

Principles Of The Faith - 2

The Nature of God Part A

The Existence of God

- ▶ 1. All people have an inner sense of God
Romans 1:18-25, 10:14-2
- ▶ 2. There is abundant reliable evidence of God both in Scripture and in nature. This evidence is sufficient proof of the existence and nature of God to a rational mind.
(Psalm 19, Acts 14:17)
- ▶ 3. The fact that some do not believe or rather refuse not to believe is due to their misinterpreting or suppressing this reliable evidence. The Bible calls this "folly".
Psalm 10:3-4, 14:1; 53:1, Proverbs 1:7, 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
- ▶ 4. Wisdom is the spiritual faculty of being understand and act on the plain, straightforward and reliable evidence that God has presented to us. Job 28:28, Proverbs 9:10,

The Amount of Evidence

- ▶ There is a vast amount of reliable evidence from God's Words and God's works (in nature)
- ▶ Plus the testimonies of those who have believed
- ▶ Plus the fulfillment of thousands of prophecies
- ▶ And the inner workings of our own conscience and logical reflection
- ▶ All point to the existence of a single Creator God who is loving, benevolent, powerful and wise.
- ▶ This is a vast amount of irrefutable evidence
- ▶ However because of the fallen and rebellious nature of the human mind it is not believed Romans 8:7; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:17, 18; Philippians 3:19, 1 Timothy 6:5, 2 Thessalonians 9-12,

Discovering God

- ▶ No logical argument, however good, can compel belief from an irrational or unbelieving person. Luke 16:27-31
- ▶ Ultimately only God Himself can convince us of His existence! God must enable us to be persuaded.
2 Corinthians 4:3-6, 1 Corinthians 1:21, 2:5
- ▶ God's existence is not so much proven as **discovered**
- ▶ We are spiritual seekers and explorers who stumble upon God and "find" God (or rather are found by God) just as an ancient explorer discovers a new mountain range.
- ▶ The spiritual rule is not "think and you shall conclude" but "seek and you shall find" (Matthew 7:7)

God Reveals Himself To Us

- ▶ The knowledge of God is not found through human wisdom
1 Corinthians 1:21-24, 2 Corinthians 4:3,4, John 1:18
- ▶ Because we have fallen minds and cannot know God by our own unaided efforts God has to reveal Himself to us.
- ▶ God shows us Himself (Romans 1:19)
- ▶ The Son reveals the Father (Matthew 11:25-27)
- ▶ The Bible reveals the Truth about God and prevents error and speculation (Psalm 119)
- ▶ Deut 29:29; Isa 53:1, 56:1; Jer 33:3,6,7;
Dan 2:19,22,28,29,30,47;



We Can Not Know Everything About God

- ▶ God is infinite and perfect and we are finite and fallen
- ▶ God's ways are higher than our ways (Is. 55:9)
- ▶ God's understanding has no limits and cannot be measured (Ps. 145:3, 147:5)
- ▶ This knowledge is too wonderful for us (Ps. 139: 6,17)
- ▶ Only the Spirit of God truly knows God (1 Cor. 2:10-12)
- ▶ We cannot teach or instruct God or know all of His ways (Romans 11:33-36)
- ▶ However we can know what God has revealed to us for our good (Deuteronomy 29:29) and we can increase in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10)



God's Names In Scripture

- ▶ **God's Name:** all that the Bible and Creation tells us about God
- ▶ To honor and hallow God's Name is to honor Him and His Name carries His authority
- ▶ There are a large number of names of God and descriptions of God (Grudem p. 158-160)
- ▶ Praying using God's Names can be very powerful!
- ▶ <http://bible.org/article/names-god> (see next few slides)
- ▶ http://www.blueletterbible.org/study/misc/name_god.cfm
- ▶ <http://smilegodlovesyou.org/names.html> (long list)



The Misuse of the Names of God

- ▶ **Blasphemy** – attributing evil to God or equating a sinful human being to be the same as God or using the name of God as a vulgarity Leviticus 24:11,16 Revelation 16:9
- ▶ **Profaned:** by immoral conduct, bad examples Leviticus 18:21, 19:12, 20:3, 21:4-6, 21:9, Hebrews 12:16
- ▶ **Vanity** – using the name of God lightly such as to swear an oath or vow that you have no intention of keeping. Exodus 2:7, Deuteronomy 5:11
- ▶ **Occult** – using the names of God for magical or occult purposes e.g Kabbalah (sub-category of “vanity”)
- ▶ **Defiling** – giving God's glory to another Isaiah 48:11, Jeremiah 7:30, Ezekiel 20:39, 43:4-9



Elohim

- ▶ 1) **Elohim**: The plural form of *EL*, meaning "strong one." It is used of false gods, but when used of the true God, it is a plural of majesty and intimates the trinity. It is especially used of God's sovereignty, creative work, mighty work for Israel and in relation to His sovereignty (Isa. 54:5; Jer. 32:27; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Deut. 5:23; 8:15; Ps. 68:7).
- ▶ Compounds of *El*:
- ▶ **El Shaddai**: "God Almighty." The derivation is uncertain. Some think it stresses God's loving supply and comfort; others His power as the Almighty one standing on a mountain and who corrects and chastens (Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; Ex. 6:1; Ps. 91:1, 2).
- ▶ **El Elyon**: "The Most High God." Stresses God's strength, sovereignty, and supremacy (Gen. 14:19; Ps. 9:2; Dan. 7:18, 22, 25).
- ▶ **El Olam**: "The Everlasting God." Emphasizes God's unchangeableness and is connected with His inexhaustibleness (Gen. 16:13).

Yahweh (Jehovah)

- ▶ (2) **Yahweh (YHWH)**: Comes from a verb which means "to exist, be." This, plus its usage, shows that this name stresses God as the independent and self-existent God of revelation and redemption (Gen. 4:3; Ex. 6:3 (cf. 3:14); 3:12).
- ▶ Compounds of *Yahweh*: Strictly speaking, these compounds are designations or titles which reveal additional facts about God's character.
- ▶ **Yahweh Jireh (Yireh)**: "The Lord will provide." Stresses God's provision for His people (Gen. 22:14).
- ▶ **Yahweh Nissi**: "The Lord is my Banner." Stresses that God is our rallying point and our means of victory; the one who fights for His people (Ex. 17:15).
- ▶ **Yahweh Shalom**: "The Lord is Peace." Points to the Lord as the means of our peace and rest (Jud. 6:24).
- ▶ **Yahweh Sabaoth**: "The Lord of Hosts." A military figure portraying the Lord as the commander of the armies of heaven (1 Sam. 1:3; 17:45).

Yahweh (cont'd)

- ▶ **Yahweh Maccaddeshcem**: "The Lord your Sanctifier." Portrays the Lord as our means of sanctification or as the one who sets believers apart for His purposes (Ex. 31:13).
- ▶ **Yahweh Ro'i**: "The Lord my Shepherd." Portrays the Lord as the Shepherd who cares for His people as a shepherd cares for the sheep of his pasture (Ps. 23:1).
- ▶ **Yahweh Tsidkenu**: "The Lord our Righteousness." Portrays the Lord as the means of our righteousness (Jer. 23:6).
- ▶ **Yahweh Shammah**: "The Lord is there." Portrays the Lord's personal presence in the millennial kingdom (Ezek. 48:35).
- ▶ **Yahweh Elohim Israel**: "The Lord, the God of Israel." Identifies Yahweh as the God of Israel in contrast to the false gods of the nations (Jud. 5:3; Isa. 17:6).

Other Names - 1

- ▶ (3) **Adonai**: Like *Elohim*, this too is a plural of majesty. The singular form means "master, owner." Stresses man's relationship to God as his master, authority, and provider (Gen. 18:2; 40:1; 1 Sam. 1:15; Ex. 21:1-6; Josh. 5:14).
- ▶ (4) **Theos**: Greek word translated "God." Primary name for God used in the New Testament. Its use teaches: (1) *He is the only true God* (Matt. 23:9; Rom. 3:30); (2) *He is unique* (1 Tim. 1:17; John 17:3; Rev. 15:4; 16:27); (3) *He is transcendent* (Acts 17:24; Heb. 3:4; Rev. 10:6); (4) *He is the Savior* (John 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:1; 2:3; 4:10). This name is used of Christ as God in John 1:1, 18; 20:28; 1 John 5:20; Tit. 2:13; Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:8; 2 Pet. 1:1.
- ▶ (5) **Kurios**: Greek word translated "Lord." Stresses authority and supremacy. While it can mean sir (John 4:11), owner (Luke 19:33), master (Col. 3:22), or even refer to idols (1 Cor. 8:5) or husbands (1 Pet. 3:6), it is used mostly as the equivalent of *Yahweh* of the Old Testament. It too is used of Jesus Christ meaning (1) Rabbi or Sir (Matt. 8:6); (2) God or Deity (John 20:28; Acts 2:36; Rom. 10:9; Phil. 2:11).

Other Names - 2

- ▶ 6) **Despotes:** Greek word translated “Master.” Carries the idea of ownership while *kurios* stressed supreme authority (Luke 2:29; Acts 4:24; Rev. 6:10; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4).
- ▶ (7) **Father:** A distinctive New Testament revelation is that through faith in Christ, God becomes our personal Father. Father is used of God in the Old Testament only 15 times while it is used of God 245 times in the New Testament. As a name of God, it stresses God’s loving care, provision, discipline, and the way we are to address God in prayer (Matt. 7:11; Jam. 1:17; Heb. 12:5-11; John 15:16; 16:23; Eph. 2:18; 3:15; 1 Thess. 3:11).

Reverencing God’s Name

- ▶ Hallowed be Thy name...(Matthew 6:9) = authority
- ▶ Fearing / reverencing / hallowing God’s Name puts us in the right position as creatures of the Creator and enables faith and grace to flow so that God’s Kingdoms comes and His will is done. “It re-connects Heaven and Earth”
- ▶ We are to live in reverence and godly fear (Psalm 61:5, 86:11, Hebrews 12:28, Deuteronomy 28:58, Revelation 11:18))
- ▶ Reverencing His Name is taking God’s being seriously
- ▶ It is also involves taking His commandments as “orders” and obeying them
- ▶ In the NT those “under authority” (stewards, servants, husbandmen, citizens of a King etc) are judged by their attitude to their orders... (faithful, lazy, wicked, rebellious, asleep etc)
- ▶ How we “take God’s Name” influences our whole Christian life!

Calling On The Name of the Lord

- ▶ Those who call on the Name of the Lord will be saved. (Genesis 4:26, 12:8, Judges 15:8, 2 Samuel 22:1-7, 1 Kings 18:24, Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13)
- ▶ God responds when we call upon His Name!
- ▶ Call upon the name of the Lord relevant to your situation e.g Jehovah-Jireh for provision, YHWH-Raphah for healing
- ▶ When you do this you call upon the very nature of God Himself and ask him to act consistently with who He is.
- ▶ The names of God are thus “prayer fuel” that can lead us into worship, praise, confession, supplication and intercession

Praising & Blessing God’s Name

- ▶ To “praise His Name” is to praise God for who He is in His inmost being... often an expression of gratitude
- ▶ Genesis 29:32-35
- ▶ **Psalms 7:17 MKJV** *I will praise Jehovah according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of Jehovah most high.*
- ▶ 2 Samuel 22:47-51
- ▶ 1 Chronicles 29:10-13
- ▶ Psalm 48:10, 52:8,9
- ▶ Romans 15:9
- ▶ Hebrews 13:15