



The Disciple's God

"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM';
and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel,
'I AM has sent me to you.' "
Exodus 3:14

**A Study on
the Names of God**

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The Disciple's God

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Preface

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urges the disciples to follow Him. He has laid down the teaching and the walk before us that we need to follow in His steps as our supreme example.

It is key for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

It is our belief here at Project L.A.M.B.S. that it is important and key for the disciples to know and understand clearly what and who they are in Christ before they will be able to pass it on to someone else. Our hope is that you will want to commit yourselves and take seriously this pilgrimage journey that you are about to take.

It will not be easy and for many it will be like looking in a mirror and seeing things you really do not want to know or see. But before something can become mature it has to start as a seed then be nurtured by its environment before it can become mature enough to produce more fruit. This takes time, dedication and training in the disciplines of Christ.

James 4:10 tells us that this discipleship journey starts by “humbling thyself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.”

Secondly, we learn through Paul and James that it is important to draw closer to Christ, to who He is, so that we could begin to make the next step of making a lifelong commitment to Him as a disciple.

James 4:8a points out that as you draw closer to Christ; He will draw closer to you. This training is to help the disciple to understand who they are, so that they can give it away to someone else and to keep spreading the good news to as many as would receive it.

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This booklet is for you to learn from so that you could take two or three other people and teach and equip them in their faith so that they could in turn teach, equip and train also two or three more people (multiplication factor).

This is a pilgrimage that I believe that Jesus is taking us on so that we will be able to fulfill the great commission of making disciples so that they could become laborers who will bring in the last day harvest that is ready (Matthew 9:37-38).

Our call is not to be so much a Nehemiah, who built physical walls, but to be an Ezra, who built a spiritual relationship in people with God. Ezra means “the one who helps.” The role of the teacher is to help guide and equip others in their discipleship walk with Jesus Christ.

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Introduction:

At the beginning of each discipleship step you will find a key verse that sets the foundation for the entire book. The booklet is also set up in the “**A. B. C. Method**” of outlining. “**A**” representing the word **approach** (as known as introduction) which helps to introduce the section that will be discussed. “**B**” is the **body** of teaching that helps to better explain the topic and “**C**” represents the **conclusion**. This is where the teaching is summed up, plus it gives to the reader ideas on how to apply this truth to one life.

Each booklet also has as a memory verse, plus a little prayer to help the disciple to focus his prayer life on. Each section point contains one to three questions to help the disciple to think about that point in their own personal lives. There is also study question and extra Scriptures that could be used in a group setting. Example: cell groups, Sunday school etc. Pastors could also use these materials as a foundation for a sermon.

The best way for people to learn, is for the reader to clearly study and understand each step themselves personally and then for them to go out and teach someone else. This will bring greater discipline and understanding into one's own personal lives.

We pray that as you freely receive you will freely give to others around. The Holy Spirit is our great teacher and we need to call upon him as we study these lessons individually or as a group. God wants to use **YOU** as a channel of His love and grace, to be a vessel of faith and hope to people who you will come into contact with each day. I encourage you to “Keep on keeping on for Jesus Christ”.

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“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’; and He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

Exodus 3:14

APPROACH:

The key to a strong discipleship walk is for us to personally get to know who God is. Throughout the history of man, God has revealed His character and nature to man through His different names which taken together show us the overall bigger picture of who God is. The compound names of Jehovah portray some aspect of His character as meeting human need. The Hebrew Bible gives to us the descriptive titles of how we are to know and understand God.

The first name is,

EL: translated “God”; mighty; strong, prominent, used about 250 times.

Elohim: translated “God”; the plural form of EL, indicating the trinity; idea of greatness and glory, creative, governing power, omnipotence and sovereignty; used some 2570 times in Scripture; indicates plurality in unity; relates to His work.

The second name is,

Yahweh: translated “LORD” or “GOD”; to be, being, to live, life, self-existent; used some 6823 times in the Old Testament; God of revelation.

I Am: “The name “I AM”, which is Yahweh (Jehovah), is the first person form of the Hebrew verb “to be.” The name “I AM” is often expanded to mean “I AM (who I am).” In context, the name is better understood as an affirmation by God of His eternal presence with each

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generation of His people: God is One who is always present". (page 510, of The Revell Bible Dictionary,1990)

The third name is,

Adonai: translated as “Lord”, master, sir, lord, owner; used some 350 times; confirms the idea of the trinity.

The circle best represents God because there is no beginning and no end and He is all-inclusive. We are in the middle of that circle and as long as we stay there and stay in His will we will see the amazing fullness of who God is and what He can do. The names of God show us His character and nature. They also show how God comes to us as a Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three aspects and functions but one God. In this booklet we will see God as our Provider, Healer, Banner, Sacrifice, Peace, Lord, Righteousness, Shepherd and ever-present Help.

FOCUS AND TARGET FOR TEACHER & STUDENT

TEACHER: In the Old Testament names carried identification about the person they were given to. The key to this step is to show the disciples some of who God is by studying His different names. Knowing and understanding these Names can help us in our walk and pilgrimage for Christ.

STUDENT: The student will understand the implications of how the names of God impact our personal walk with Him each day. We need to see that these names paint for us a picture of the magnificence of the One we serve. You are urged to daily choose a name of God to focus on, depending on Him to act in YOUR life in that capacity.

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DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

Understanding the meaning of words is the heart to understanding Scripture. Words are the bridge that can help us to understand more about ourselves and about God and His word the Bible. Please take time to meditate and reflect on the broad and narrow view of each word as defined, along with its synonyms.

Name: the word by which a person is known; having an established reputation. *Synonyms:* denomination, designation, title, distinction, eminence, esteem, honour, renown, character, credit, reputation, call, label, classify, commission, designate, identify.

Title: claim; right; a legal right to the ownership. *Synonyms:* caption, label, designation, name, crown, entitlement, ownership, privilege, right.

Character: distinctive quality. *Synonyms:* attribute, constitution, makeup, trait, nature, personality, quality, reputation, temperament, integrity, strength, uprightness.

SCRIPTURE

Scripture is the key to a good biblical foundation and it is the next step to help us as a disciple to mature in Christ. Please look up and read each portion of the Scriptures in their entirety. Take into account the author who wrote it, who it was written to and the context in which it relates to the other verses and chapters around it.

Exodus 3:14-15 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.” God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.”

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STUDY

This key Scripture gives to us the fullness of who God is to mankind. Moses wanted to clearly know what he should say to the people and who should he say told him and why he was sent to them. Moses felt that the people would not believe because they had been in bondage for such a long time. God gave Moses a history lesson on how He had not changed and He would be the same to him as He was to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. All Moses had to do was to tell the people that "I Am" sent him and this great "I Am" would be all that they would need if they would have faith and trust Him in all things. The names of God are there to show us the fullness and completeness of who He is.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

The Bible is full of examples showing how God speaks to His people concerning His titles. Take time to look up these people and reflect on how God can speak to us through these people. Just as He used them He desires to use us as His vessels for service.

Adam and Eve: At the beginning of creation and time, it was Elohim who created mankind, both male and female, to be the crowning glory of all His creation. He gave them the blessing of being stewards of all that He had created. They walked with Him in the coolness of the day. Adam's and Eve's free will turned against God in disobedience and sin and man fell. This did not mean the end but it did mean that sin and death had now been loosed upon the earth. However, God did not stop reaching out and we see through His names how He continued to reveal Himself and minister to all who will call upon His name.

Abraham: He had a deep and personal relationship with Jehovah (LORD), the self-existent eternal One. As Abraham learned to walk in obedience to Jehovah, he could be sure of His presence and know that all the covenant promises would be fulfilled in due time.

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Moses: In the book of Exodus after forty years in the wilderness, God revealed Himself to Moses also as Jehovah. On the basis of God's name Moses would lead the people of Israel out of bondage, always certain of the LORD's presence and power at work on their behalf.

Isaiah: He was called and commissioned for service by Adonai, the Lord who claims obedience and service. In Isaiah 6:8 he wanted to serve the Lord so much that when Isaiah heard God ask who would go, he said, "Lord here am I; send and use me".

David: David said in Psalm 110, The LORD (Jehovah) said unto my Lord (Adonai). Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool." This was a prophetic word about the Messiah. David also revealed that he knew the LORD as the great shepherd of the sheep, the shepherd over all shepherds.

Jesus: The disciples got to know the full nature and character of Jesus through his names such as the Vine, Bread, Light, Good Shepherd, etc. In the Bible we have names that were used by the Old Testament writers for Jesus, and in the New Testament, names used by Christ for Himself and names used by those who wrote about Him.

These are people with normal lives. God revealed Himself to these people in a variety of ways, calling ordinary people to do extraordinary things for His glory.