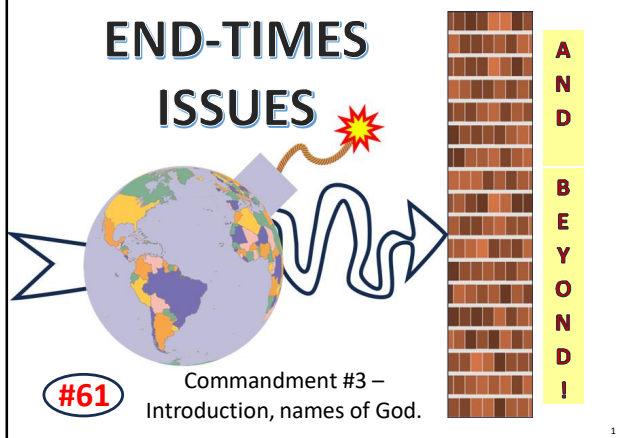


END-TIMES ISSUES



#61 Commandment #3 – Introduction, names of God.

1

The first three Commandments

The **FIRST Commandment** tells us that we are to give our absolute loyalty to the Creator God, the God of the Bible.

"You shall have **no other gods** before Me."
Exodus 20:3 (BSB); also Deuteronomy 5:7.

✓ This is the God who introduces himself as "the LORD" – which in Hebrew is יהוה. When transliterated into English, it is the four consonants: yhwah – which probably sounded like "Yahweh," and seems to refer to God's *absolute self-existence and unchangeableness, and perhaps also to his active presence.*

"I am **the LORD your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."
Exodus 20:2 (BSB); also Deuteronomy 5:6.

(We have already observed the parallels between Israel's redemption from *physical* slavery and our redemption from *spiritual* slavery. It is the same God who does both.)

2

The **SECOND Commandment** tells us that we are not free to invent our own "image" of who God is. Though the immediate reference is to a physical object (an idol), "image" includes non-physical (mental) perceptions of who God is and what he is like.

"You shall **not make for yourself an image** in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below."
Exodus 20:4 (NIV); also Deuteronomy 5:8.

✓ We have also seen that violating this command is a serious matter, with serious consequences. We must accept God's *self-revelation* of who he is, without adding to it or subtracting from it.

"You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **punishing** the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but **showing love** to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."
Exodus 20:5-6 (NIV); also Deuteronomy 5:9-10.

3

The **THIRD Commandment** warns us about how we are to use God's name. We shall see that God has given us his name to use... but *not in a meaningless or manipulative way.*

"You shall **not take the name of the LORD your God in vain**, for the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who takes His name in vain."
Exodus 20:7 (BSB); also Deuteronomy 5:11.

✓ We might not see the connection between this and the previous commandment, until we realize that God reveals himself – his "image" – by means of his names (along with his titles, symbolism, and other descriptive terms).

✓ All three of these commands require our absolute allegiance to the God of the Bible – the God who created all things.

- Who he is – i.e., which God/god is being referred to.
- What he is like – his nature, etc.
- The attitude we must have toward him (especially when we make use of his name).

4

God identifies himself by his names.


... the **name** of the LORD your God ...
From Exodus 20:7 / Deuteronomy 5:11

What does this mean?

✓ Today, we use "names" to identify people, almost like a label.

✓ Back then, "names" were much more significant. They had *meaning*.

- A person's name could tell us something about the person, be a reminder of some event that happened at the time the person was born, tell us something about God, etc.



5

RANDOM EXAMPLES OF NAMES AND WHAT THEY INDICATED

(These can often be expressed in English more than one way. Also, today, after thousands of years, we no longer know the significance of some names.)

- **Hezekiah** – strength of Yahweh
- **Abraham** – father of a multitude [God promised him offspring when his wife was barren and past childbearing age.]
- **Isaac** – laughter [They laughed when God told them that Sarah was going to have a son.]
- **Ichabod** – the glory has departed [He was born at the time that the ark of the covenant was captured by the Philistines.]
- **Adam** – red [The color of the soil, out of which he was formed.]
- **Eve** – the mother of all the living
- **Jesus** – savior, deliverer
- **Immanuel** – God with us

6

RESPONDING TO THE NAMES OF GOD

- ✓ God's names tell us about God – who he is, what he does, how he relates to us, how we are to respond to him, etc.
- **God's names demand a response** from us. Without that, we may have *factual* knowledge, but we won't have *experiential* knowledge – the type that comes from having a *living relationship* with the one who is known.
- **Without the right response** to God's names, we may "*know about*" God, but we won't "*know*" God. We would be like these people:

"You will be **ever hearing** but **never understanding**;
you will be **ever seeing** but **never perceiving**."

Acts 28:26b (BSB)

- ✓ God reveals himself in Scripture through his *many* names. There are also titles, symbolism, and other descriptive terms – things that we don't normally view as being "names," but which reveal to us something about God.

7

FROM ADAM TO MOSES TO JESUS TO THE BOOK OF REVELATION... GOD HAS PROGRESSIVELY REVEALED MORE ABOUT HIMSELF, WITH THE ULTIMATE REVELATION BEING IN JESUS.

- ✓ **We have more revelation** than did the people of the Old Testament.
 - People in all ages had what they needed for salvation. But we know more about God, than did people of the past.
 - This greater amount of revelation about God means we have greater accountability before God. So if we choose to ignore this revelation, our guilt will be greater than theirs.
- ✓ **Since we have this revelation** in Scripture. It is our duty to:
 - Recognize the God of the Bible, as being the *only* true God (Commandment #1). This God identifies himself as "Yahweh."
 - Learn about this God, and respond properly to what we learn (Commandment #2). He reveals himself through his names.
 - Use God's names in our lives, but only in a way that honors him (Commandment #3). (More about this in the future.)

8

- ✓ **An illustration of God revealing himself in different ways at different times.**

God also told Moses, "I am the LORD. **I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty**, but **by My name the LORD [= Yahweh] I did not make Myself known to them**.
I also established My covenant with them ...
... and [now] I have remembered My covenant.

Exodus 6:2-4a, 5b (BSB)

"God, the All-powerful One who can be trusted."

- **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob** *did* know the name "Yahweh" – the name occurs often in the book of Genesis. But in their interaction with God, the emphasis was on "God Almighty" – the God who was able to make covenant promises about the future.
- Because he was "God Almighty," he had the *power* to fulfil those promises – even though it would be at some unknown future time. They could *trust* him to do so.

9

God also told Moses, "I am the LORD. **I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty**, but **by My name the LORD [= Yahweh] I did not make Myself known to them**.
I also established My covenant with them ...
... and [now] I have remembered My covenant.

Exodus 6:2-4a, 5b (BSB)

"God, the Self-existing, Unchanging Creator,
actively present in the world."

- In Egypt, **Israel (and even Pharaoh)** would get to know God as the absolute God over all gods, who was actively present, actively *fulfilling* the promises made to Israel's ancestors.
- Being the LORD (Yahweh), he does not change. He couldn't fail in accomplishing what he had promised to their ancestors, centuries prior to this time.

10

- ✓ **How should we respond to these names?**

- We should consider what the names mean. In what ways do (or should) they have significance in our life? How should we respond to knowing God's names?
- This learning requires thinking about: ① what Scripture says and ② how it can apply it to our lives. This is often called "meditating" (carefully thinking) on God's Word. (This is the *opposite* of the world's concept of "meditation" – which involves "emptying" one's mind, rather than "filling" it with considerations about God and his works.)

God's names should influence
our values, attitudes, conduct, choices, etc.

11

THINK ABOUT IT! (EXAMPLES)

- If we learn that God is "**The Holy One**," how should that affect our attitude toward God? How should that affect our conduct?
- If we learn that God is "**The LORD who provides**," we can ask the same questions. We can also try to understand what it means if it doesn't seem that our needs are being met.
 - ❖ There could be several possible reasons for this:
 - ✓ "I'm living in sin and need disciplined."
 - ✓ "God is testing me; I need to trust him."
 - ✓ "God is withholding a short-term need in order to fulfil a more important long-term need."
 - ✓ Something else.
- If we learn that "**Immanuel**" means "**God is with us**," we should probably first ask ourselves if we believe this. If so, then how should that influence what we do throughout the day? Etc.

12

HOW MANY NAMES OF GOD ARE FOUND IN THE BIBLE?

- ✓ There are dozens of them. But if we included all the other descriptive terms, we would probably end up with a list several pages long.
 - ✓ All of these reveal something about God. All of them can influence how we "image" God in our minds – and can influence our interaction with him, and ultimately, influence everything in our lives.
-
- ✓ On the following pages are some of the names and other descriptive terms that describe God. These can include:
 - **Actual names**, such as: LORD/Yahweh (and several names that contain LORD/Yahweh as part of it), Jesus, Immanuel ...
 - **Titles** or descriptive terms that could also be viewed as names, such as: Shepherd, Messiah (Christ), the Word of God ...
 - **Symbolism**: The Vine, Lamb, Horn of Salvation, Chief Cornerstone, etc. (Some of these are found in parables and allegories, and in Old Testament practices that were intended to be a "picture" of Christ.)

13

NAMES OF GOD – SAMPLE LIST

- ✓ In some instances – especially when it comes to symbolism – we might not always agree on whether or not we should include it. This is mainly an issue of how we choose to categorize the terminology. (Either way, we can still learn from the actual Scripture passage.)
- ✓ Note that, in some translations (such as the KJV), Yahweh may be written as "Jehovah."

-
- LORD – Yahweh or Jehovah – Exodus 6:2
 - The LORD will provide – Genesis 22:14
 - The LORD who sanctifies (makes [people] holy) – Exodus 31:13
 - The LORD our shepherd – Psalm 23:1
 - The LORD of hosts/powers – Isaiah 1:24
 - The LORD our peace – Judges 6:24
 - The LORD our righteousness – Jeremiah 23:6
- God's special name.
 Typical compound names: LORD (Yahweh) + a descriptive word.

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- God (in O.T.: Elohim, sometimes El) – Genesis 1:1; John 1:1
 - God Most High / Most High God – Psalm 57:2; Hebrews 7:1
 - The Mighty God – Isaiah 9:6
 - God Almighty – Genesis 17:1
 - The Everlasting God – Isaiah 40:28
 - The Eternal God – Deuteronomy 33:27
 - The God who Sees – Genesis 16:13
- Words connected with "God" (Elohim) (in the O.T.)
- Lord God Almighty – Revelation 15:3
 - The Almighty who is, and who was, and who is to come – Revelation 1:8
 - Mighty to save – Isaiah 63:1
 - I AM – Exodus 3:14; John 8:58
 - Ancient of Days – Daniel 7:9
 - Adonai (Sovereign, Master) – Genesis 15:2 (connected to Yahweh)
 - Shiloh – Genesis 49:10

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- Holy One / Holy One of Israel – Acts 2:27; Isaiah 41:14; Psalm 71:22
- The Holy One of God – Mark 1:24
- The Counselor (Helper/Advocate) / the Spirit of truth – John 15:26
- Spirit of God – Genesis 1:2
- Holy Spirit – Matthew 3:11
- Jealous – Exodus 20:5; 34:14
- Invisible – 1 Timothy 1:17
- Alpha and Omega – Revelation 22:13
- The First and the Last – Revelation 1:17
- The Beginning and the End – Revelation 22:13
- The Author and Finisher/Perfector of Faith – Hebrews 12:2
- Head of the Body – Colossians 1:18
- Heir of All Things – Hebrews 1:2

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- Jesus ("Savior") – Matthew 1:21
- Christ – Matthew 16:16
- Messiah (same meaning as "Christ") – John 4:25
- Immanuel / Emmanuel – Isaiah 7:14 ; Matthew 1:23
- Lord (Master) – Romans 1:4
- Christ Jesus our Hope – 1 Timothy 1:1
- The Lord Jesus Christ – Romans 1:7
- Prophet – Acts 3:22
- The Great High Priest – Hebrews 4:14
- The Apostle and High Priest – Hebrews 3:1
- King – Psalm 5:2; Zechariah 9:9
- The King of Glory – Psalm 24:10
- The King of Kings and Lord of Lords – Revelation 19:16
- The King of Righteousness – Hebrews 7:2
- The Prince of Peace – Isaiah 9:6
- Our Peace – Ephesians 2:14

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- Son of God – Mark 1:1
- The Lamb of God – John 1:29
- The Word of God – Revelation 19:13
- The Lion of the Tribe of Judah – Revelation 5:5
- Our Passover Lamb – 1 Corinthians 5:7
- Last Adam – 1 Corinthians 15:45
- Son of Abraham – Matthew 1:1
- Offspring of David – Revelation 22:16
- Only Begotten God / Only Begotten Son / God the One and Only – John 1:18 (translations vary)
- The Firstborn among Many Brethren – Romans 8:29
- A Man of Sorrows – Isaiah 53:3
- A Worm, and No Man – Psalm 22:6

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- A Precious Stone – 1 Peter 2:6
- Branch – Zechariah 3:8
- Bread of Life – John 6:35
- The Vine – John 15:5
- Ladder/Stairway – Genesis 28:12 (compare to John 1:51)
- Rock – Deuteronomy 32:18; Matthew 16:18

- Rose of Sharon – Song of Solomon 2:1
- The Lily of the Valley – Song of Solomon 2:1
- My Beloved – Song of Solomon 6:3

Many view this book as a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church.)

- Star out of Jacob – Numbers 24:17
- The Bright Morning Star – Revelation 22:16

- Bridegroom – Matthew 9:15
- Shepherd – John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20
- The Sower – Matthew 13:3

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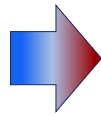
- Friend of Sinners – Matthew 11:19
- The Captain/Author of Salvation – Hebrews 2:10
- The Deliverer – Romans 11:26; Psalm 18:2
- The Intercessor – Hebrews 7:25
- Physician – Matthew 9:12

- The Mediator – 1 Timothy 2:5
- The Redeemer – Isaiah 59:20
- Finisher/Perfector of Faith – Hebrews 12:2
- The Righteous Judge – 2 Timothy 4:8

- Eternal Life – 1 John 5:20
- The Way, the Truth, the Life – John 14:6
- The Life – 1 John 1:2
- Resurrection – John 11:25
- Love – 1 John 4:8

20

**OUR
MISSION!**



**Learn
about
God!**

His names and titles (etc.) reveal a lot about him!

KNOWING + DOING!

The goal is NOT "mental knowledge" alone, but "knowledge applied to life."

Think about what God has revealed about himself.
It's there for a purpose – so that we can become more like him – i.e., more like Christ!

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Credits

SCRIPTURE

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