

What's In The Name?

Intro: Man is at times from difficult to understand. It makes sense that God would be complicated to grasp as well. Nevertheless, we are told God has revealed himself and that we will be accountable to him (Romans 1:18-21; Psalm 46:10). One way he does it is through his many names (See slide).

1. Why should we study the names of God?
 - A. Told to honor his name – Exodus 20:7
 - B. Told to praise his name – Psalm 8:1; 48:10; 75:1; 76:1
 - C. His name is a source of strength – Proverbs 18:10

2. How has God revealed himself to humanity?
 - A. By his word – Hebrews 1:1
 - B. Through nature – Psm. 19:1
 - C. By his word through prophets – Heb. 1:1
 - D. By “The Word”, Christ our Lord – John 1:14
 - E. But before Christ came, God revealed himself.

3. What went wrong in the “Garden”?
 - A. Man lived with God and appeared to know him.
 - B. Man believed an animal rather than God.
 - C. Man was told by the animal that he should be God.
 - D. Man believes it and then loses his innocence.
 - E. Man continues to be drawn to self-worship today.

4. Name Number 1 – Elohim
 - A. Word comes from another, “alah” which means to swear. Elohim is being described as someone under the obligation of an oath.
 - B. He is described as a “covenant maker” (Genesis 6:13, 18; 9:9, 17; 17:1-8)
 - C. He is described as one who remembers his creation and its creatures.
 - D. First thing he wants us to know about him is that he is the creator.
 - E. Knowing God as creator presented as a way of Job dealing with his hardships.
 - F. His being creator, and our acceptance of it, is pivotal throughout scripture.

Conclusion: We are embarking on what I believe can be an incredibly meaningful journey of study. Which of us doesn't want to know God better? Long before he revealed himself through Messiah, he showed himself in his names.