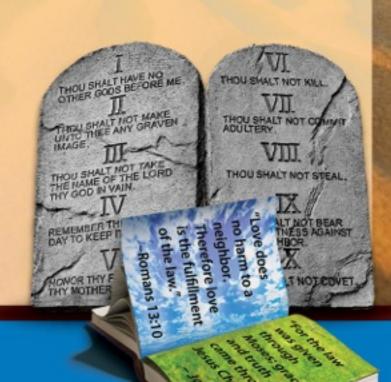




MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# LESSON 3: WHAT'S IN A NAME?



#### **MEMORY VERSE**

You shall not misuse the Name of the Lord Your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His Name.

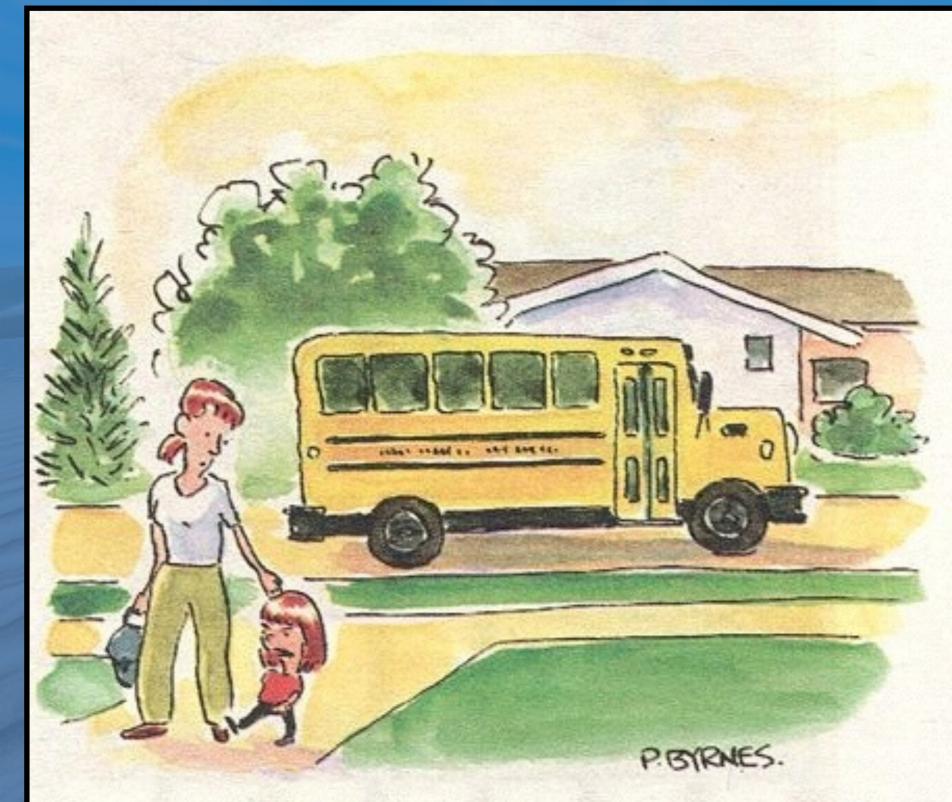
Exodus 20:7

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

**DEFINITION** 

Power and Control

Expectations

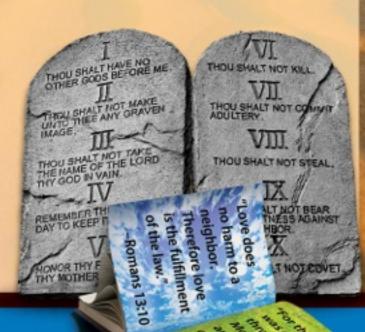


"Everyone else in my class is Shamiqua, Taylor or Ashley. How'd I get stuck with a weirdo name like Mary?"

# **Changing A Name**

Abram Abraham (father of a multitude)
Sarai Sara (mother of nations
Jacob Israel(he strives with God)
Simon Peter (rock)
Saul Paul (small, humble)

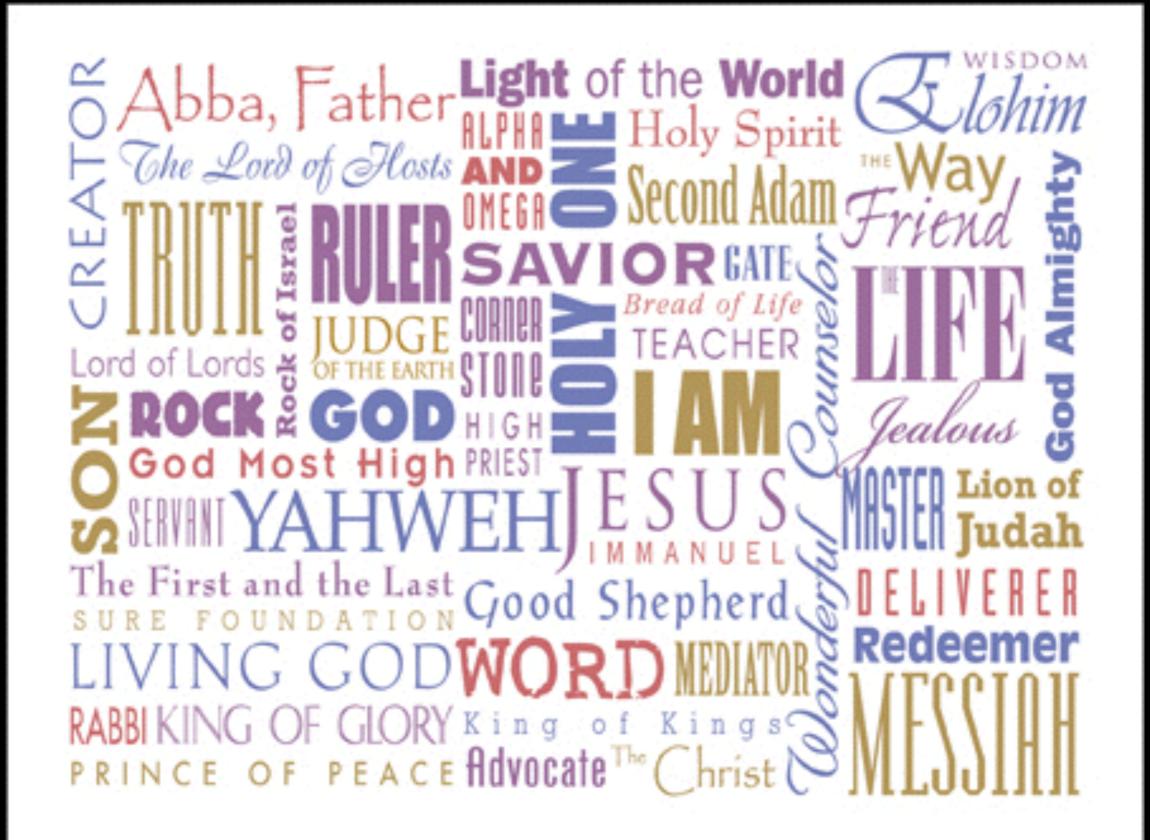
# The Names



# **God Names Himself**



Exodus 3: 13-15



#### **Old Testament**

ELOHIM: The plural form of "El" meaning strong one, it implies the Trinity. El Shaddai means God Almighty.

YAHWEH (YHWH): derives from a verb meaning "to exist, to be" in Hebrew. This stresses God as the independent, self-existent God of revelation and redemption.

ADONAI: Like "Elohim" this is a plural noun. It means majesty and stresses man's relationship to God as his master, authority and provider.

#### **New Testament**

**THEOS**: Greek word translated as "God", the primary name for God used in the New Testament.

THEOS is the name used of Christ as God in John, Titus, Romans, Hebrews and 2 Peter.

#### **New Testament**

KURIOS: Greek word translated as "Lord", stressing His authority and supremacy.

KURIOS is used mostly as the equivalent of Yahweh of the Old Testament and also used to refer to Christ.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT**

**DESPOTES:** "Master", conveying the idea of ownership while Kurios stresses supreme authority.

#### **New Testament**

**ABBA:** "Father". A distinctive revelation that through faith in Christ, God becomes our personal father.

"Father" is used of God in the Old Testament only 15 times, while it is used to refer to God 245 times in the New Testament.

ABBA stresses God's loving care, provision, and discipline. Jesus teaches us to address God by that name when praying.

#### **Power and Control**

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

Genesis 2: 19-20

# MISUSING GOD'S NAME

Calling on the name of the Lord to summon Him, as in an incantation. Those who do so are not calling on God to intervene but are trying to control God's divine power over life, death and the future themselves.

False prophets and teachers declare "thus says the Lord" to deceive people into thinking God has sent them. Those who swear falsely in the name of the Lord are putting His Name in service of their lies.

Calling on God when you don't expect Him to answer.

Using His name for your own purposes.

Using His name carelessly.

### SPECIAL LECTURE NEXT WEEK!



Susan Jonesia, long-time BSD participant and a Jewish believer, will share with us next week how she and her family celebrate the Blessing of the Sabbath.

## APPLYING THE LESSON

As you go through the week, be mindful of the ways you are tempted to misuse the name of God.

Discuss with your group what you noticed.

