

## Sermon Title: Names, different today than in the Bible

How many of you know why your name is what it is?

- Were you named after a relative, a character, or did your parents just like it?
- Do you have no idea why you were given your name?

Movie Quote: "I'm American, our names don't mean anything"

In the Bible names are very important!

- In Scripture, names are generally descriptive of the person, of his position, of some circumstance affecting him, hope entertained concerning him, etc., so that "the name" often came to stand for the person.

Some Examples:

- Adam: Ground or Dirt
- Noah: Relief or Rest. **Gen 5:29, Gen 8:21**
- Daniel: God is my judge
- Elijah: My God is Yahweh
- Esau: Hairy
- Isaiah: Yahweh is salvation
- Joshua: God Saves.
- Jesus: He will save his people from their sins
- Job: Persecuted
- Zechariah: Yahweh remembers

The reason that I am talking about names, is that today starts a new sermon series for us here at BRC, and it is a sermon series about names, identities, and most importantly, people who have had their name changed by God.

- Each time that happened it changed the trajectory of their life drastically, and always in a good way.

Have you ever stopped to think about what God's name is and why?

- In Exodus 3, Moses is talking to God in the burning bush, and he is the first to ask God what his name is, and God's response is amazing, he says Yahweh, which means, I am what I am.
  - God is unique
  - God's name is the reason for existence

God has many other names in Scripture:

- Jehovah
- Elohim: Mighty
- Adonai: Lord
- El Shaddai: God is sufficient
- Alpha and Omega: the beginning and the end
- Jehovah Jireh: The Lord provides
- Jehovah Rapha: The Lord Heals
- Jehovah Nissi: The Lord is our Banner
- Jehovah Shalom: The Lord is our Peace
- Jehovah Raah: The Lord is our Shepherd
- Jehovah Seli: The Lord, my Rock
- Jehovah Hamelech: The Lord, my King
- Jehovah Shammah: The Lord who is present.

Did any of the names stick out to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you have a physical picture of God when I was reading the names?

And most importantly, do you believe that God is all of those things, not just some of those things? \_\_\_\_\_

What does your name mean? \_\_\_\_\_

Does that meaning have significance for you? If so what is it?

**Challenge:** I want you to think about a scenario, a what if; what if God came down later today and changed your name, what would he change it to, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

Ask yourself, what does God see when he looks at me? \_\_\_\_\_

I've had many names in my life:

- Most recently I got my favorite name I've ever been called, and that's Pawpaw
- That name is significant because of what it represents.
- What is your favorite name or title that you have and why?

- God's names mean something too, He is who He is, which also means that we can't just make up a name for Him or make him what we want him to be!

- The most important thing for us this new year, is to make sure we know who God is by reading his word, so that we know what God wants from us, and we know what to say if someone else asks us what we believe about God.

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Genesis 5:29 - “Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”

Genesis 8:21 - “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.”