

## Love Is For Ever -- Rediscovering Abba's Fantastic Truths

Please read Malachi 2:2

### Why is an Accurate Understanding of His Name so Important?

Several times, surface readers of the Word have said to us, *When I study my Bible, there is no way I could come up with any other name but Jesus and God. I do not see the other names in there.*

Truth is to be searched for like hidden treasure, **Matthew 13:44**, you have to dig a little deeper than just the surface. We must admit; change is hard. We are creatures of habit. This isn't a problem unless we are creatures of bad habits. Let me share a quote from a friend: "It's not the truth that hurts us; it's that we have been taught and believe so many things that are not true." Imagine our surprise to find the same idea elsewhere:

"We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn. G-d and heaven alone are infallible. Those who think that they will never have to give up a cherished view, never have occasion to change an opinion, will be disappointed. As long as we hold to our own ideas and opinions with determined persistency, we cannot have the unity for which Chr-st prayed." *Review & Herald*, 7-26-1892. This says that we have twice as many things to unlearn as we have yet to learn!!

"There is no excuse for anyone in taking a position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation." *Review & Herald*, 12-20-1892

When first exposed to the idea that He has a personal Name, my response was: "He's got lots of names. What's the big deal?" It is a big deal friend. He's got lots of titles/attributes, but only one Name. And we want to share with you the reasons why we feel this is vital, present truth for this very hour in earth's history.

*Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if thou canst tell? **Proverbs 30:4**. Are you up to that challenge? Hopefully, if you are not already a Berean, (**Acts 17:10-11**) you are showing interest in becoming one. Permit us to give you one final bit of encouragement before we continue:*

"Do not read the Word in the light of former opinions; but, with a mind free from prejudice, search it carefully and prayerfully. If, as you read, conviction comes, and you see that your cherished opinions are not in harmony with the Word, do not allow what you have believed or practiced in the past to control your understanding... Find out what is written, and then plant your feet on the eternal Rock." *Messages to Young People*, p. 260

Are you ready to find out why how we address our Creator is so important? Were you surprised to learn in **Hosea 2:16-17** that He has asked us to stop calling Him Lord? Yes, the KJV says *Ba'al*, one of two Hebrew words translated into English as Lord. Does it strike you as odd that this name of a false deity (*Ba'al*) is transliterated phonetically into English, but the Father's Name (YHVH) is not?

**Zechariah 14:9**--predicts that His Name will be restored. He has only one Name, not a name in every tongue. **Ezekiel 39:7**--shows that His people will no longer profane His Holy Name. How might we profane His Name? By using it in vain, by uttering it with contempt, by senseless repetition, by saying it doesn't matter what we call Him, or claiming we belong to YHVH (**II Chronicles 7:14, Daniel 9:19**) and then acting like Satan.

In light of this we have replaced the two "names" in question in **I Kings 18:21** using a Strong's Exhaustive Concordance which is based on the original manuscripts. *How long will you falter between two opinions? If [YHVH] is [Supreme], follow Him: but if [the Lord], then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.* (Remember, the word *Ba'al* means "Lord") Presently, our "Bibles" have two words meaning Ba'al. We aren't even given the right answer from which to choose!

One friend said, *Regarding the names of God, I do not believe God cares which translation of His name we use--we are limited by words but God wants us to understand the meaning of His name.*

Indeed, the Sacred Names mean something. It is a misconception to say that since we are not Hebrew, we use the English translation of His Name-- which means the same. It **does not** mean the same thing! Never translate someone's name; always transliterate it phonetically. Say it like they do. If you can say Vladimir Putin, you just spoke fluent Russian. If you can say Osama ben Laden, you just spoke fluent Arabic. If you can say Benjamin Netanyahu (the former Israeli Prime Minister), you just spoke pretty good Hebrew. If you can say Anwar Sadat (the assassinated president of Egypt), you just spoke fluent Egyptian. Leonardo Da Vinci, the creator of the famed painting entitled, *Mona Lisa*, was Italian. Will you try to convince me that since you don't speak Italian, you can't say his name? What don't people understand about this concept? We don't call Pablo Picasso, *Paul*. Nor do we call Don Juan, *Don John*. Almost every name in Scripture, including the names of pagan deities, has been transliterated except those of Divinity. We find this very inconsistent. If we cling to the man-made English name for the Almighty, we show more respect to historic figures than we do our Creator.

**Amos 4:13, Amos 5:8, and Amos 9:6**--plainly state that YHVH is the Name of the Creator.

**Isaiah 63:16**--YHVH has always been His Name.

**Exodus 3:15, Psalm 72:17**--YHVH will always be His Name. His Name is a memorial that endures forever.

A seal always has 3 parts: Name, title, domain. George Bush, President of the United States. The "seal of Yah" is found in the 4th commandment. Why is it important to know and use the right Name? We have said historically that His seal consists of "the LORD," "Creator" and "heaven and earth," respectively. Proper names don't need a "the" to introduce them. As it stands now, many sincere believers recognize a seal with 2 titles ("the LORD" and "Creator") and a domain—heaven and earth. We need to do our homework. His Name is a vital part of His seal; see **Revelation 7:1-4** and **14:1**.

So why is calling on the right Name important? *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name YHVH shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as YHVH hath said, and in the remnant whom YHVH shall call.* **Joel 2:32**.

This verse says that the remnant (earth's last generation) will call on YHVH and He will deliver them. This is us! Calling on the wrong name could be disastrous! See also **Isaiah 25:9**.

**Psalm 99:3, Psalm 111:9, Isaiah 57:15**--say His Name is Holy.

**Jeremiah 16:20-21**--proclaims even the wicked shall know that His Name is YHVH.

**Exodus 9:16**-- reveals that His Name is to be known throughout all the earth.

**Psalm 140:13**--tells that the righteous will give thanks unto His Name.

The last part of **Exodus 20:24** says *...in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee*. Our margin says that this word *record* means, "Cause My Name to be remembered." We have remembered His holy Name and, just as He said, we have been tremendously blessed. We are not bragging; we are just beggars trying to show other beggars where they can find bread. Do you think He had all of Scripture written without ever making mention of His Holy Name? Seventy-nine texts say, "Know that I am YHVH." One hundred and eight times the phrase "the Name (of) YHVH" is used, and more than 160 times in the OT, He introduces or identifies Himself saying, "I am **אֲנִי־יְהוָה** (YHVH)...." He could not have spoken more clearly.

He knows your name. Do you know His? The Father will only wink at our ignorance for a time, (**Acts 17:30**). Don't misunderstand, the salvation of the righteous, which have gone to their graves never having uttered or called upon the true Name of the Father or Son, is secure. They followed the light they had, but now He calls upon all men to repent. **Isaiah 52:6** says that His people shall know His Name. He will not always be so understanding when there is opportunity to learn His true Name and people fail to study to find the truth. Ignoring **Malachi 2:2** would not be wise. Don't be ignorant....

**....Be a Berean!**