

NAMES OF GOD

QUIET TIME SERIES

Introduction

1. HaKavod Hashem – The Glorious Name
2. ELOHIM – God, Mighty Creator
3. EL ROI – The God Who Sees Me
4. EL SHADDAI – God Almighty
5. EL OLAM – The Everlasting (Eternal) God
6. YAHWEH YIREH – Yahweh Will Provide
7. YAHWEH (YHWH)
8. YAHWEH ADONAI – The Lord God or Master (Sovereign Lord)
9. YAHWEH RAPHA – The Lord Who Heals
10. YAHWEH NISSI – The Lord is my Banner
11. EL QANNA – Jealous God
12. QADOSH YISRAEL – The Holy One of Israel.
13. YAHWEH SHALOM – The Lord is Peace
14. YAHWEH TSEBAOTH – The Lord of Hosts
15. YAHWEH TSURI – The Lord is my Rock
16. YAHWEH-RAAH (YHWH Ra'ah or Roi) – The Lord is my Shepherd ...
17. YAHWEH MELEK – God The King
18. 'Î-ŠÎ – My Husband
19. EL CHAY ('êl khah'-ee) – The Living God
20. God is My Refuge (Machseh) and My Fortress (Misgab)
21. YAHWEH SHAPHAT – God Our Judge
22. MIQVEH ISRAEL – Hope of Israel
23. PELE YOWES – WONDERFUL COUNSELOR
24. YAHWEH SIDQENU (TSIDQENU) – The Lord Our Righteousness
25. EL ELYON – God Most High
26. YAHWEH S(H)AMMA – God is There
27. Ma'ayenMimHiyim – Spring of Living Water
28. GÕ· 'Ă·LÎ – My Redeemer
29. ABBA – Father
30. IMMANUEL – God With Us
31. LOGOS – Word

Epilogue

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Names of God – Quiet Time Series

Introduction

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, this is how he began: *“So then, this is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your **name**.’”* (Matthew 6:9)

To hallow something is to *make it holy* or *separate it* or *sanctify it*. Jesus taught His disciples to pray for God’s name to be hallowed.

The same Greek word for ‘hallow’ is used by Peter in **1 Peter 3:15** *“But in your hearts **revere** Christ as Lord.”* Here it is translated as ‘**revere**’ in NIV. In other words, when Jesus taught us to pray ‘hallowed be your name’, he is expecting us to pray that God’s name will be revered, honored above everything.

3rd of the 10 commandments is this: *“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”* (Exodus 20:7). This commandment is about treating the name of the Lord, the person of the Lord, the reputation of the Lord as it is, and that is holy.

When Paul writes the letter to Philippians, he writes about God’s response to the submission of Jesus like this:

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹*“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

God the Father exalted the name of Jesus above every name that all the people in this world and all beings in heaven are expected to kneel before him. That has to be done for the glory of God the Father!

Every human being is given a name to identify that person from all other humans! But God is one, there is no other gods! Why should he need a name? That is why, his name mentioned in the Bible is more of an expression of his nature, qualities, attributes, etc.

The Bible contains various *names for God*, each representing a unique way through which God reveals Himself to humanity. These *names* are not mere titles or labels; they reflect God's character and nature.

In the book of Nehemiah, a long prayer is written in chapter 9. It starts like this: *“Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.”*

This quiet time series on *'The Names of God'* is to help us meditate on one of God's names/attributes each day, meditating on that name and its meaning to get to know Him better, and through that, we may revere Him and love Him more than ever before.

We pray that you will gain a deeper understanding of who our God is and enjoy your walk with him.

Day 1

הַכְבוֹדָה שֶׁל הַשֵּׁם – HAKAVOD HASHEM: THE GLORIOUS NAME

"*HaKavod Hashem*" is a term that reflects the grandeur, majesty, and honour of God's very Name. The word '*kavod*' means "glory" or "weightiness," symbolizing the awe-inspiring presence of God. (Deuteronomy 28:58). 'Ha' stands for 'the' in the English language. So *HaKavod* can be translated as 'The Glory'. '*Hashem*' stands for 'the name'. So, '*HaKavod Hashem*' is a Hebrew term declaring God's name '*Yahweh*' is a *glorious name*.

'*HaKavod Hashem*' is not a name of God, it is just declaring that God's name is truly glorious. As we are meditating on various names of God, it is important to remember that our God, the true God, is glorious and His name is also truly glorious.

Read Psalms 24:7-10

"⁷Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.⁸ Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty—he is the King of glory."

Meditate on God's Glory:

The enormity of God's creation truly points us towards the depth of His glory.

Psalm 19:1

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

Romans 1:20

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

Remember God's glory is far beyond the glory of what He created!

- Let's make it a habit to imagine the glorious nature of God, imagine him as the glorious king; and praise his name with reverence and awe.
- Acknowledge His glorious holy name

The Bible records several instances where people fainted, fell down, or were overwhelmed in the presence of God's holiness and glory, highlighting His divine majesty. E.g. Moses at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16-20), Isaiah's Vision of God (Isaiah 6:1-5), Daniel's Encounter (Daniel 10:7-9), John's Revelation (Revelation 1:17). This same holy and glorious God, who is without sin and cannot abide with sin, chooses to dwell within us through His Spirit. Though we are deeply flawed and sinful, God's love compels Him to enter our lives and transform us from within. As 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, our bodies become the temple of the Holy Spirit, meaning that the God of unimaginable holiness and glory chooses to make His dwelling in us. What a blessing is that?

Points for reflection:

- Take time often to see the glorious creations of God, while you enjoy their splendour, ask God to reveal His invisible qualities, eternal power, and divine nature through them.
- Pray for Deeper Reverence: Ask God to increase your awe and reverence for Him. Pray that He reveals more of His glory every day, transforming your heart to hold His Name in even greater honour.

For Further reflection:

Isaiah 6:1-3 (Isaiah witnesses God's glory filling the temple); Psalm 29; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

As you study each name of God, may God fill your heart and mind with a deeper understanding of God's majesty and glory. May God inspire you to live each day in a way that honours His *Glorious Name*. Let His glory be seen in you, as you reflect His light to those around you.

Day 2

אלהים ELOHIM – GOD, MIGHTY CREATOR

Elohim is the Hebrew word for God that appears in the very first sentence of the Bible. (**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.*)

When we pray to *Elohim*, we are reminded that he is the one who started everything. He is the Almighty God who created the heavens and the earth and separated light from darkness, water from dry land, night from day.

This ancient name for God contains the idea of God's creative power as well as his authority and sovereignty. Jesus used a form of this name in his passionate prayer from the cross. "*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?'*" (Mark 15:34)—which means, '*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'*" (Psalm 22:1 NIV).

Elohim is said to be used more than 2,500 times in the Bible, 32 times in the first chapter of the Bible itself. In some places, YAHWEH ELOHIM is written, which is translated as LORD God in English.

Who is our God? Elohim – Mighty Creator!

Points for reflection:

- Take some time today to read at least the first chapter of Genesis and meditate on the greatness of our God, the mighty Creator.
- In what ways do you enjoy and benefit from creation every day?
- Write down a few things you appreciate in God as the creator.
- Choose at least a few of God's creations that amaze you. (eg. Stars, certain plants, certain flowers, your own body, etc.). Take time to praise God for His creativity.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!" Thank God for Jesus, through him you are made into a new creation.

- Prepare a list of some characteristics and qualities of God that you want Him to instill in you and pray for that to *Elohim – the Mighty Creator*. (eg. Humility, purity, gentleness etc) (Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23; Eight character traits for Spiritual Maturity 2 Peter 1:5-7)
- As God created you in the image of God, he has instilled in you creative power. What are your creative gifts? How are you using them for God's glory?
- Wherever you go, notice everything as God's creation, enjoy them, and praise Him for his creativity.

For further Meditation:

Job 38 & 39; Study Creation Psalms: Psalms 8, 19, 65, 104, and 148

Day 3

EL ROI - THE GOD WHO SEES ME

Today we will see a very special name of God that appears only once in the Bible. This name or expression is given by someone who was not initially a part of God's family – a person who entered the family by accident, and only for a short time. Yet God was pleased with this

name and ensured that it was recorded in *His Word* through Moses. This name truly reveals who our God is.

El-Roi means *"The God who sees me."*

Read **Genesis 16:1-10 & 13**

The story centers on Abram and Sarai. The Lord promised them countless descendants (Genesis 12:2) and reiterated the promise twice later (Genesis 13:16, Genesis 15:5). However after waiting 10 years for the promised child, in a weak moment, Sarai took matters into her own hands. She gave Hagar, her Egyptian maid, Abram in hopes of fulfilling the promise through her. Hagar became pregnant with Abram's child.

Quick fixes often lead to quick troubles. Strife arose within the household of Abram. Hagar began to despise Sarai, and Sarai, in turn, mistreated pregnant Hagar. Feeling helpless, Hagar fled into the dangerous, desolate desert. But the Lord was watching.

The Lord found Hagar near a spring and confronted her at the right moment. God pointed out three facts – 'who she is', 'where she is coming from', and 'where she is heading'. God then instructed her to return to Sarai and submit to her. Along with this, He promised her a great future.

Genesis 16:13, records Hagar's profound response: she gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: *"You are the God who sees me,"* for she said, *"I have now seen the One who sees me."*

When Hagar was desperate and felt abandoned, she realized Almighty God had been watching over her – her past, her present, and her future. This realization brought her comfort led her to submit to God's direction.

The Lord is *"the one who sees us"*, and He desires that we also *see* or *realize* three important truths:

- **Who we are:**
Galatians 3:29 - The real seed and heir of Abraham and heirs according to the promise.
- **Where we come from:**
Ephesians 2:12 - Let's not forget our past and our redemption
- **Where are we heading:**
John 14:1-4 - To heaven, to the home of our Heavenly Father.

Reflecting on these truths can anchor us in faith and bring clarity amidst the chaos and disappointments of this world.

Points for reflection:

- Take time to identify what troubles you today
- Recall your redemption story – where you were before, and how God’s saving grace has sustained you.
- Imagine your future glory: your transformation into a heavenly body and eternal life in God’s presence.

Wherever you go, consciously remind yourself of this comforting truth: God is *El Roi* - “*The God who sees me.*” Find solace and joy in knowing He sees your past, present, and future.

May *El Roi* bless you abundantly.

For further Meditation:

Genesis 16:1-13, Galatians 3:29, Ephesians 2:12, John 14:1-4

Day 4

יְהוָה EL SHADDAI - GOD ALMIGHTY

God introduced himself to Abraham as ‘*El Shaddai*’ meaning ‘*God Almighty*’ when He appeared to Abraham and confirmed his promise of making him a Father of many nations (Genesis 17:1-4).

When we pray to *El Shaddai*, we appeal to the characteristics of our God as Almighty, for whom nothing is impossible. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when God appeared to him and reaffirmed his covenant with Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. God made this promise to Abraham when he and his wife Sarah were beyond childbearing age. God was proving that as He is truly *El Shaddai* or God Almighty, what is impossible for mankind is possible for Him.

The name *El Shaddai* appears 48 times in the Old Testament. Through this wonderful name, God expects us to remember that He is Almighty, All-powerful, All-sufficient, Limitless, Sovereign, and Faithful in keeping his promises. In the Bible, we can witness all these qualities on different occasions.

El Shaddai- God Almighty!

- God’s Sovereignty and unlimited power in creating the universe (Jeremiah 32:17)
- God is faithful and has the power to fulfill his promises (Romans 4:18-22)
- God is sufficient for us to take care of us, we can rely on him (Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5-6)

Throughout the Bible, God conveys that He is *El Shaddai, God Almighty*; he has the quality of being All-Powerful, All-Sufficient, Sovereign, and faithful in keeping his promises.

Points for reflection:

- As you are going to worship *El Shaddai*, read the promises of God which were fulfilled (Genesis 15:13-16, Genesis 17:1-8, Exodus 14:13-14, etc.) and marvel at God's Sovereignty, and faithfulness in keeping his promises.
- Do you trust with all your heart that the God you worship is truly *El Shaddai - God Almighty*? If you have any doubts, confess them and surrender to *El Shaddai*.
- Write down and pray about things that make you anxious, hand them over to the hands of *God Almighty* because he cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).
- Think about how *God Almighty* worked wonders in your life and praise Him.

Put your complete confidence in *El Shaddai* because he is All-Powerful, All-Sufficient, Sovereign, and Faithful. He is with you.

For further meditation:

Psalm 89, Psalm 105

Day 5

EL OLAM - THE EVERLASTING (ETERNAL) GOD

"*El Olam*" (אלעולם) is one of the *Names of God* in the Hebrew Bible. "*El*" means "God" or "Mighty One," while "*Olam*" means "everlasting," "eternal," or "forever." Together, *El Olam* signifies the Everlasting God, who has no beginning or end.

Isaiah 40:28 (NIV) says:

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, (Elohe Yahweh Owlam) the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom."

The name '*El Olam*' reminds us that our God transcends time and space. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. His eternal nature provides us stability and security in this ever-changing world.

This name of God, *El Olam*, teaches us

- God is the eternal King, immortal, invisible and the only God (1 Timothy 1:17).
- His plans and purposes are eternal (Ephesians 3:11).
- His mercy is everlasting & His truth endures for all generations (Psalm 100:5)
- God's word is eternal (Psalm 119:89)

Everything we see around us is temporary and subject to change, but as Abraham stated in **Genesis 21:33** our God is the *Eternal God* who lives forever. Therefore, we should not be

shaken by what we see around us, instead put our trust in *El Olam*, our *Eternal God* who created and controls everything forever. He will not fail to accomplish His plans and promises for our lives.

“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.” (Isaiah 26:4)

Self Reflection:-

- What are my fears about the future? How can *El Olam's* eternal plans shape my decisions and calm my anxieties?
- In what ways have I limited God's power working in my life by my finite thinking?
- Are there areas where I'm seeking temporary solutions? How can *El Olam's* everlasting nature guide me toward eternal perspectives?
- In the face of uncertainty, how can I trust *El Olam's* sovereignty?
- In what ways can I worship and honour *El Olam*, acknowledging His eternal reign?

For further meditation:

Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6, Psalms 90:1&2, Psalm 41:13, Revelation 1:8

Day 6

YAHWEH YIRE הַיְיָ יִרֶה – YAHWEH WILL PROVIDE

In Genesis 22 God asked Abraham to offer his only son whom he loved, Isaac, as a burnt offering on Mount Moriah. This command was not only heartbreaking to Abraham but also seemingly contradictory to God's earlier promises about Isaac being the father of many nations. But Abraham rose early in the morning, packed the supplies, took his son, and obeyed God's challenging command.

Genesis 22:7-8 (NIV)

⁷Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸Abraham answered, “God himself will provide (the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

When Isaac asks, “Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”, Abraham did not say, **“You are the one.”** Abraham answered, “God himself will provide (Yireh) the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”

"**Yahweh Yireh**" is one of the names of God that reveals His character and nature to us. The name, derived from the Hebrew word "**Yireh**", means "**will provide**" or "**sees to it (to provide).**"

Genesis 22:13-14 (NIV)

¹³*Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.* ¹⁴*"So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide (Yahweh Yireh). And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'"*

This act of provision by God teaches us about His faithfulness and His ability to meet our needs, often in ways we do not expect. Just as God provided for Abraham at the moment of his greatest test, He also provides for us in times of trial, uncertainty, and even when we feel we are in the wilderness.

How do we handle life when we know **Yahweh Yireh – God the provider?**

1. Trust in God's Provision:

At times, when we feel uncertain or overwhelmed by the trials of life, remember that God sees our needs and He is faithful to provide for us. Sometimes, it's easy to doubt, but when we look back on our lives, we often see how God has provided for us in ways that exceeded our expectations. **Matthew 6:8** *Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

2. Obedience in challenges:

Abraham's act of obedience is a powerful reminder that God's provision often comes in the midst of obedience. While Abraham was not certain of how God would act, his faith led him to follow God's commands even when they were difficult. When we act in faith, trusting God to provide, we position ourselves to experience His faithfulness and provision.

3. God's Timing:

God's provision comes at the right time. When Abraham raised the knife, he was ready to obey, but God intervened just in time. Similarly, God may not always provide when we expect, but His provision is always on time, never too early, and never too late. God's timing and His provision of His Son are demonstrated in **Romans 5:6**:
You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

After God provided the ram in place of Isaac, Abraham named the place "**Yahweh Yireh**", a testimony of God's provision. In the same way, we are called to acknowledge God's provision in our lives and respond with gratitude and worship. Each provision is an opportunity to testify of His goodness and faithfulness.

Points for reflection:

- What are you facing today that requires you to trust in God's provision?

- How can you experience peace by getting to know the true meaning of *Yahweh Yireh* and the nature of *God the provider*?
- What areas are you finding it hard to obey God amidst challenges? (If it's practically difficult, talk to someone and study the scriptures on God's promises and faithfulness.)
- Are there areas where you are struggling to trust in God's provision? How can you surrender those matters to Him today?
- What steps can you take to live in peace by trusting that Yahweh will provide?

For further meditation:

Philippians 4:19, Romans 8:32, Jeremiah 17:5-8, Matthew 6:25-33

Day 7 YAHWEH יהוה (YHWH)

According to Strong's Numbers, God's name 'YAHWEH' appears 6220 times in the Old Testament! This makes it the most widely used name of God in the Bible.

The first appearance of this name is in **Genesis 2:4**

"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord (Yahweh) God (Adonai) made the earth and the heavens."

In English Bibles, *Yahweh* is translated as *LORD* (in all capital letters). The Hebrew spelling of *Yahweh* (יהוה YHWH) consists of four consonants without vowels, and the technical term used for it is 'tetragrammaton'!

The name *Yahweh* is derived from the Hebrew word for "*I am*". This was made clear in the conversation Moses had with God at the burning bush:

Exodus 3:14-15

¹⁴*God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'* " ¹⁵*God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation."*

What does this name mean?

It signifies God's eternal, self-existent nature and His faithfulness to His promises.

“This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation”.
The name *YHWH* is the personal, covenantal name of God in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

The name *YAHWEH* speaks of the self-existence and self-sufficiency of God. He is the only one who can claim to be self-existent and self-sufficient. He has no beginning and no end, he is everlasting. He can always claim *‘I am who I am’* because he is the same yesterday, today, and forever! He is the only person who remains unchanged.

Remember that Jesus, our Lord, referred to himself as *‘I am’* identifying himself as the *Yahweh*.

Also, consider God’s favorite way of encouraging His people: “Do not fear, for I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10); “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5).

Points for reflection:

- How does that make you feel knowing that the Almighty God, *Yahweh (I am)*, is always with you?
- What can you do to remember *Yahweh’s* everlasting presence with you?
- Do you consider *Yahweh* to be your ever-present companion and partner in your life journey, since he is always with you?
- Can you start treating Him as your companion by conversing with him throughout the day? (Remember what Apostle Paul wrote: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* ¹⁶*Rejoice at all times.* ¹⁷*Pray without ceasing.* ¹⁸*Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*)

Day 8

YAHWEH ADONAI – THE LORD GOD OR MASTER (SOVEREIGN LORD)

Isaiah 25:8

“he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD (Yahweh Adonai) will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.” (NIV)

The name *‘Adonai’* is used more than 400 times in the Bible to refer God.

אֲדֹנָי *Adonaiis* a Hebrew name derived from the root *adon*, meaning “Lord” or “Master,” highlighting His authority and sovereignty. It signifies that God is not only the Creator (Elohim) but also the Ruler and Master (Adonai) of all creation. He is the Sovereign King and Master over everything.

In addressing God as *Adonai*, we acknowledge His rightful place as the supreme authority in our lives, trusting in His leadership and submitting to His will. The name “*Adonai*” also emphasizes a relationship between God and His people: He is our protector (Psalms 18:1-2, 91:1-3), guide (Psalms 48:14, Proverbs 3:5), and provider (1Timothy 6:17, Philippians 4:19). We are invited to respond to Him with loyalty, trust, and obedience. It is a blessing and a privilege to be in His Kingdom and be under His righteous and just rule.

Reflecting on God as *Adonai* means that we are called to see Him as our Lord – not merely in words but in every area of life. Just as a servant trusts the guidance of a master, or subjects trust and submit to the righteous king, we are invited to trust in God’s wisdom and direction.

Submitting to *Adonai* can bring peace in uncertainty, as we rest in His perfect plan, guided by His all-knowing wisdom and loving care.

Psalm 16:2 says,

“I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; apart from you, I have no good thing.’”

The psalmist considered that knowing *Yahweh Adonai* and belonging to Him as the greatest treasure of his life. When we belong to Him, we are reminded that everything good in our lives ultimately comes from Him. Acknowledging God as *Adonai* means recognizing that all we have belongs to Him and that we are merely His stewards. We are called to live as faithful stewards.

Points for reflection:

- Do I truly see God as my *Lord and Master* in all areas of my life, or are there parts I try to control myself?
- In what situations do I struggle to give God complete authority, and how can I learn to trust Him more and surrender?
- How often do I turn to God for guidance, seeking His direction as my Lord, before making decisions?
- In times of uncertainties or doubt, do I rest in the assurance that *Adonai, my Master*, knows what is best for me and is in control?
- How can I live truly as a servant of *Adonai*, dedicating my actions, choices, resources, talents, gifts, and thoughts to honour Him?

Reflecting on *Adonai* encourages us to release our need for control, trust God’s sovereignty, and deepen our relationship with Him as our Lord.

For further meditation:

Joshua 24:14-33, Colossians 1:16, Romans 10:9, Romans 6:15-23, Matthew 7:21-28

Day 9

YAHWEH RAPHA (יהוה־רפָּא) – THE LORD WHO HEALS

Exodus 15: 22-24 (NASB)

²²Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur, and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, because they were bitter; for that reason, it was named Marah. ²⁴So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

Imagine being in the desert – not in a vehicle, but walking in the hot sun, wading through the sand, carrying your little kids, aging parents, animals, and luggage. After three days, your water supply is completely gone, and there's not a drop of water to wet your parched lips! Then, finally, you discover a place with water. You rush to it, eagerly cupping your hands to drink, only to spit it out in horror – it's bitter and drinkable! How would you react?

I can imagine myself getting shocked, worried, angry, frustrated, and of course finding a culprit to blame. Who fits better than the leader who promised to take everyone to the land flowing with milk and honey?

The Israelites the same bitter water and responded with grumbling against Moses. Their hearts were filled with anger, resentment, and bitterness.

Why did they grumble? They had quickly forgotten the miracles God had performed to rescue them from the hands of Egyptians. They gave in to worry and despair.

Worry causes us to lose faith and turn to grumbling, while remembering God's miracles fosters gratitude and strengthens faith.

"Healing by the Tree"

Exodus 15:25-27

²⁵Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree, and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. ²⁶And He said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and listen to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer (Rapha)." ²⁷Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters.

God showed Moses a tree, and when he threw the log into the water, its bitterness was healed – it became sweet! Even though the Israelites might have deserved discipline for their lack of trust, God demonstrated His grace by healing the water and blessing them further. At Elim, God provided 12 springs of water, 70 date palms, and a place of rest beside the water!

God's protection from diseases and His abundant provision were based on their obedience to His voice.

The bitterness of our souls, caused by sin, is also healed by God. He threw His only son onto the tree, the cross, to take away our sins. He further gifted us with the Holy Spirit and the promise of eternal life in Heaven; provided we listen and obey His voice.

God is the *ultimate healer* of our souls. He heals us *physically* (2 Kings 5:10), *emotionally* (Psalm 34:18), *mentally* (Daniel 4:34), and *spiritually* (Psalm 103:2-3). Jesus healed the blind, the lame, the leper, the paralyzed, and the demon-possessed and even raised the dead. **Isaiah 61:1** declares that *He was sent to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and set free those who are bound*. However, God's ultimate plan is spiritual healing. He heals the bitterness of our sins by His sacrifice on the cross. **Isaiah 53:5** reminds us that *by his stripes we are healed*. He blesses us with the sweetness of salvation, the Holy Spirit and His eternal companionship. **Hebrews 13:5** assures that the *Yahweh Rapha, the Healer* will never leave us nor forsake us.

We are blessed to be ambassadors of *Yahweh Rapha* (2 Corinthians 5:20-21), carrying His healing to the world around us.

Points for Reflection:

- List the miracles in your life, or in the lives of others, that can strengthen your faith when you are tempted to worry.
- Examine your heart to identify the areas where you complain, grumble, or harbor bitterness. Confess these to God and pray for healing.
- List out how God can use you as an ambassador for reconciliation and a source of healing in the world around you.

For further meditation:

1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 19:2; Mark 6:56; Luke 19:1-10

Day 10 YAHWEH NISSI – 'THE LORD IS MY BANNER'

Read **Exodus 17:8-16**.

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Israelites were on their journey to the Promised Land, delivered fresh from Egypt. They did not have a well-trained army; none of them had ever fought a war! They were held as slaves but had just been released by the powerful work of the mighty hand of God. Moses told his young assistant

Joshua these words: *“Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on the hilltop with the staff of God in my hand.”*

Moses stood on a hill holding his staff high. Moses and his companions noticed that as long as Moses lifted his hands high, Joshua and his men were winning, and when he lowered his hands due to fatigue, the enemy began gaining the upper hand.

Aaron and Hur rolled a stone and helped Moses to sit on it. They assisted Moses by holding his hands up. It continued until sunset. Joshua and his untrained men achieved a great victory over the Amalekite army.

Verse 14:

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as a reminder and recite it to Joshua, because I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”

Moses built an altar at that place as a memorial and named the altar ‘YAHWEH NISSI’ – which means *‘the Lord is my banner’*. Here we see Moses and the entire Israel witnessing the powerful leadership of God. It was clear that God was their king. All of them understood it was God their king who was leading them powerfully against their enemies.

“The concept of a *“nes”* – (banner) – as a divine sign is rooted in the belief that God actively participates in the lives of His people, providing direction and assurance.” (Strong’s numbers)

Banners are raised to celebrate and honor. They were hung from the rafters of arenas to honor champions, raised to celebrate soldiers returning victorious from war, and displayed in public places to mark important national occasions or to honor national heroes. In battles, *banners* are raised to remind the forces who their king and commander is. People and nations also raise their national symbols to display their loyalty to their country and the pride of being its citizens. Considering all these, we see how *God is the Banner* for all who believe in him, to all who are faithful to him, and for all those who trust in his leading.

By naming the altar ‘*Yahweh Nissi – Lord is my banner*’, Moses declared that God is leading His people to victory. Moses never dared to take any credit for the victory. He gave all the glory to God.

Points for reflection:

- Who do you think has brought you so far in life?
- When you experience any victory in life, do you recognize that God is the one who worked it out?
- Do you give glory to God for the ways He has been leading you in powerful ways?
- When you face new challenges in life, do you look up to God and consider ‘*Yahweh is my Banner*’ and confidently face them with assured victory?

- Write down the most amazing victories you had in life because you were following 'Yahweh Nissi'. Thank God and share some of them with someone today.

For further Meditation:

Psalm 20, Isaiah 54, 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Day 11 EL QANNA – JEALOUS GOD

'El Qanna' is translated as 'Jealous God' – the Hebrew term *Qanna* means 'jealous' or 'zealous'. 'El Qanna' appears six times in the Bible.

Our true God is a God of love and relationship. In the Old Testament, we see God treating Israel as his spouse. (Jeremiah 3:14 "I am your husband"). In the New Testament, the Church is treated as the bride of Jesus. It is a covenant relationship initiated by God out of His amazing love. This is an exclusive love. Once God has a relationship with His people, He expects them to be faithful to Him. That is why in the Old Testament, Idol worship is treated as adultery.

When God gave the Ten Commandments, He made it clear in **Exodus 20:3-6**:

³"You shall have no other gods before me."⁴"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, **the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,** ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

God is our bridegroom, eager for his bride's wholehearted love and commitment. For God, being unfaithful is more of a grievous crime than being faithless.

God makes it clear even in **Deuteronomy 6:14-15**

¹⁴"Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; ¹⁵for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a **jealous God** and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land."

God is passionately in love with the people with whom he entered into a covenantal relationship, so He expects their love for Him to be exclusive. But if they worship any other God, He treats it as adultery, and as He is a *Jealous God*, His anger will burn against them because His love for us is so intense. God describes His name as "*Jealous*"; He is true to his name.

Yes, God is truly a 'Jealous God'. He created you in His image, and even when we lost that image because of our sins, he sent his one and only Son to sacrifice his life and purify us with His precious blood. This was to reconcile us to Him and restore the lost image of God in us.

He has a passionate desire that we would spend eternity with Him. He would do anything for us when someone tries to steal us away from Him, for his name is “*Jealous*”.

Jesus set an example for us by showing his passionate and faithful relationship with the Father. When Jesus saw the temple of God in Jerusalem being used for business instead of genuine worship of the Father, he was furious and drove them out.

John 2:16-17

¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

Just like Jesus, we must be filled with zeal for God, who is ‘*Jealous*’.

Points for reflection:

- Write down how you feel about God’s exclusive love towards you and thank God for that love.
- Have you been faithful and passionate in your love for God?
- Is there anything that is attracting you in such a way that your love for God is growing cold? What are you going to do with such things?
- Read through Song of Songs 8:6. Paraphrase it and write it down as a covenant of love (or a wedding oath) between God and you. Be ‘*Zealous*’ for his Name.

For further meditation:

Study the book of Hosea; James 4:4-6, 1 John 4:7-21

Day 12

קָדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל QADOSH YISRAEL - "THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL."

Isaiah 54:5

*For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name— **the Holy One of Israel (Qadosh Yisrael)** is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.*

The Hebrew word for “*holy*” (Qadosh), means “*set apart*” or “*sacred*”. Holiness speaks not only of God’s moral perfection and purity but also of His *complete separation* from anything sinful or impure. To declare that God is holy is to recognize His unique and supreme nature—utterly distinct from human imperfection and the brokenness of the world.

Prophet Isaiah had a vision of God in His glory, he heard the seraphim declaring this:

Isaiah 6:3

And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

It is the only description of God repeated in the three-fold formula—a literary device to bring great emphasis. How holy is God? He is really, really, really holy!

In **Isaiah 54:5**, God says He is **"The Holy One of Israel"** which highlights His relationship with Israel (His chosen people) as their holy, set-apart, and covenant-keeping God. This title reflects the intimate relationship He shares with His people. He expects the same exclusive relationship from them in return.

"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord you're God, am holy.'"—*Leviticus 19:2* (This is quoted by Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:16)

In both the Old & New Testaments God issues a profound call to holiness, emphasizing His nature and His expectations for His people. This verse is not just a command but an invitation to reflect and participate in the character of God in our lives.

This verse conveys:

1. **God is Holy** – totally separated from any impurity. He is different from anyone and anything.
2. **God's call to holiness** – He desires and expects his children to be like Him.
3. **The reason for fulfilling His desire**—our love for him must be the driving force for our pursuit of being like him.
4. **Our identity as God's people** – we must be holy and separate from the rest of the world. (*1 Peter 1:17b "live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear."*)

Thus, Leviticus 19:2 emphasizes that holiness is a divine attribute and an aspirational standard for God's people.

Points for reflection:

- Take some time to meditate on the Holiness of God.
- How do you consider the blessing to have an exclusive, intimate relationship with the *'Holy One of Yisrael'*? Does that inspire you to pursue such a holy life as He is holy?
- God is calling you to be holy. How do you think you should respond to this call today?
- Which aspects of your thinking, speech, or actions need to be aligned with God's holiness? Write them down, pray, and seek the help of the Holy Spirit to transform you.

For further meditation:

1 Peter 1:13-24, Psalm 71, Isaiah 12

Day 13

יְהוָה שָׁלוֹם – YAHWEH SHALOM - THE LORD IS PEACE

Theophany is a Greek term used to refer to the appearance of God to people. God appeared to Abraham and others, yet they did not recognize Him at that moment. There was a common belief that no one could see God and live, meaning one would die if they saw God! However, this was not the case in the beginning.

In Genesis, we find the perfect place on earth, the Garden of Eden, where Adam & Eve enjoyed the presence of God in the best way any human ever experienced. Because of God's presence, they lived in such a peaceful state that even their nakedness did not bother them! That is the best picture we have of ultimate peace on earth. Sadly, it was shattered once sin entered humanity. God banished them from His presence, and ever since, mankind had longed for such peace.

During the time of Judges, Israel got into idol worship, and as discipline, God allowed the Midianites to attack and subdue them for a long period of time. There was no peace in Israel. People lived in fear of their conquerors and lived in mountain clefts and caves (Judges 6:2). Their enemies looted their food, forcing them to hide what little they had to survive. It was during this time that Gideon had a Theophany – God appeared to him. God's first message to him was: *"The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."*

You can read the whole story in the 6th chapter of the book of Judges.

Once Gideon realized he had seen the angel of the LORD face to face, he feared he would die!

Here's what happened next, **Judges 6:23-24**:

²³*But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."* ²⁴*So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.*

What did the LORD say? *"Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."* Comforted by the peace he received; Gideon built an altar to the LORD and called it **'The Lord Is Peace'**.

Points for reflection:

- Do you believe that *'The Lord Is Peace'*? Have you received reconciliation with God and are living in peace with Him?
- We are called to 'fear the Lord' and, at the same time, live in peace with God. Jesus brought us reconciliation and peace with God by offering his precious life as the price.

Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

- **Romans 5:1-2**

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

- Also, remember the very words of Jesus in **John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- Do you trust in these promises? Are you living in this peace that God has freely offered you? Are there any unwanted fears stealing your peace? Write them down and pray to **'The Lord Is Peace'** to grant you peace.

For further meditation:

Study chapters 21 & 22 of the book of Revelation and meditate on the life God is preparing for us in heaven which is even greater than the life in the Garden of Eden.

Worship the Almighty God whom we can call **'Yahweh Shalom'** - **'The Lord Is Peace'**!

Day 14

YAHWEH TSEBAOTH - 'THE LORD OF HOSTS'

Enemy lines work so hard to defame God and bring dishonor to his name. The whole purpose of Satan is to malign God's holy name.

*"YHWH Tsebaoth/Sabaath", means "The Lord of Hosts" (Hosts such as angels, the army of Israel, the people of Israel, the stars etc). It's a powerful name that appears 270 times in the Bible. This name implies the *Universal Sovereignty* of our Lord over all the armies of the universe.*

We will jump into the scripture where this name appears for the first time. Surprisingly, it is not in the middle of a war, but it is in the middle of the desperate cry of a helpless barren woman in 1 Samuel.

1 Samuel 1:11 (ESV)

And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

Hannah was married to a man who already had another wife. She turned to the Lord for her identity – a son to continue her legacy, though she was barren. She was physically empty but, was spiritually full. So she cried out to The Lord, her only true helper and her last resort.

Hannah realized that she could do nothing to bring a child from her womb. In her acknowledgment of the power of God, who created everything out of nothing, this phrase of praise flowed from her heart - *"The Lord of Hosts"*, the most powerful God, the sovereign one.

God was pleased with her; He gave her a son, Samuel. Samuel became renowned for his prayer life (Psalm 99:6), he was a Nazirite and wore many crowns in Israel's history – as a high priest, prophet, anointer of kings, leader of Israel, and judge. God used him to lead Israel for 40 years.

Psalm 34:19

Troubles are not reserved for the wicked, but also came to the righteous and the chosen. The purpose of troubles is to draw us closer to God – to cry our heart out to him, dwell in his presence, and hide ourselves in his power – and *Yahweh Tzeboath* will deliver us from them all.

Points for reflection:

- Today, as we pray: list out the 'Goliaths' in your life and ministry – your greatest struggles and challenges. Spread them before God and plea for His intervention.

More Scriptures:

Isaiah 31:4-5	Like a lion Yahweh Tzeboath will rescue Israel.
Isaiah 44:6	King, Redeemer, Lord of Hosts.
Isaiah 47:4	The Lord of hosts is his name.
Malachi 3:10, 12	The call to return to God.
2 Samuel 5:10	The Lord of Hosts was with Davi.

Be blessed by *YHWH Tzeboath, the Lord of Hosts*.

Day 15

YAHWEH TSURI (יהוהצור) - THE LORD IS MY ROCK

This attribute of God appears several times in the Psalms, most notably in verses like **Psalm 18:2**, where David says:

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

The Hebrew word *Tsur* (צור) comes from the root word 'tsur', which means "rock" or "stone." The Quality of a rock draws us away from instability and sin into a life characterized by steadfast faith, peace, and holiness. Calling God "*my rock*" captures a powerful image of **protection, deliverance, strength, and stability**.

Protection:

The rock serves as a refuge, a place to which of safety where one can take shelter from danger or harm.

Deliverance:

The rock symbolizes a place where one stands firm. It's not just a refuge from danger but also a stable foundation that provides power and support, enabling someone to remain steadfast and unshaken in the face of challenges.

Strength and Stability:

A rock represents enduring strength that does not easily move or crumble. By calling God his rock, David declares that God is his source of unshakeable strength – a solid foundation that remains unmoved by storms or enemies.

Knowing that God is unchanging, stable, and faithful can strengthen your trust in Him, giving you hope to navigate life's challenges while staying rooted in Him, the Rock.

Who is our God? Yahweh Tsurì – God My Rock!**Points for reflection:**

- Take some time today to read Psalm 18 and meditate on the greatness of our God, who is our protector and the strong foundation of life.
- Where do you turn in times of fear, anxiety, or instability? Are you relying on temporary solutions like self-dependence, people, or material resources? Or, are you seeking God as your unchanging rock, refuge, and fortress?
- How do you experience self-reliance as a false foundation in difficult times?
- How can God's unchanging nature as a rock encourage your faith?
- How can you remind yourself daily that *God is your rock*? (Daily habits such as prayer, meditating on His Word, worship, and journaling His faithfulness help us remember His role as the solid foundation of our lives.)

No matter what storms you face, remember the truth that '**Yahweh Tsurì**' – '**God My Rock**' is with you. Build your life on this solid foundation, and you will stand firm amidst life's challenges.

For further meditation:

Read Psalm 62, Deuteronomy 32 (The Song of Moses), Matthew 7:24-27

Day 16

YAHWEH-RAAH (YHWH-RA'AH OR ROI) – THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

God is often called a shepherd, symbolizing care, guidance, protection, and leadership over His people.

Jehovah-Raah (YHWH-Ra'ah) – The Lord is my Shepherd

This name comes from **Psalm 23**, where David declares, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." In Hebrew, *Ra'ah* means "to pasture" or "to tend", and it highlights God's role as a provider and protector, guiding His people like a shepherd leads and cares for their flock.

Psalm 23 encourages us to know at least three truths about God as our Shepherd.

1. "I lack nothing" (vs. 1)

He provides all that we need: This doesn't mean our wish list is His agenda. God's provision for us is based on His wisdom and sovereign purposes. But as His sheep, we can be sure His "goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life" (vs. 6).

2. "He guides me along the right paths" (vs. 3).

Just like sheep, we lack the knowledge to find the right path in life. But we have the right shepherd with the knowledge and wisdom to show us the best path. He guides us "for his name's sake"—His glory is always the primary purpose.

3. "I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (vs. 4)

God is always with us. God is the only shepherd who can be with us always because He is the Omnipresent God! Because of the presence of God Almighty as our Shepherd, we have no reason to fear. This is true, especially in the darkest valleys or when evil is around the corner. Many generations of believers have claimed this powerful promise.

When the leaders of Israel who were supposed to shepherd God's flock became selfish and did not care for God's sheep, through the prophet Ezekiel God spoke like this: ¹¹"For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹²As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.." (**Ezekiel 34:11-12**)

First God fulfilled that promise by bringing back the exiles from Babylon and re-establishing them in the Promised Land. As the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy, He himself came as the Shepherd in human form! Jesus is our best shepherd!

In **John 10:11–14** Jesus refers to Himself as "The Good Shepherd", emphasizing His sacrificial love for His followers and His role in guiding them to eternal life. He was willing to pay the price and even went to the extent of laying down his very life for you and me. He conquered

what mankind fears the most – ‘death’, and promised us the same victory! He is waiting for us to be gathered to his ‘green pasture’ in heaven!

Jesus our *Good Shepherd* promised “*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” (Mat 28:20b)

Points for reflection:

- Which verse of the *Psalms 23* best describes your current circumstances?
- Are you enjoying green pastures? Or, are you in the depths of a dark valley? Either way, rejoice and trust God’s loving care as He is our *Good Shepherd*.
- Are you secure in your relationship with your *Shepherd* or do you doubt?
- Are you willing to be guided and led by your *shepherd* daily? What areas of your life need His guidance? Write them down and pray for His guidance.

For further meditation:

Isaiah 40, Ezekiel 34, John 10:1-18

Day 17

יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ - YAHWEH MELEK - GOD THE KING

“**Melek**” is a Hebrew word that Means ‘*King*’ or ‘*to reign*’. Though the Word “**Melek**” appears many times in the bible, most of the times it refers to human kings and sometimes to God.

In **Isaiah 33:22b** it says:

“*..the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us*”.

The concept of God’s kingship in the Bible often carries theological significance, highlighting themes of authority, justice, and covenant. (Strong’s Numbers)

This scripture talks about the Kingship of God that He is our King who fights for our liberation, and protection, He provides for our needs, and loves us.

God is portrayed as our ‘*King forever*’ (Psalms 10:16a The LORD is King forever and ever), ‘*Everlasting King*’ (Jeremiah 10:10 He is the living God and eternal King), and ‘*King of Glory*’ (Psalms 24:7-10) in the scriptures.

He rules over everything He created and His reign has no end. When Samuel was leading Israel, the people demanded a king to rule over them. Samuel was very sad and he prayed to God. See how God responded:

1 Samuel 8:6-7

⁶But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

See what God said: "they have rejected me as their king". God was their king, he was leading them wonderfully, but they rejected God by demanding another human king. God's rule over His people is called *Theocracy*. That is the best set up for mankind. In Theocracy, God still provides prophets or leaders to guide people through inspiration from Him. In that situation, people have to still consider that God is their King.

Psalm 5:2 NIV

"Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray."

David calls God as *His King*. And God's Kingship implies His absolute Authority, Power and control over all things. David makes one thing very clear in this Psalm, that our God is the only King of righteousness who rules Justly.

Israelites have witnessed all the wicked and evil Kings in biblical times, so did David. But He says God is the only King who is holy, righteous, and perfect.

Yahweh Melek – God Our King has given his commands through the inspired Word of God – the Bible. When we consider God as our *King*, we must submit to his rules. When we get baptized we declare 'Jesus is Lord' that means we are proclaiming publicly that so far I was the ruler of my life, but now on, I take Jesus as my king, Lord, and ruler. When we submit ourselves whole heartedly to Jesus as our *King*, we are entering into His kingdom. In the New Testament, we are called to be in *Christocracy* - where Christ reigns.

Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:9

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

When we declare *Yahweh Melek – God is our King*, we are also promising that we will live for His glory by declaring praises to Him and also by becoming more and more like Him. By seeing our lives, people around us should be praising *Yahweh Melek*.

Points for Reflection

- Is God the *Melek* (King) of your life, have you given yourself completely to Him to rule over you?
- Are you pursuing a holy life that is worthy of your calling (to be a subject of His Kingdom)?
- What changes in your life you need to make to prove that God is truly your King?

For further meditation:

Isaiah 43, Psalm 44, 1 John 2:3-6, 1 John 2:15-17, Revelation 21

Day 18

אֱשֵׁרָא - 'Ī-ŠĪ- MY HUSBAND

In Hebrew 'Ī-šî means 'my husband'.

Hosea 2:16

"In that day," declares the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband' you will no longer call me 'my master.' (NIV)

Isaiah 54:5

For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. (NIV)

Each name of God has great meaning, and more than anything, they reveal what kind of intimacy God wants with us. The most intimate relationship mankind has ever experienced is marriage. God, being our creator is truly our Heavenly Father, but he was also eager for Israel to consider him as the Husband! The book of Hosea is considered 'the second greatest love story'. God used Hosea to marry Gomer who became an adulterous woman and eventually a slave. God expected Hosea to be faithful to her and buy her from the market when she was auctioned as a slave! That is called redemption. God is that husband and Israel was the unfaithful, adulterous wife. But God remains faithful, redeems his estranged wife by paying a hefty price, forgives her past, and expects her to remain faithful to him for the rest of her days.

After God redeems Israel, he expects Israel to call Him, '**my husband**' 'Ī-šî, (Hosea 2:16)

In the New Testament, Jesus is portrayed as the bridegroom and the church as his bride. His second coming is called the '*wedding of the Lamb*' – consummation of the marriage, where the bride joins him in his home in heaven.

When a man and woman get engaged, they are making a formal pledge or promise to marry each other in the near future. The promise is that they will be devoted to each other and will not engage in any other relationship. They long for the day of the wedding where they will be united in every sense. Similarly, when we put our faith in Jesus and get baptized, we confess our pledge/promise "*Jesus is my Lord*". Through this, we are engaged to Jesus and we are promising that we will be faithful and devoted to Jesus alone until he comes and takes us to his home in heaven.

Points for Reflection

- How do you feel that God has called you to such an intimate relationship that we can call Him "*my husband*"!

- Is Jesus finding you truly faithful to Him as a spouse with 100% commitment, devotion, faithfulness, and love toward him?
- Why does James write like this in **James 4:4**
"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."
- Are you flirting with the world and being adulterous in your relationship with Jesus?
- What does it take for you to completely separate yourself from the world and present yourself fully devoted to Jesus?

Scriptures for further meditation:

James 4:1-10; 1 John 2:3-6; 1 John 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Matthew 22:34-40; Jeremiah 31:32

Day 19

EL CHAY | עֵלְכַי | 'ÊL KHAH'-EE - THE LIVING GOD

This Hebrew name of God *El Chay* Means *THE LIVING GOD*

The Hebrew word "*Chay*" means "living", "alive", "green", "flowing", "fresh", "lively", or "active". The Hebrew word *chai* (חַי) is also a Jewish symbol that represents life and is often found on jewelry.

This title sets Israel's God apart from the false gods of the surrounding nations. Unlike idols of wood and stone, made by human hands, the *Living God* is Himself maker of heaven and earth. He alone is the source of our life.

This name is used to emphasize God's unique nature and superiority over all other pagan gods and idols. (Jeremiah 10:1-16). So, for Israel, the name *El Chay* actually kept reminding them the amazing superiority of their God.

Psalms 84:2 NIV

"My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

This scripture expresses the psalmist's heartfelt yearning and intense hunger for God's presence, showing that only *El Chay (Living God)* can satisfy the longing of his soul. "My heart and my flesh cry out" illustrates a holistic longing and love for God, engaging body, mind, and spirit.

El Chay is not a distant or lifeless deity that pagans worship, but He is living and active. He transforms people by His presence in the lives of His people. Unlike any of those idols or false gods, *El Chay* is alive, eternal and loving, making Him the only one worthy of worship.

The psalmist's passion challenges us to examine whether we too hunger for God's presence with such passion.

What does the Living God do for us?

Psalm 121:3 NIV

³"He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

Idols are described by the Psalmist as "they have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell, have hands, but cannot feel" (Psalm 115). What a blessing it is for us to know the Living God who is more than the opposite of it? Because He is the Living God, He has eyes to see each one of us all the time, because He is concerned about us, He watches over us without sleep or slumber!

Points for Reflection:

- Do you consider it an incredible blessing and privilege to know the *Living God*, while millions of people are unaware of Him and worship lifeless idols?
- Do you recognize that you are living in the presence of the *Living God*?
- How does that make you feel knowing that *The Living God* is watching over you without sleep or slumber?
- What is your heart's desire? Does your heart yearn to commune with the *Living God*? Think about your hierarchy of values and priorities in your life.
- How can you intentionally engage your whole being, your mind and your body, to seek God daily? (Eg. Praying continually (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18), Meditating on the Word day and night (Psalm 1))

For further Meditation:

Isaiah 46, Jeremiah 10, Psalm 103, 2 Kings 19

Day 20

GOD IS MY REFUGE [MACHSEH] AND MY FORTRESS [MISGAB]

Psalm 62 is a song of trust, total confidence in God, and surrender, written by David during a time of major trouble in his life. Some say this Psalm was written when Saul was pursuing David to kill him and David had to flee from him and hide from him. Others say that this Psalm was written when David had to flee from his own son Absalom who took over the kingdom from his father David.

He wrote, **Psalm 62:3-4**

"³How long will you assault me? Would all of you throw me down — this leaning wall, this tottering [shaking] fence? ⁴Surely they intend to topple me from my lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse".

David was feeling assaulted and attacked. He was aware of people's intention to topple him from being a king. He sees people's duplicity. They outwardly bless but internally curse him. They are spreading lies about him!

Can you relate? Have you had such experiences? How did you handle it? How did David handle it?

It was in these painful, troubled, and lonely times David penned these verses about God. He invites us to anchor our lives in the unshakable strength and power of God, who alone provides true rest and security to all because He loves us.

When we read this Psalm we can see David's deep beliefs and declarations of who God is for him. God is revealed as the only one in whom we can find rest for the soul [vs 1,5], has Power [vs 11] to defend and protect us from our enemies, and in whose Unfailing Love [vs 12] we can 100% depend on!

For David, God is His rock [vs 2, 6, 7], His salvation [vs 1,2,6], His fortress [vs 2,6], His refuge [vs 7, 8]

There are a couple of Hebrew words that David uses **Machseh** - This word means "*shelter*" or "*refuge*" [vs 7,8], It emphasizes the protective heart of God, indicating that He provides a safe haven from danger and trouble.

Misgab - this word means "*fortress*" [vs 6], a cliff [inaccessible place], a defense. This refers to a fortress or stronghold, signifying God will defend us by keeping us in an inaccessible place from the enemies!

So, these words communicate God is the safest person and a safe place! We can depend on Him and we are going to be 'ok'. When we take refuge in God, we can be secure amidst all things that can cause insecurity. We can be safe amid threats. We can be protected from all

kinds of attacks. God will not allow us to be shaken, his salvation [deliverance] is assured and God himself will become a fortress to protect us from our enemies and provide peace and safety.

What amazes us is that David could sing of his relationship with God with such faith and conviction in the midst of a life-threatening situation.

Points for reflection:

- *What are your worries, fears, and burdens currently?*
- *Do you sense God is with you in your situation?*
- *Do you see God is watching over you and he will take care of you?*
- *Do you believe that God is more powerful than your enemies/problems?*
- *What does it take for you to take God as your Refuge and Fortress like David did?*

For further meditation:

Psalm 91, Psalm 46, Matthew 11:28-30, Philippians 4:6-9

Challenge: Write your own Psalm to God

Day 21

הַשִּׁפְטָהּ YAHWEH SHAPHAT-GOD OUR JUDGE

Shaphat is the Hebrew word for 'Judge'. In the Bible we see that God has many roles, one significant role is that of the Judge.

Isaiah 33:22

"For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us."

When the Prophet Isaiah saw the wickedness of nations and people, it overwhelmed him. God used him to prophecy the attack on Israel by the Assyrians. At the same time, God revealed to him that the same God who brings that judgment of destruction will restore Israel. Why are these things happening? Isaiah reveals Yahweh is our judge, Yahweh is our law giver, and Yahweh is our king. He will save us! Today we will focus on *Yahweh Shaphat – God our Judge*.

In this world, people are either afraid of the judge or hopeful of the judge based on which side of the law they are! Also, it depends on what kind of judge they are facing! If they have disobeyed the law, they are afraid of the judge, if they were abiding by the law, they are

hopeful. It also depends on whether the judge is just or unjust. In our case, our God who is the Judge is perfectly just. Justice is one of His prominent natures. He can't change from that! He is also the Law Giver and the King.

In **Psalm 94:2** the psalmist calls God "*The judge of the earth*". He is the judge of all.

He is the only one competent to judge not only our actions but also the motives of our hearts. He judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (**Hebrews 4:12**). When we pray to our *Shaphat* – *our judge*, we are praying to the one whose righteousness demands perfect justice, but who has also provided a way for us to be acquitted of our guilt through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son.

He is the only law-giver, judge, and king who justifies his sinful enemies by taking their sins upon himself and paying the price so that his enemies can become the subjects of His Kingdom and His children.

Just because we are living after Jesus paid the price for our sins, we can't live our lives casually.

Hebrews 4:13

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

Hebrews 10:26-27

²⁶*"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."*

So, how should we live? 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

⁹*"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.*

¹⁰*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*

As we recognize our God as our Judge, we must live with the goal of pleasing him.

Points for Reflection:

- Do you recognize God as *Yahweh Shaphat* – *God our Judge*?
- Are you careful in your thoughts, attitude, speech, and actions remembering that God is your Judge?
- Have you made your goal to please God?
- What changes will you make in your daily life, if your goal is to please God?

For further meditation:

2 Corinthians 5, Hebrews 10:26-39, Matthew 25

Day 22

MIQVEH ISRAEL (מִקְוֵה יִשְׂרָאֵל) – HOPE OF ISRAEL

Miqveh Israel (מִקְוֵה יִשְׂרָאֵל) is a Hebrew name of God. *Miqveh* (מִקְוֵה) means "hope," "expectation," "trust," and "to wait or look for with eager expectation." *Miqveh Israel* can be translated as *Hope of Israel*.

This name emphasizes God's faithfulness to His people and His presence as a source of hope. It serves as a powerful reminder to believers that God is their ultimate hope and refuge.

According to Strong's Concordance, *Miqveh* is used 11 times in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). For example:

Jeremiah 17:13 (LEB):

"O Yahweh, the hope of Israel (Miqveh Israel), all those who forsake you will be put to shame, and those who turn aside from you in the earth will be recorded, for they have forsaken the fountain of living water, Yahweh."

This verse reminds us that God is our ultimate hope, and turning away from Him leads to disappointment. When God is our hope, we trust Him as our deliverer and savior—because that is who He is! We can always turn to Him for:

- Deliverance
- Salvation
- Protection
- Provision
- Direction

Biblical hope finds its foundation in God's very nature: His love, faithfulness, goodness, mercy, and power.

As **Psalm 42:5** (LEB) encourages:

"Why are you in despair, O my soul, and disturbed within me? Hope in God, because I will again praise Him."

We may face many challenges, but with *Miqveh Israel* as our hope:

- We find strength in His presence.
- We trust in His faithfulness.
- We await His salvation and deliverance.

Hope sets Christians apart from unbelievers who have no hope (*1 Thessalonians 4:13*). As Christians, we put our hope in the name of Jesus, eagerly waiting for His second coming and our resurrection.

Points for Reflection:

- Are you always able to put your hope in God?
- If not, are you willing to make every effort to get to know Him so that you can have complete hope in Him?
- What will help you to know Him in such a way that you can proclaim, "*My hope is in Him*"?
- Is there anything else you are putting your hope in—such as yourself, the world, wealth, or religiosity? How can you shift away from this mindset?

Prayer: Romans 15:13 (NIV):

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Scriptures for Further Meditation

Psalm 62:5, Psalm 119:114, Matthew 12:21, Acts 24:15, 1 Thessalonians 1:3

Day 23

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR – “PELE YOWES”

In Isaiah chapter 9, Isaiah speaks to Judah, who feels powerless, afraid of their oppressors, the Assyrians, and unsure if God is on their side. Isaiah addresses Judah, prophetically seeing much of Jesus' life and ministry 700 years before it happens.

Isaiah 9:6

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

This prophecy concerns Jesus' birth as a child and His being called the *Wonderful Counselor*. He is both *wonderful* and the perfect *counselor*.

Wonderful:

Jesus is *wonderful* in his birth, life, teaching, miracles, love and sufferings, death and resurrection, ascension, humiliation and exaltation, cross and crown, grace and glory. Though he is God, he is *wonderful* in his humanity in the flesh through an extraordinary

virgin birth and a very ordinary life. He is *wonderful* in his humility despite being the creator of the Universe.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross.*

Jesus is *wonderful* in sacrificing his very life on the cross to rescue us from Hell. He is *wonderful* in his amazing and incomprehensible love for us. He is *wonderful* in being the King of Kings, the Judge, the one who takes us to heaven, the one who sits at the right hand of God.

Counselor:

Jesus is perfect in every way as he is God. He knows the whole counsel of God, so he is the *perfect counselor* for his people in all their doubts and difficulties, in all ages and nations, at all times, able to be our unfailing and flawless guide in any situation. He never lacks an answer to satisfy our souls. He lives as the Holy Spirit within his disciples to teach, remind, and counsel.

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 16:13-15

¹³*However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. ¹⁵Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you.*

Points for Reflection:

- Note down how wonderful Jesus is in different aspects. Meditate on them and praise God for those aspects.
- Rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom or seek his counsel in everything you face and do today.
- Train yourself to live by the counsel of the Holy Spirit at every step.

For further Meditation:

Psalm 32:8; Psalm 33:11; Psalm 19:21; Psalm 16:7; Proverbs 2:6-7; Proverbs 9:6; James 1:5

Day 24

YAHWEH SIDQENU (TSIDQENU) – THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

As we meditate on God's character, we are reminded of His beautiful name: *Yahweh Sidqenu, The Lord Our Righteousness.*

- *Yahweh* is God's covenant name.
- *Sidqenu* means *our righteousness*, signifying that God makes us right with Himself.

The Hebrew phrase *Yahweh Sidqenu* appears in **Jeremiah 23:6** (NLT):

"And this will be His name: 'The LORD Is Our Righteousness.' In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety."

Here, it refers to the Messiah, who was prophesied to come as a righteous branch of David. During Jeremiah's time, Judah's rulers often failed to uphold righteousness. King Zedekiah, the last ruler of Judah, "did evil in the eyes of the Lord" (*2 Kings 24:19*). Ironically, Zedekiah's name means "*Yahweh is my righteousness*," but he failed to live by it. Amid the kingdom's corruption, Jeremiah prophesied the coming of the Messiah—a ruler who would bring true righteousness for all. This prophecy offered incredible hope!

God had established Israel as His kingdom, with Himself as their righteous King. It was the only kingdom on earth directly ruled by God. What a privilege! Yet, the people rejected Him and demanded a human king to rule over them.

1 Samuel 8:6-7:

⁶"But when they said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷And the Lord told him: 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.'"

In **1 Samuel 8**, God warned them of the consequences of rejecting Him as King and choosing human rulers. He clearly foretold how human kings would mistreat them and issued a final warning:

1 Samuel 8:18:

"When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

Even so, in His mercy, God promised the Messiah, the perfect King who would become their *Yahweh Sidqenu – The Lord Our Righteousness.*

Mankind's Lost Righteousness

Humanity lost righteousness when sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden. God sought to restore it by establishing Israel as His kingdom, giving them His law, and ruling as their King. But the people rejected these blessings, demanding instead:

"We must have a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to judge us, to go out before us, and to fight our battles." —1 Samuel 8:19b-20

Rather than embracing the unique identity God gave them, they insisted on becoming like other nations. They wanted a king to judge them, lead them, and fight their battles—ironically rejecting the only King who could truly fulfill those roles. Amidst this rejection and chaos, God promised to come as the righteous King, bringing restoration and redemption through the Messiah.

Jesus: The Remedy for Unrighteousness

The Lord provides the solution for our unrighteousness:

Romans 3:21-22a (NIV):

"But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

For all humanity, affected by unrighteousness, a complete cure is available in Jesus. However, many fail to seek the remedy because they do not realize they are spiritually "sick."

Points for Reflection

- Do you recognize that you cannot achieve righteousness on your own and that Jesus offers His righteousness, making you perfect in God's eyes?
- Are you "first seeking His kingdom and righteousness"? (*Matthew 6:33*)
- How can you "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ"? (*Romans 13:11-14*)

For Further Meditation

1 Peter 3:12, Romans 6, Galatians 2:15-21, 2 Peter 1:3-11

Day 25

EL ELYON אֱלֹהֵי יוֹן – GOD MOST HIGH

El Elyon – God Most High.

- *El* means *God*, and *Elyon* means *Most High*.
- The phrase "*God Most High*" or "*The Most High God*" appears in 28 scriptures.

The name *El Elyon* signifies that no idol or created being should be worshiped or exalted above the Lord because He is superior in every way.

This name teaches us that God is the one true, most powerful God. He is the God who parts the sea, calms the storm, heals the sick, raises the dead, and is worthy of our worship and complete submission.

After Abraham defeated the kings who attacked Sodom and Gomorrah, he was met by Melchizedek, the King of Salem. Melchizedek, a priest of *God Most High*, blessed Abraham and praised *El Elyon* for delivering Abraham's enemies. The first time God is called "*El Elyon*" is in that blessing:

Genesis 14:20

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Key Attributes of El Elyon

1. Sovereignty

El Elyon emphasizes God's sovereignty, supreme authority, and dominion over all creation. He is the ultimate ruler, and His power is absolute.

2. Transcendence

This name highlights that God is beyond human understanding and control. He is infinitely greater than anything we can imagine.

3. Omnipotence

El Elyon speaks of God's immense power and ability to accomplish His purposes. He is the source of all strength and sustains all creation.

Biblical References

Psalm 57:2 *"I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me."*

Psalm 78:35 The psalmist refers to God as *El Elyon*, emphasizing His supreme power and sovereignty.

Psalm 97:9 *"For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods."*

Points for Reflection

- Awe and Wonder:

How can you cultivate a deeper sense of awe and wonder for God's power and wisdom as He is *El Elyon*, the *God Most High*?

Tip: Study the mighty miracles of God and meditate on them.

- Trials and Temptations:

How does the fact that the *God Most High* is with you help you respond to the trials and temptations of life?

- **Submission to Sovereignty:**
What are practical ways to submit to God's sovereignty in all areas of your life?
- **Introducing El Elyon:**
How will you introduce *El Elyon*, the *God Most High*, to others who do not know Him?

For Further Meditation

Psalm 92, Psalm 47, 2 Samuel 22

Day 26 YAHWEH S(H)AMMA: GOD IS THERE

This is not the name of God, but something significant about God. There was a time when the people of Judah became wicked. God had given them a serious warning while they were on the way to the Promised Land from Egypt.

Let us read the conclusion of that warning:

Deuteronomy 8:19-20

¹⁹*If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.* ²⁰*Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God.*

After giving many warnings, when people were unrepentant, God used Babylonians to fulfill this warning. Babylonians came and killed many in Judah & Jerusalem, took many as slaves, and destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem. God gave the prophet Ezekiel who was in Babylon, a vision of God's departure from the Temple and Jerusalem, described in chapters 9 & 10 of the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 9:18

Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim.

It was a very painful event for God! God was with them ever since He took them out of Egypt. His presence was visible as the pillar of cloud during the day and by night as a pillar of fire all the days of their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land (Exodus 13:21). His presence was in the Tabernacle (dwelling of God). During the reign of Solomon, the Temple was built in Jerusalem, and the glory of God filled the temple (1 Kings 8:11). God who was there with them for centuries departed! Only then the pagans were able to destroy the Temple!

Through the same prophet Ezekiel, God revealed His plan to restore the Temple and His re-entry into Jerusalem. The last nine chapters of the book of Ezekiel (chapters 40-48) deal with the vision of the future temple. After mentioning all the detailed dimensions of the Temple and the city, Ezekiel ends the book with this statement:

Ezekiel 48:35

The perimeter of the city will be 18,000 cubits, and from that day on the name of the city will be: THE LORD IS THERE (Yahweh S(h)amma).

Do you see the importance of this phrase ‘Yahweh Shamma’ – ‘THE LORD IS THERE’? This reveals God’s plan of making His presence with his beloved people, His beloved bride. Even the second temple was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. Jesus referred to his body as the Temple in **John 2:19** *Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”*

So, we can say that ‘THE LORD IS THERE’ when Jesus was physically present in Jerusalem & Judah! But we know that he had to die for our sins on the cross, resurrect, and ascend to heaven. That was not the end. He did not abandon us! Jesus promised in **John 14:23** *“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.””*

Then Jesus promised the Holy Spirit:

John 14:25-26

²⁵*All this I have spoken to you while I am still with you.* ²⁶*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

Today, if you are a baptized Christian, you can look at your own body and say ‘Yahweh Shamma’ – ‘THE LORD IS THERE’! Your body is the temple of God as God is dwelling in it as the Spirit.

Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”*

Points for Reflection:

- Do you recognize your body as the temple of God? Are you honoring God with your body?
- Do you recognize the Church as the temple of God? (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) How do you treat the Church?
- Do you recognize God’s presence with you wherever you are? Are your thoughts, motives, words, and interactions with people are centered on your awareness that ‘Yahweh Shamma’ – ‘THE LORD IS THERE’ with you?

For further meditation:

Deuteronomy 31:6, Psalm 16, Psalm 139:7-8, Matthew 28:20

Day 27

Ma'ayenMimHiyim - SPRING OF LIVING WATER

Jeremiah 2:13

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

Here God declares himself as the "*Fountain of Living Water*", emphasizing His role as our ultimate source of spiritual life.

Without water, no life forms can exist. Today, scientists are aware that the earth will perish one day. They are spending thousands of crores of rupees to find a planet where water exists so that man can find another home!

Just as water is needed for the existence of life, it also refreshes life. In Israel where rainfall was rare, they relied on fountains and where there was no fountain, they had to dig out cisterns on rocks to collect and keep rain water. Water was very precious. Rivers and fountains are considered living water. Water collected in the cisterns can become stale or dead! Hope you understand why God is calling himself the *spring of living water*. He is the only everlasting source of life and refreshment for all living beings.

Jesus reaffirms this truth in **John 4:14**, promising that those who drink from him will never thirst again.

Jesus became our eternal *Spring of Living Water*, quenching our deepest spiritual longings. Just as water revitalizes our bodies, Jesus revitalizes our spirits. Without him, we are weary, parched, and dry. But with him, we overflow with living water, nourishing our souls.

God wants us to go to him to nourish our souls instead of going to the 'broken cisterns'. By broken cisterns, Isaiah referred to false gods or idols. Today, broken cisterns we dig are the temporary solutions we depend on for our nourishment, such as human relationships, material possessions, self-righteousness, addictions to substances, and worldly pleasures. When we depend on these, we still feel empty, dissatisfied, broken, and thirsty.

Jesus referred to the *Holy Spirit* as the *Living Water*.

John 7:37-39

³⁸On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Jesus spoke this during the *Feast of Tabernacles* (Sukkoth). There was a tradition during that feast. Every morning the priest will draw fresh water in a gold vase from the pool of Siloam and with a great procession; he will bring that water to the altar and pour it out. At the same time, another priest will offer a jar of wine as a drink offering. That is the time Jesus made this claim "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink." He promised "the rivers of living water will flow from within them" if they believe in him. John writes that "by this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive".

We saw Yahweh God the Father claimed He is '*the fountain of living water*'. Jesus the Son promised that those who drink from him will never thirst again. The Holy Spirit is what Jesus promised as 'the rivers of living water that would flow from within' the believers. Through these words, we find the Trinity is at work within us as the '*fountain of living water*'.

Points for Reflection:

- Do you consider God as the *fountain of living water*?
- Is he sufficient for you to sustain your life and make it flourish to the point of living a "life to the full"?
- Are there any broken cisterns that you are digging? (Anything other than God where you are trying to find satisfaction or to make your life better)
- Confess and give up such broken cisterns today.

For Further Meditation:

John 4:1-26; Jeremiah 17:13; Revelation 7:13-17; Revelation 22:1-2

Day 28**גֹּאֲלִי GŌ·'Ă·LÎ - MY REDEEMER**

In the Bible, many people call God "*Redeemer*," or "*Haggo'el*" in Hebrew. In the Psalms and the Prophets, God is described as *Israel's Redeemer* who will stand up against their enemies and save them.

This name is rooted in the concept of a *kinsman redeemer*. That is a role taken by a family member who would rescue their relatives from trouble or debt.

In Leviticus chapter 25 and Ruth 2-4, we see examples of how a *kinsman redeemer* would repurchase a field of a relative who was sold due to poverty, free an Israelite slave who sold himself in a time of poverty, and avenge the blood of a murdered relative.

This description has a sense of family connected to it. When you made a mistake that got you into deep trouble and wished someone would save you; a *kinsman redeemer* pays off your debt and redeems you! It's grace in action. The acts of redemption demonstrate the love and loyalty of a *kinsman redeemer*.

Long before the Law was written, Job knew about his *Redeemer*! When all his friends were accusing him, Job understood that his redeemer would vindicate him and expressed his longing to see his *redeemer*. The *redeemer* he was expecting was God himself.

Job 19:25 NIV

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

'To redeem' means "to buy back with a price". Redemption is not buying something that belongs to someone else. It is a process of buying back that belonged to you but was lost or taken away from you. The whole Bible is about redemption. In other words, the Bible reveals the work of the *Redeemer*. Mankind belonged to God; He created them! But mankind sold themselves to sin. Because God is the best *kinsman redeemer*, He pays a heavy price to redeem mankind and restore them to himself!

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

Jesus shed His blood on the cross to redeem us from our sins. He is our *Go'el*, our *Redeemer* as He has paid a ransom to purchase us from the slavery of sin. He restored our relationship with God, we are made children of God. This is truly grace in action. Surely our *Redeemer Lives* and we need to find our confidence and security in Him. We should never allow anything that will take us back to the slavery from which the Lamb of God redeemed us.

Romans 6:11-14

¹¹*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and **offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.** ¹⁴For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.*

Points for Reflection:

- What does it mean to you that God is your *Redeemer*?
- How has Jesus' redemption impacted your life?

- How can you offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness?

For further meditation:

Romans 5 & 6; Titus 2:11-15, Isaiah 44

Day 29 ABBA-FATHER

Psalm 89:26 NIV

He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'

This psalm starts with a statement: "I will sing of the Lord's great love forever". Then it talks about how God raised up David to be the king and that David will call out to God saying "You are my *Father*, my God, the Rock my Savior". We know that David had an incredibly intimate relationship with God.

The idea, that God can be our Father is one of the most important truths in the Bible. All other religions consider their gods as distant beings with no personal intimacy. But the true God wants to be our *Father* and build an intimate relationship with us.

Jesus lived, died, and rose again to make it possible for us to have a father-son relationship with God and call Him "*Abba-Father*" (1 John 3:1-3). This should amaze us and fill us with wonder, but we often take it for granted and fail to understand the depth of its meaning.

In Jesus's time, calling God "*Father*" was unusual and even surprising to the Jews. But Jesus taught his disciples to pray by addressing Him as "*Our Father*". The Old Testament rarely uses the term "*Father*" for God. When it does, it emphasizes His role as *Redeemer* rather than just *Creator*. For example, in **Isaiah 63:16–17** and **64:8–9**, God is called *Father* in the context of Israel's sin and repentance. These passages show that the relationship between God and Israel was special and based on a covenant, not merely creation.

Throughout the Old Testament, the fatherhood of God is closely tied to His covenant relationship with Israel. For instance, Moses reminded the Israelites that they were chosen by God as His treasured people (Deuteronomy 14:1–2). Similarly, **Psalm 103:13** compares God's compassion to that of a loving father, and **Jeremiah 31:20** speaks of God's love for His people, even when they sin. These verses show God's fatherhood involves care, compassion, and redemption.

Jesus built on this idea, teaching that God's fatherhood is not just for Israel but is available to all who believe in Him. Jesus shared His unique relationship with the Father, saying, "*I and the Father are one*" (John 10:30) and "*He who has seen me has seen the Father*" (John 14:9). However, He also challenged the assumptions of Jews, pointing out that their actions

showed they were children of the devil, not of God (John 8:37–59). This upset them, but it highlighted that being a child of God requires more than lineage—it requires faith and obedience. Someone said, “We become children of God not by race but by grace”!

By nature, we are not God’s children, but through faith in Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit, we are brought into a close relationship with God. As Paul wrote, “*Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba, Father!’*” (Galatians 4:6–7).

In summary, calling God “*Father*” reflects a special, redeeming relationship. Through Jesus, we are invited into this covenant, becoming God’s children and experiencing His love and care in a deeply personal way.

Points for Reflection:

- What does the idea of God being your “*Abba Father*” mean to you personally?
- How do the actions of your earthly father influence the understanding of Heavenly Father?
- What difference does it make in your life knowing that you can approach God not just as Creator, but as a loving Father?
- Is there anything in your life that hinders you from fully embracing God’s love as your Father?
- Throughout each day, remind yourself that you are a child of God and call God “*Abba Father*” and share with him all that you are going through, your joy, the challenges in life, fears, and worries like a child talking to his/her loving dad.

For further meditation:

1 John 3:1-3, Galatians 4:6-7, Psalm 103:13, Jeremiah 31:20, Isaiah 63:16-17.

Day 30

IMMANUEL— אֱלֹהִים עִמָּנוּ — GOD WITH US

Let’s Read: **Matthew 1:18-23**

¹⁸*This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is*

from the Holy Spirit. ²¹*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.* ²²*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

The meaning of the Hebrew name ‘Immanuel’ is ‘God with us’.

Adam and Eve had the greatest blessing of living in the presence of God in the Garden of Eden. Every day, they could say ‘Immanuel’ God is with us! But once they rebelled against God, they were sent out from the presence of God and they lost the image and glory of God. Ever since, it was a known factor for all people that they would die if they saw God in His full glory and splendor. But God planned to restore mankind to His presence because God is love! Matthew is quoting the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 7) that the Messiah would be called Immanuel meaning *God with us*. **John 1:1-5** reveals Jesus as the Word, Word is God and **John 1:14** reveals that Jesus is that Word in flesh who *lived among us*. Jesus is truly *Immanuel* – the ‘God with us’.

Jesus appeared in the flesh but not in all the glory and splendor of God. That is why people could see and touch him without losing their lives. But that did not change the fact that he is truly ‘Immanuel’.

Immanuel came to be with us so that he could give us a taste of what it would be like in heaven when we are going to spend eternity with God in all His glory and splendor.

1 John 3:1-3

¹*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

²*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*

When *Immanuel* came first time as God the Father poured out His love through him to make us children of God. He will come back and we will see him as he is – with all the glory! We will not die by seeing his glory; rather we too will be given a glorious body like that of Him. Only then we will enter His home, that is heaven! John also reminds us that those who have such hope in him purify themselves just as He is pure. The pursuit of purity and holiness is a sign of those who are longing for Immanuel. Until His second coming, the Holy Spirit dwells in us as ‘Immanuel’ – ‘God with us’!

Points for Reflection:

- Matthew begins and ends with the promise that God is with us (Matthew 28:20). How would your life be different if you began and ended each day with the firm belief that God is with you?
- Are you sincerely longing for the appearance of Jesus?

- How is your fellowship with the Holy Spirit? Are you paying attention to His directions and following them?
- Take time to thank God for sending Jesus as *Immanuel – God with us*. Thank Him for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell in us to teach, guide, counsel and comfort us.

For further meditation:

John 1:1-5, 14; Luke 7:11-17; Mark 4:35-41; John 14

Day 31 Λόγος - LOGOS - WORD

John 1:1-3 (NIV)

¹*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

The Greek word used here for 'Word' is 'logos'. This is the name or title of Jesus Christ, seen as the pre-existent second person of the Trinity.

The Greek word 'logos' means 'word', 'speech', or 'reason'. John did not invent this term to call God. It was often used in the Aramaic translation of the Old Testament. In the Aramaic Bible, the word for 'logos' or 'word' was "Mimra".

John 1:14 *"Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."* That is Jesus!

In **Revelation 19:13** Jesus Christ is called the "Word of God," as a reference to his person and work as both the revealed and the revealer.

John 1:18

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Jesus, the son of God is the image and exact representation of the invisible God. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17).

John intends to let his audience know that Jesus is truly God. God called *Logos* or *Word*, and Jesus is also called *Word* by John. John proves that Jesus is truly God.

A few aspects of Jesus the Word:

- Jesus is Eternal and Everlasting – *"In the beginning was the Word"*
- Jesus is God – *"the Word was God"*

- Jesus was with God – *“the Word was with God”*
- Jesus is the Creator of all things – *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*
- Jesus is the giver of life - *“in him was life”* (John 1:4)
- Jesus is God in the flesh who lived among us - *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us”*

How powerful is God’s Word? God created everything by *His Word*. Eg. **Genesis 1:3** *And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.* (Study Genesis 1)

When a furious storm hit their boat, the apostles were afraid that they would die; Jesus the Word uttered these words *“Quiet! Be still!”* and nature listened and obeyed.

When Jesus approached the tomb of Lazarus where he was buried for 4 days, Jesus raised his voice and uttered these words *“Lazarus, come out!”*. The dead man came alive and walked out of the tomb hale and hearty.

How powerful is the Word? How powerful is Jesus the *Logos*? How powerful are the words of Jesus?

Points for Reflection:

- Do you recognize Jesus as God in flesh?
- Do you consider the words of Jesus worth following?
- Do you have a habit of studying, meditating, and applying the Word of God in life?

For further Meditation:

Genesis 1; Hebrews 1; Psalm 119

Epilogue

We hope this quiet time series helped you to draw closer to our wonderful and glorious God.

Our prayer, just as Apostle Paul prayed for the Christians in Ephesus, is that: *“For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen”* (**Ephesians 3:14-21**).

May the Holy Spirit continue to provide you the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. May that knowledge lead you to love him in return with all your heart and mind. May that result in you being *“filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”*. We request you also to pray for that. Our confidence is in Him *“who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”*!

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