

Names of God from the Bible

16 – Pride of Jacob

We turn from the “Fear of Isaac” to the “Pride of Jacob”. This psalm, which is attributed to the sons of Korah, introduces us to another name of God that is also an eternal Name – the Name that is used at least twice more in Scripture.

Reading: Psalm 47:1-9

The psalm begins with praise to God. However, the praise is not directed to just a god, but the God of all nations and the great King over all the earth. The writers of the psalm are specific in directing our praise to the victorious God, who has granted the people victory over all their enemies. He is the omnipotent God, the ultimate Ruler of the earth.

The psalm directs our attention to the fact that *the God of Abraham, the Pride of Jacob* is not just the God and King of Israel; He is the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. The nations of the entire world are His inheritance. Every king and every person belongs to God.

They were to boast about their God. And why shouldn't they? God had delivered them from all their foes. The inference is that although they had wanted to live in peace, their enemies had attacked them. They were outnumbered and beyond human rescue or help. Into that helpless and hopeless condition, the Almighty God had intervened and caused a mighty salvation.

The result was spontaneous and heartfelt praise, thanksgiving and adoration. The people sensed the awesome freedom that could only be felt by those released from utter desperation. This wasn't some 'cerebral' affirmation or forced liturgy; this was the pent-up exhilaration flowing freely from people set free from the fear of death and destruction.

There were trumpets sounding, people shouting with all their strength, and an upsurge of worshipful praise and adoration. There was an explosive burst of joy that became a wave sweeping across the nation.

Why? Because the God of Israel had answered their desperate cry. And who was Israel? Israel was the name God had given to Jacob. Yes, the God whom Jacob called his own. The God Jacob served and worshipped had proved that He was the God of the nations, too.

Jacob was unworthy of calling God his God. Jacob was a deceiver and cheat. Yet, God sought out and called Jacob to follow Him. God loved Jacob. God protected Jacob and provided for him, often miraculously, not because Jacob was good, but because God is good, God is merciful and God is gracious.

The people of Israel knew that. They knew the fact that God had been gracious and merciful to them again. So the people would call God their God, '*The Pride of Jacob*', and would worship Him and Him alone.

They would boast about their God because His love was unconditional, His grace unmerited and His mercy unjustified. They didn't and couldn't do anything to earn it. All they deserved was destruction, for rejecting God and His ways, and yet, '*The Pride of Jacob*' rescued them, just because He chose to do so.

No wonder the people of Israel encouraged the peoples of the nations to worship their God. They sensed God could be their God too, if they wanted Him.

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What does that name mean for us today

We need to remember that the Christian's God is not just the God of Christians; He is the God of the entire world. He is the King of all kings and Lord of all lords, whether they choose to accept Him or not. Consequently, the values, principles and wisdom of the Bible are for everyone. Because the Christian's God is such a good God, we can boast about Him to people in the entire world. He should be our *'pride and joy'* too.

Prayer

Father, thank You for reminding us that You are a good God and the God of the entire world. Please help me boast about You to my family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours, regardless of their ethnicity. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Amos 8:1-12
- Nahum 2:1-13
- 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Questions

1. In what ways do you feel the people of Israel should be 'proud' of their God?
2. What are the things God has done for you that make you feel 'proud' to call Him your God?
3. How do you think Jesus fulfils that name?