

Connecting Minds

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31)

The Gospel of John

Chapter 17:6

"I have manifested Your Name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world."

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me..." In the Bible the name describes the character of the individual. The name is an insight to understanding the person who bears it. We see this with Jacob when he was wrestling with God (read Genesis 32:26-29). God changes Jacob's name to Israel because the name Jacob means "supplanter" but Israel means "Prince with God". The name changes because Jacob is changing. Jacob also says to Whom he was wrestling "Tell me your name" because he knew that if he could know the name of the adversary that he was wrestling with he would know about that person. God decides to conceal Himself, saying "Why do you want to know My name..."

Perhaps the greatest example of the revelation of God's name is Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush. Read Exodus 3:11-15. When Moses says that the children of Israel will ask for the name of who has sent him, Moses is saying that they will be looking to know the character of the God who has sent him. God tells Moses to say "I AM has sent you." "I AM" is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

In Exodus 34:5-7 we are told that the Lord "descended in a cloud and proclaimed the name of the Lord..." What is illustrative of this is that the name of the Lord is proclaimed by the attributes, the character traits of God - merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abounding in goodness and truth, etc.

Jesus is saying that He has manifested the character of God to the people that God has given to Him. Let's look at some of the Old Testament names of God.

Genesis 22:14 – "And Abraham called the name of the place, 'The Lord Will Provide' as it is said to this day..." This name of God was spoken just after

God had provided a ram for sacrifice in place of Isaac. God is called Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who sees and provides. Jesus has manifested this name to His disciples in His own person for He is the Lamb of God, the true sacrifice provided for the people's sin.

Exodus 17:15 – “And Moses built an altar and called its name, ‘The Lord is my Banner’...” The name is Jehovah Nisse, as the Lord goes before us in our battles as the standard bearer. Jesus manifested this name as He was entering the battle with sin and death. The final enemy would be defeated because Jesus went ahead of us into battle and won the victory for us.

Jeremiah 23:6 – “In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called – The Lord Our Righteousness...” Christ is our righteousness.

Then when we come to the New Testament we can add one more name that Jesus reveals to His people. In teaching His disciples to pray Jesus reveals the name of Father to His people – “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name...” (Matthew 6:9).

The question then for us is “Do we know God in this way?” Jesus says that He had manifested the name of God to us. He says that He has made God known, He has revealed Him. When we pray to God are we considering all these things? Christians are not people who pray to an unknown God, nor do we pray in ignorance to a God we cannot know. Praise God that Jesus has revealed the name of God.

TableTalk

Read these other verses to see the manifested name of God to us.

Judges 6:24 - Jehovah Shalom - the Lord is our Peace
Ezekiel 48:35 - Jehovah Shammah - the Lord is There.
Psalm 23:1 - Jehovah Ra'ah - the Lord our Shepherd.
Exodus 15:25,26 - The Lord our Healer