

Names of God from the Bible

20 – The Way

When Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life", He was deliberately using the eternal Name of God. Whilst we recognise "I AM" as eternal, we can overlook the fact that God is equally eternally The Way.

Reading: John 14:1-14

Most frequently, we consider Jesus as the Way to a restored relationship with God as Father – and so we should. Throughout the Bible we see that we have forsaken God and gone our own way. Through deliberate rebellion we have turned our backs on God, and one of the consequences of that rebellion, independence and sin is our separation from God.

It was first recorded in Genesis, where Adam and Eve chose, deliberately and disobediently, to take and eat of the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Immediately Adam and Eve felt naked, although no-one had told them they were. Consequently, instead of continuing to enjoy intimate fellowship with God, they initially hid from God, and were eventually driven from His presence and barred from re-entering.

The "Way" to God was blocked. Our sins create a barrier between God and us. There is nothing we can do to remove or circumvent that barrier. God, in Jesus Christ, came to this earth in order to remove the barrier. Jesus would die upon the Cross to pay the price of our sin and thus remove the sin barrier that separated us from God. Jesus was and is the only "Way" through which we may enter God's Presence.

However, the effect of Christ's death and resurrection was more than just enabling sinful people to approach God and enter His Presence. There was far more to it. Jesus Himself said, "*No-one comes to the Father except through Me.*"

Most people throughout the world acknowledge that there is a God. However, few have access to Him. Most see Him as some aloof and hopefully benign Being, who nevertheless will punish wrong-doing and hold us all accountable. There is definitely an atmosphere of fear and mistrust in the relationship.

Many feel that if they behave in a particular way (which they term, 'good'), God will accept them. Others feel that they have to earn acceptance, through great deeds, unselfish charity, generosity or the strict observance of religious tradition. None of these people seem convinced that: a) they are finally acceptable to God or b) they can have a relationship with God that is anything other than distant.

Jesus claimed to change all that. Firstly, by removing the sin barrier, He made us acceptable to God. There is nothing you or I can ever do to merit God's love for us or win us entrance into the Presence of a Holy and Righteous God. No. Jesus had to do that for us. He, the sinless One, became sin for us so that we might be considered sinless by God.

Yet, Jesus did more than obtain our acceptance and entrance into God's Presence. Jesus made a "Way" for us to know God as Father. Yes, not as a distant Supreme Being, but a precious loving Heavenly Father. Jesus introduces us to God as an intimate Father, who loves, cares, listens and acts on our behalf. He gives good gifts to His children and eventually welcomes them into His Eternal Presence with great joy.

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However, there is more to this Name. God, *the Way*, revealed Himself to Abraham and Moses. God was their direction, their compass and journey. God made a way through the Red Sea, the Wilderness and the Jordan River. God, *the Way*, was also their moral compass and destination. He seeks to be ours, too.

What does that name mean for us today

It means that by God's amazing grace and mercy, we are able to have an intimate relationship with God as our Father and He knows what is best for our lives. If we submit to His Way, we will live the most exhilarating lives ever imaginable.

Prayer

Father, what an amazing privilege it is to be able to call you, my Father. Thank You so much. Thank You for the sacrifice of Jesus that made it possible and thank You for the plans You have for my life. Please help me to fulfil them. I ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Deuteronomy 1:29-33
- 2 Samuel 22:17-37
- Isaiah 30:19-21
- Hebrews 10:19-25
- Jude 24-25

Questions

1. Why do we find it hard to accept that Jesus has done all that is required to make us Children of God?
2. Has God revealed Himself to you as your loving Father? If so, how and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil the name – The Way?