

What is the Name of the Heavenly Father?

by
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The question which is posed by the title of this article is one which has been asked of every reader of the Inspired Scriptures from antiquity. It is found in Proverbs 30:4. ***“Who has ascended up into heaven, and descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in his garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son’s name, if you know?”*** Would you believe that there was a Father and a Son in the Old Testament Scriptures? Here we have a legitimate question which is posed by the writer of this portion of Proverbs. It demands an answer of each one of the readers of the volume! There can be no side stepping the issue by claiming that a faulty translation is responsible for the interrogative, nor will an investigation of the text support the conclusion that the verse is a Christian interpolation, of later date than the authorship. We are confronted with a question which demands an answer and the Inspired Scriptures will yield the solution.

Furthermore, when we come across into the New Testament we

encounter several additional passages of Scriptures which make the matter of learning the True Name of the Heavenly Father rather urgent. The passage which is perhaps the most crucial in impetus of all, is Ephesians 3:14 and 15. ***“For this cause I bow my knees to the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.”*** If any Scripture in the Bible should spur us with zealous incentive to learn the True Name of the Almighty Heavenly Father it would be this salient passage! Surely if we are to bow our knees in worship of the Heavenly Father as did Paul, if we are to take upon us the Name of the Heavenly Father for whom the entire spiritual family is named, then it becomes imperative that we seek the Name which He Himself selected as His own distinct appellation.

In the past there have been ministers who have used it as an evasive interpretation to sidestep this momentous issue. The inter-

pretation as they saw it is the doctrine that the Yahweh of the Old Testament became the Savior in the New Testament. On the surface this might appear to be a plausible interpretation, perhaps becoming even more convincing when read against a backdrop of authoritarian preaching. However, once more we are confronted by the fact that our Savior Yahshua the Messiah stated in John 5:43, ***“I have come in my Father’s name...”*** If the Heavenly Father gave His Name to His Son, who became our Messiah, then consequently we are forced to seek the Name of the Father. ***“For I, Yahweh, change not...”*** (Malachi 3:6).

Before we leave this thought to seek the name of the Father, we must bear in the forefront of our minds the petition which our Savior prayed in His high priestly prayer in John chapter 17, that the Father would keep His own little flock in the Father’s Name (verses 11-12), and that it was the Name of the Heavenly Father which the Messiah had declared to the faithful disciples (verses 6 and 26). In Revelation 19:10 and 22:9, the angel who is speaking to the Apostle John com-

mands the Apostle to worship Almighty Yahweh, not the angelic being who had revealed the vision of the Kingdom. Now certainly it is not too difficult for the thinking man to perceive that the Inspired Scriptures construct quite a substantial case which should compel us to search diligently for the Name of the Heavenly Father. We must comprehend that ultimately all things revert back to the Father. If these Scriptures indicate that the Name of the Heavenly Father is so important and intrinsic to our salvation, if we, the body of the True Worshipers are to be called by the Name of the Father, then He certainly would not have hidden it from His people.

Recognizing the dilemma in which the above Scriptures have now placed the sincere and dedicated Bible student, we shall proceed to the exclusive source of all truth, the Old Testament Scriptures. These Scriptures are the primary root of our Faith, the very Word of our Heavenly Father Yahweh in which we may find the narrow way to salvation. This Word of our Heavenly Father will bring us the essential information which each True Worshiper must carry within His heart and mind, if we do not seek to substantiate a doctrine of men which we may have been taught by rote. It is imperative that we approach the Old Testament Scriptures with an open mind if we wish to come to understand what our Heavenly Father wishes us to learn.

Yahweh's Messenger

The book of Malachi, which is the last book of the Old Testament Scriptures, was not written by a prophet called Malachi. The opening verse of the book holds a secret which few ministers today understand. It reads from the literal Hebrew translation, ***"The prophecy of the Word of Yahweh to Israel by My Messenger."*** The

word **Malachi** in the Hebrew means ***"My angel or My Messenger."*** Who, may we ask, was the angel of Yahweh, the messenger of Yahweh? Was it not the one who transmitted the words of the Heavenly Father to Israel and who carried the Name of the Father, in Exodus 23:20-23 (especially verse 21)? This angel received a better Name, a Name greater than any other angel, Hebrews 1:4. All the angels who are named in the Scriptures have names ending with "El." This one special angel in the Scriptures was given the Name of the Almighty! Now notice what this personal messenger of Yahweh tells the priests (ministers) of Israel in verse 6 of chapter one. ***"A son honors his father, and a servant his master; if then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says Yahweh of hosts unto you, O PRIESTS, THAT DESPISE MY NAME..."*** This is rather alarming when we realize that this book was written especially for the people of our day, the people who would be living in the time of the great day of Yahweh the Almighty! Does your minister give honor to the NAME of the Almighty Father, which from this verse can be determined to be YAHWEH? When we read the remainder of this first chapter and also the second chapter of Malachi, we can easily discern that the negligence on the part of the priests (perhaps in many cases deliberately) calls for imminent corrective judgment as the Almighty pours upon them and their seed a curse for disobedience.

Now let us return to the prophecy of Isaiah. Here we may again detect that the Name of the Father has been revealed to His people. In chapter 63, verse 16, we read, ***"For you are our Father, though Abraham knows us not, and Israel does not acknowledge us: you, O Yahweh, are our Father; our Redeemer FROM EVER-LASTING IS YOUR NAME."*** How

perfectly obvious. It is Yahweh that is the Father and His Name is from everlasting, from before the beginning! Here I might insert parenthetically that I have returned the Name of the Almighty back to the text. In this passage we may again note that the Personal Name of the Almighty is found in the Hebrew text, the four letters which comprise His Name and which can be best brought across from the Hebrew as Yahweh. If you obtain the use of one of the modern translations which uses the Sacred Name in the text, you could be surprised if you check this for yourself. For instance the **Jerusalem Bible** translates this verse, ***"For you are our Father. For Abraham does not own us and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, Yahweh, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient Name."***

Just one chapter later we may note the confrontation of an additional reference to the Name of the Father. In Isaiah 64:8 we read: ***"But now, O Yahweh, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you our potter; and we all the work of your hand."*** Another convincing text has emerged for our scrutiny! Surely here we have ample evidence from several witnesses in the Old Testament Scriptures that the Name of the Almighty Heavenly Father is "YAHWEH." If we are truly His children, the submissive clay which is yielded to His will, to be molded as the master potter desires, then we must bow our heads and worship in the Name of Yahweh when it has been revealed to us, just as did ancient Israel when Moses preached the Sacred Name to them, Exodus 4:29-31.

You will observe while you are checking this passage that Yahweh calls Israel His son, His firstborn, in verses 22-23. An additional verse which has great meaning in the Hebrew text is to be found in Deuteronomy 14:1, ***"You are the***

children (sons-Hebrew) of Yahweh your Elohim (Mighty One).” If we are His children (sons), then He is our Father and it imperative that we know, use, and call ourselves by His Name. This is the primary reason why the body of the Messiah is called the Assemblies of Yahweh! We are indeed called by the Father’s revealed, personal Name! We should note that Joel 2:32 indicates that when we call upon the Name of Yahweh the Father, we will be saved. Please see also 1 Peter 1:17.

The Glorified Name

Returning again to the New Testament to accumulate additional decisive evidence for the Name of the Almighty Heavenly Father, we should return to the Savior’s model prayer which He designed for teaching His disciples how to pray effectively, Matthew 6:9, “**...Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be your name.**” At a number of places in the Old Testament we read that our Heavenly Father will eventually sanctify (hallow) His great Name, among them is Ezekiel 36:23. When the Savior implores the Father to glorify His Name, the voice from on High declares, “**...I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.**” (John 12:28). At the close of this age of man, when knowledge has been increased, this prophecy is being fulfilled each time you hear the Sacred Name of the Heavenly Father being proclaimed, whether it is via the instruments of radio or printed page utilized in outreach by the Assemblies of Yahweh, or whether this magnificent Sacred Name appears through the teaching of other religious groups.

Again we must consider the intrinsic value of the Sacred Name of the Father in relation to our everlasting salvation. Dictionaries of the Hebrew language bear out the fact that the Name **YAHWEH** means *eternal, endlessness, everlast-*

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ing, eternity. The subsequent follow-up question which presents itself immediately would of necessity have to be, “If this is the Name which means eternal, everlasting life, how can we hope to realize our hope of everlasting salvation without calling on this Name which contains eternity as an intrinsic characteristic?” “**...The man of wisdom will see your name...**” (Micah 6:9). It is the Sacred Name which is vitally important to our salvation.

Can You Fulfill These Prophecies?

Finally we approach the time of the end, the culmination of this age. When the redeemed ones stand with our Savior Yahshua the Messiah upon the Mt. Zion, they will bear the unique characteristic of the True Worshipers down through all the corridors of time in this age of man. This uniqueness which the saved ones will bear will be one of the ways in which they have cleansed the praises of their lips to offer pure worship with no guile or falsehood to the Almighty. In their foreheads (meaning in their minds, their intellect), will be found the name of the Father and the Son. Please check the following Scripture and especially seek a copy of the Greek text in Revelation 14:1 to verify this thought. See also Revelation 22:4. Conversely, the people who are destined for judicial punishment will be bearing in their foreheads the name of the beast, and the names

of blasphemy carried by the beast, Revelation 13:16-17; 14:11; 17:3-5, while simultaneously they will continue to blaspheme the Name of the Almighty Yahweh while judgment is being poured out upon them, Revelation 16:9.

Finally, let us notice Malachi 3:16-17. These are the people who will have rejected the wickedness of this end time age and will be spared (protected) from the wrathful judgment of Yahweh. Notice what all of these people will be doing which will earn for them the favor of the Most High. “**Then they that feared Yahweh spoke one with another; and Yahweh listened, and heard, and a book of remembrance was written before him, for them that feared Yahweh, and that thought upon HIS NAME. And they shall be mine, says Yahweh of hosts, even my own possession, in the day that I make; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own SON that serves him.**”

If Yahweh Is El Follow Him...

Again we may discern the paternal relationship between the Almighty and His True Worshipers.

Are you still in the dark about the importance of using and worshiping in the revealed, personal Name of the Almighty Father? Today the message of 1 Kings 18:21 is being proclaimed more powerfully than it has ever been to our contemporary world. “**...How long will you go limping between the two sides? If Yahweh is Elohim, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.**” No man can serve two masters! What is the Name of the Heavenly Father? What is the Name of the Son? The answer from the Scriptures should now be obvious. “**I am Yahweh, that is my name...**” (Isaiah 42:8). Begin now to honor the Name of our Heavenly Father so that He will bless you as He has promised. □