

LOOKING UP

July-August 2024

*"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24*

What's In a Name?

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

Everyone has one. They're so common that it's easy to take them for granted. But names are extremely important. When you use someone's name, you're not just using a word that helps to identify them. You're using a word that stands in for them. When someone uses your name, they are referring to everything about you that makes you you. Who your parents are, where you came from, what you've done in life, what you're known for. When you really

get down to it, a person's name is one of the most important things that they have, as it is a short and easy way of condensing so much into so little.

This is of course true of God as well. When we use the name (or names) of God, we are referring to everything about Him. And we learn a lot about God by looking at what He's called. For instance, when the people of Israel were in bondage in Egypt and God appeared to Moses in a burning bush, Moses wanted to know what He was to call the Lord when speaking His words to the people: Then Moses said to God,

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

Sunday School
(On summer break)
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

(On summer break)

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

(On summer break)

Youth Group

(On summer break)

Friday Night Bible Study

(On summer break)

“If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” (Ex. 3:13-14) God gave His people a name to use when referring to Him that speaks of the fact that He is the only God who is...the only God who exists. Apart from Him, there is no other.

Jesus’ disciples had known His name for some time already when He initiated a conversation about who He was. He began by having His disciples list off who the crowds thought He might be before turning the question to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Jesus was not asking them to merely repeat back to Him the name that they and everyone else used to refer to Him in daily life. He wanted to draw out from them a name that more fully explained Who He was. Peter’s reply, on behalf of the disciples, did exactly that, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matt. 16:13-16) In this, Peter declared that Jesus was the One who was to come, the One through Whom God would fulfill His promises of salvation and deliverance.

There is so much that can be said regarding the names of God, but in the end He has given us the one Name which is most important for us and all people to know: Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:9-11)

Dear Saints, take comfort in knowing the name of Jesus, and that you can call upon Him. May His Name be ever in our hearts and on our lips.

Looking Ahead

July 8-12
Confirmation Class

July 14th
Confirmation Sunday

July 17th
Red Cross Blood Drive

July 24-26
VBS

August 4-11
Family Promise Serve Week

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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