



The Names of God

JESUS, THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME

Outline


- ▶ Names of God in the Hebrew Bible
- ▶ Names of Jesus in the New Testament
- ▶ Using the Names of God in prayer

Names of God

- ▶ Significance of names in the Bible and the Ancient Near East
- ▶ Names speak to one's characteristics, one's "essence."
- ▶ Deities in the Ancient Near East were known by their names
- ▶ Baal, Shemesh, Dagon

YHWH

- ▶ God's personal name
- ▶ Unlike all the other names, not a title
- ▶ Speaks to God's essence
- ▶ אֱהִיָּה אֲשֶׁר אֱהִיָּה
- ▶ “I am that I am,” or...

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- ▶ No tense, rather aspect in Biblical Hebrew
 - ▶ Two kinds of action
 - ▶ Completed Action, perfect
 - ▶ Incomplete Action, imperfect
 - ▶ God's name is in the imperfect
 - ▶ Present, "I am," or future, "I will be"

Names of God in OT

▶ YHWH

▶ El- _____

▶ YHWH _____

Names of God in NT - Jesus


- ▶ Jesus is Son of God
- ▶ God made flesh/incarnate
- ▶ Fully God and fully human
- ▶ Names for Jesus
- ▶ What these names tell us about how God makes gods self known to us


Names for Jesus in the Gospel of John

- ▶ 4 Gospels
- ▶ 3 Synoptic = see together
- ▶ Matthew, Mark, Luke
- ▶ John
- ▶ In a category to itself
- ▶ Highly symbolic
- ▶ “signs,” not miracles
- ▶ No parables

Where there are no parables there must be metaphors...

- ▶ Metaphor:
- ▶ Figure of speech that makes reference to one thing by using another
- ▶ Take two images from different contexts and bring them together. Neither thing is the same after that
- ▶ When this happens, new meaning is made
- ▶ Psalms: The Lord is my rock
- ▶ The Lord's Prayer "Our Father"

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- ▶ Metaphors have a tension
 - ▶ They push our understanding of reality
 - ▶ They have the potential to transform the way we see, think, understand

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- ▶ How do we explain the unknowable?
 - ▶ How do we take on new information?
 - ▶ Use what we know...
 - ▶ Parables...The kingdom of God is like...
 - ▶ Metaphors: Help us to get our head around the incarnation

I am...

- ▶ “I am...” statements
- ▶ Playing off of the divine name, “I am that I am”
- ▶ What happens when “I am” becomes flesh?

I am...

- ▶ The Bread of Life, 6:35
- ▶ The Light of the World, 8:12
- ▶ The Gate, 10:9
- ▶ The Good Shepherd, 10:11
- ▶ The Resurrection and the Life, 11:25-26
- ▶ The Way, the Truth and the Life, 14:6
- ▶ The Vine, 15:5

I am the bread of life

- ▶ John 6
- ▶ Feeding of the Five thousand
- ▶ Jesus walks on water
- ▶ Manna from the sky and true bread from heaven
- ▶ What is the hardest part about this chapter?

I am the light of the world

- ▶ Light in creation
- ▶ Light in the temple
- ▶ Light as a sign of the presence of God
- ▶ Jesus is the light
- ▶ Truth claim



I am the gate
I am the good shepherd

- ▶ Gate as the point of access
- ▶ Shepherd imagery

I am the vine

- ▶ John 15
- ▶ Location of this I am saying in the larger narrative
- ▶ Extensive metaphor
- ▶ Descriptive and Instructive
- ▶ Roles of the father and the son
- ▶ Roles for us

Homework

- ▶ John 11:25-26 I am the resurrection and the life
- ▶ John 14:6 I am the way, the truth and the life