fjeoL-wsijk>