

Trinity Sunday [c], June 6, 2004 (A Sermon by Rev. Ron Friedrich)

Psalm 8:1

*"GOD our Lord,*

*YOUR name is the most wonderful name over all the earth!"*

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Remember Moses standing in-front-of the burning bush.

In that flame, God spoke to Moses, telling him,

*"Go back to Egypt, and tell King Pharaoh: God's says, Let MY people go!"*

Naturally, Moses did-not want to go and speak for God.

Moses invented various excuses.

Moses said,

*"When I go to the people of Israel, I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers sent me to you.' What if the people say, 'What is his name?' What should I tell them?"*

What did God answer to Moses?

What is God's name?

*God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, 'I AM sent me to you.' "*

God' name: "I AM" is the Hebrew name YAHWEH, also written in old English as JEHOVAH. But most often in our English Bibles, that name for God, "I AM" "YAHWEH" appears as the word **L O R D** in all UPPER CASE letters.

God says, "I AM"

And that means all other "gods" ARE NOT!

"I AM!"

When Jesus used that name for Himself, the religious leaders became very angry. They did not believe that Jesus was true God. They said that Jesus must die for using God's name for himself.

"I AM"

The Bible describes God with many other names.

Some names describe God's character.

Some names describe God's action.

Psalm 8 describes God as almighty CREATOR:

*"I see YOUR heavens, that YOU made with YOUR fingers.  
I see the moon and stars, that YOU created [invented]."*

Then Psalm 8 says,

*"But people are important to YOU -- Why!?  
YOU take-care-of us -- For-for?  
YOU made people a little lower than the angels  
and YOU crowned us with glory and honor."*

That describes God's love and mercy.

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Today is TRINITY Sunday.

That name TRINITY, 3 - in - 1, describes who God is:

Father, Son, Holy Spirit,  
Three persons in One God.

And Each person has many more names that describe what they do.

**God, the Father,**

our Father gives us everything we need.

our maker

our Lord - He has Authority

**God, the Son,**

our Savior.

The name J E S U S in the Hebrew language means "The Lord is Savior"

In ASL, our Sign for Jesus also reminds us what He did to save us -- crucified on the Cross for us.

Other names for Jesus:

Christ -- the "ANOINTED" One, promised in the Old Testament as "MESSIAH" to save us.

Another names for Jesus:

IMMANUEL: God-with-us

The Good Shepherd

ALPHA and OMEGA - first and last

The Bread of Life

The Light for the World

The Door for His sheep

The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World

The Prince of Peace

and many more names,  
all describing who Jesus is, and what He does.

What about names for the Holy Spirit?

Comforter

Counselor (advisor)

ADVOCATE - the Holy Spirit communicates from God to us

The Spirit of Life

The Spirit of Truth

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So what's the point? Why remember those many names for God?

(1) Remembering Who God is, and what He does, increases our faith, and inspires us to **trust** Him more.

We need never fear. God will not change.

(2) Remembering God's names inspires us to **praise** Him.

As Psalm 8 says:

*GOD our Lord,  
YOUR name is the most wonderful name over all the earth!  
Your name brings YOU praise in heaven above.  
YOU teach children and babies to sing praises to you.*

Who praises God in heaven?

Angels  
And all people that died in Christ.

Who praises God on earth?

All who trust Christ with faith same-as children.

Sometime when you pray,

stop asking God for things,  
and start praising Him by His names.

*Lord, You are Holy!  
Lord, You are my Maker!  
Lord, You are my Savior!  
Lord, You are my Support!  
Christ Jesus, You are my door to heaven!  
You are food for my soul, my Bread of Life!  
You are my Good Shepherd!  
You are my Light!  
You are my Way!  
You are my Truth!  
You are my Life!*

And also remember to thank God for His blessing to you.  
Thank Him for specific things He does to help you.

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Again:

(1) God's names teach us to trust Him more.

(2) God's names help us to praise Him from our heart.

And

(3) God's names guides us in prayer in times of great need.

You may notice the way people in the Bible prayed to God, when they had troubles.

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One day a Jewish king named HEZEKIAH *[invent a name sign]*, he got a letter. That was not a friendly letter. The letter came from the king of ASSYRIA (northern Iraq). The enemy army camped all around the Jerusalem. The Jews couldn't fight against the enemy. Assyria was strong and Israel was weak.

The letter from the enemy told King Hezekiah to give-up (surrender).

The letter said,

*"Don't trust your God. Your God lies to you. Your God can't help you! The gods of other nations didn't help them. We destroyed those other nations, and we will destroy you, also!"*

What did King Hezekiah do with that letter? Tear it up? No!

Hezekiah took that letter *[with anger]*, walked into the temple. He spread that letter on the floor in front of the altar.

Hezekiah prayed:

*"LORD, God over Israel, Your throne is in heaven.  
Only you are God over all the kingdoms of the earth.  
You made the heavens and the earth.  
Open your eyes, LORD, and see this letter.  
See how the King of Assyria insults you, the living God.*

*Yes, Assyria finish destroyed other countries and other nations.  
Yes, Assyria destroyed other gods,*

*gods made with wood and stone,  
gods that people make,  
gods that have no power.*

*Now, Lord, save us, and all kings in the world will know that You,  
Lord, are the only God!" (2 kings 18 - 19)*

You see, King Hezekiah APPEALS to God's name, "I AM."  
And the king APPEALS to God's reputation.

And that night God answered Hezekiah's prayer.  
God destroyed Assyria's army.

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Your reputation, your good name is important to you.

God's reputation, His good name is also important to Him.

That is why the 10 Commandments teach us to honor God's name in the way we talk and the way we live.

That is why Jesus taught us to pray, "*Holy be Thy Name!*"

And God's people in prayer can show their faith in God's power and God's love by praising His names that describe His power and His love.

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Example: Maybe you remember the story about King JEHOSHAPHAT in the Bible (2 Chronicles 20:1-30). Three large enemy armies joined together and marched against Jerusalem. King Jehoshaphat led the Jewish people out from the city to meet the battle. They waited, and they sang:

*Oh, Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good,  
And His mercy remains forever!*

Then those three enemy armies came. And while Israel sang praise to God, the three enemy armies began fighting against each-other.

*"...He is good! And His mercy remains forever!"*

That song of praise that described God's character,  
that song was Israel's secret WEAPON.

King David told the truth, when he wrote:

"GOD our Lord,  
YOUR name is the most wonderful name over all the earth!"

Amen!