

Names of God – Lord of Hosts (Sabaoth)

Introduction: Many of the names of God developed rather early in the Old Testament. One that doesn't, is the source of tonight's discussion. Often confused by some who think it is teaching that it has some reference to the Sabbath Day, this name refers to the "hosts" or "armies" that are at the disposal of God the Creator.

1. Where It's Used
 - A. Not in Moses' writings
 - B. Rarely in Samuel, Kings or Chronicles.
 - C. Never in other early history books or Proverbs or Ecclesiastes.
 - D. Mostly in the Prophets – Jeremiah (80); Haggai (14); Zech. (50); Mal. (25)
2. Review the other names and consider what role this name might have in comparison.
3. It appears most prevalently in the Prophets where God's people have failed.
 - A. Consider the national context of Israel when the Prophets wrote.
 - B. Appears to be used when God's people know we have failed, but God in his power will always remain.
 - C. Consider the use by David in I Samuel 17:45.
4. Look at the way Isaiah uses the name in the context of his life as a prophet.
 - A. Isaiah 1:8-9
 - B. Isaiah 6:1-3
 - C. Isaiah 9:13, 19
 - D. Isaiah 10:12; 24-27
 - E. Isaiah 31:4-5
5. The Psalmist and Haggai also help us to see the picture.
 - A. Psalm 80:4, 19
 - B. Haggai 2:4-9, 23

Conclusion: When the "multitude of the heavenly host" appears to the shepherds to announce the birth of the Messiah (Luke 2:8-16) we can see the message: The one who would restore Israel was here and supported by the "Lord of Hosts". By God's power his will would be done. The work of salvation would be accomplished.