

Names of God from the Bible

39 – God is Light

God has always existed and so has light. Light is that God-quality that affects everything. Without light, darkness prevails. Furthermore, light always dispels darkness.

Reading: Genesis 1:1-19

At the beginning of the creation record, we read God saying, “*Let there be light.*” However, it does not infer that there was no light before the universe was created. God lives in light and God is light. The creation record relates to our universe, which did not exist prior to the thought of God.

The Bible reveals God the Trinity – Father, Word and Spirit – as eternally existent. The first word was “*Light!*” Consequently, light shone. Please note, however, that this ‘light’ shone prior to the creation of the sun, moon and stars – which took place three days later.

What does light suggest to us? Power, truth, purity, security and wisdom. All attributes of the Divine.

Power – there is no greater power than the power of God. Creating, sustaining and maintaining the Universe. How is it that grass can force its way up through concrete and other seemingly impregnable man-made surfaces? How does the sun create life in vegetation? No human being can contain the sea or the force of earthquakes, volcanoes or tsunamis. Yet God has set invisible boundaries on the sea that enable us to live in security and peace. We all have to be careful not to get sun burnt. We have also become aware of the awesome power of concentrated light, in the form of lasers.

Truth – Light reveals the truth. We can stumble in the darkness, not knowing or being able to see the reality. However, as soon as an adequate light is shone into our surroundings, we are able to move around in confidence and safely reach our destination.

Purity – Light reveals dirt. How often do we look at our windows and think they are clean, and yet, as soon as the sun shines upon them, we frown at the terribly dirty state that was revealed. If we want to know if an object is clean, we hold it up to the light. Consider how the light of the sun purifies our world?

Security – Light exposes danger and thus helps provide security. Houses have security lights; prison compounds have floodlights. When the lights are turned on, we feel safer, even during times of darkness. We turn our car headlights on, in times of reduced light, as a form of defensive driving. We are safer as we can be seen.

Wisdom – When we seek answers, when we look for solutions, when we grapple with the big questions of life, we long for wisdom. Often we say, “*suddenly it (the light) dawned on me*” or “*I finally saw the light*”. What relief, joy and peace follow.

My way is often difficult to understand and I don’t know what the future holds. I move around in seeming darkness. However, God is my Light. He holds my future and so I rest content. I look to His Light for wisdom and guidance, for security and truth, and for discernment, between good and bad, and blessing and impurity.

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I know that my God is all-powerful, all knowing and always present. I need not fear the past, the present or the future because He is Light, and He knows the truth and the way ahead. He knows my beginning and my end.

When Jesus said, *"I am the Light of the world,"* He was claiming Deity. He was claiming to be God. Not a god, not just a rabbi or guru. He was making a definite and clear declaration that He is God. If we want to know the Truth, we need to go directly and solely to Him.

What does that name mean for us today

Christians are the most blessed people. We don't worship an impotent block of stone, an ugly ogre figure or follow a book of rules. No, we follow, worship and serve a living God of Light – who is Powerful, True and Honest, Wholesome, Pure and Loving. He is the Fountain of all wisdom. Which should make us the most grateful people on earth.

Prayer

Father, I am so glad that You are Light and in You there is no darkness. Indeed, darkness and light are the same to You. Accordingly, I can rest in peace and tranquillity, regardless of what happens around me. I pray that everyone reading this may come into the same relationship with You, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Psalm 27:1-14
- Isaiah 49:1-9
- 1 John 1:1-10

Questions

1. What are the eternal qualities of light?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?