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THE GODHEAD

For in him (CHRIST) dwelleth all the fullness of the GODHEAD bodily. (Colossians 2:9-10).

The words "fullness of the GODHEAD" cause us to notice a definite idea of PLURALITY. But, we know that there is only one GOD.

James STRONG wrote STRONG'S EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE which has become the recognized authority of BIBLE words to all the English speaking world.

Concerning the GODHEAD, STRONG wrote:

GODHEAD, 2320, Greek THEOTES, pronounced Theh-ot-ace, from 2306, divinity, godhead.

This is a PLURAL from of 2316.

GOD, 2316, Greek THEOS, pronounced theh-os, a diety, especially the supreme Divinity, at times a magistrate.

So, the word "GODHEAD" is a PLURAL form of the word "GOD."

ONE GOD OR MANY?

We are MONOTHEISTIC (meaning ONE GOD) not POLYTHEISTIC (meaning more than one GOD).

Most all Christians and Jews recognize: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord." (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Monotheism is such a well established fact that we need spend little time on it here.

But the Bible uses words that confuse the issue by adding POLYTHEISTIC (several GODS) ideas, like GODHEAD.

NAMES OF GOD

Just because GOD'S name changes does not make Him change a bit. HE is the same, single, one GOD.

But if we only know GOD by one name - then we will likely miss out on some other very satisfying natures of GOD.

In fact, the way to know the fullness of CHRIST and all of His natures is to know all of the different natures and names of the GODHEAD because:

"IN HIM (CHRIST) DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY, AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM, (CHRIST) WHICH IS THE HEAD OF ALL PRINCIPALITY AND POWER." (Colossians 2:9-10)

LIFE PATERNS

The narrow minded person only knows GOD in one (or a few) natures. Naturally they pattern their life after the nature that they know. Consequently, sometimes they are not very nice to be around because they are so narrow.

The Christian who wants to overcome the last enemy - which is death - desires to know GOD as JESUS knew Him. JESUS became a priest after the order of Melchisedec, who knew GOD as EL ELYON, the MOST HIGH GOD. JESUS and Melchisedec entered the EL ELYON priesthood through the power of an endless life. Those who overcome the last enemy - death - will do it the same way. They will have a balanced knowledge of all of the names, natures, attributes of GOD and be priests of EL ELYON, the MOST HIGH GOD.

MY NAME

I have quite a few different names myself. My name is David P. Ebaugh. Most people call me David. A few call me Dave. In the navy my name was Ebaugh, D. P. 231-25-89, SIR (with a shout). Later my name was Mister Ebaugh when I was a supervisor of engineers. Then my name changed to Reverend Ebaugh. And a while ago I

heard myself introduced to an audience as The Right Reverend Honorable Doctor Ebaugh. That's a mouthful when you compare it to the fact that at the same time three ladies and a commercial pilot call me Dad. Now, seven small children call me Grandpa, and I never planned on THAT at all. Some people have even called me by some unprintable names.

But really - I'm only ONE person.

MY RESPONSE

The name by which you choose to call me indicates the type response you expect to receive from me. No engineer ever called me Dad; and no child of mine ever called me Mr. Ebaugh. That is so important I'll try to say it another way. The name we use for a person indicates our relationship to the person and also indicates our understanding of the nature of that person.

The name you use also indicates what type of response you are expecting from the person.

For example:

Mr. Ebaugh does not respond the same way that Dad does. And David doesn't act like Rev. Ebaugh, but you know - they are all the same man.

That is not so hard to see about me. You know that it is true about yourself. And now you conclude that the same thought holds regarding the different NAMES OF GOD.

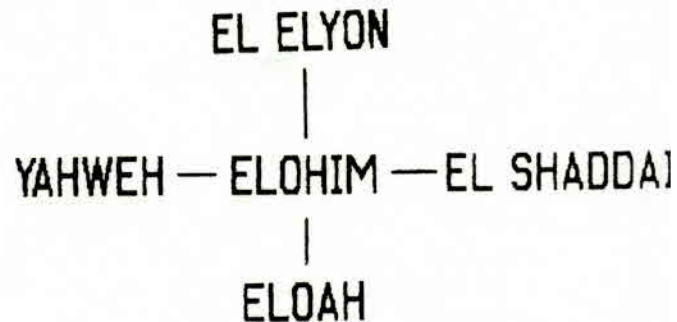
ANOTHER NEW NAME OF GOD

That's probably the reason that JESUS taught us to use a new NAME for GOD. The name is ABBA. And that means Dad. (Mark 14:36).

It would probably be a bad idea for you to use the word Dad in your public prayers because our society can only stand a little change at a time, and that's probably too much. But your own SPIRITUAL sensitivity will increase greatly when you start to relate to our Heavenly Father as Dad, especially in your private prayers. And I suppose that there are a precious few places where you could get away with using "Dad" publicly.

OLD TESTAMENT

Here are five different Hebrew words (transliterated) that appear in our Bible as one word or thought - "GOD."



1. EL ELYON, the NAME of the nature of GOD that is the MOST HIGH GOD, possessor of heaven and earth, androgenous.
2. YAHWEH, the NAME of the nature of GOD that gives laws, leads to victory, judges and punishes, wounds, heals delivers, masculine.
3. ELOHIM, the NAME of the nature of GOD that creates, androgenous.
4. EL SHADDAI, the NAME of the nature of GOD that loves, nourishes and provides, feminine.
5. ELOAH, the NAME of the nature of GOD that is the MESSIAH, CHRIST, lifegiving creative force, anointing, HOLY GHOST, feminine O.T., Masculine N.T.

These are five NAMES of five natures of our GOD. Deut. 6:4, Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is ONE LORD.

These are not complete descriptions because it takes the whole Bible to try to describe GOD, and that has not been really sufficient either. But at least it provides an orderly start so that we can try to understand the Bible.

Scholars tell us that there are 72 NAMES OF GOD. These five NAMES seem to provide foundation for the other 72 NAMES.

TRANSLITERATED

We mentioned that the five words were transliterated. That means to represent or spell words, letters or characters of one language (Hebrew in this case) in the letters or characters of another language or alphabet (English in this case).

Language experts are never completely satisfied with any transliteration attempt. But they all agree that it is better than nothing. And since the Hebrew language is all Greek to me (that's a joke son), I praise our GOD for anything that makes Bible study easier and/or more accurate. And that includes transliteration. 45

NEW NAMES

Under the listing NAMES OF GOD, the JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA tells us, "Like other Hebrew proper names, the name of GOD is more than a distinguishing title. It represents the Hebrew conception of the divine NATURE or character and of the relation of GOD to His people. It represents the Deity as He is known to His worshipers, and stands for all those attributes which He bears in relation to them and which are revealed to them through His activity on their behalf. A new manifestation of His interest or care may give rise to a NEW NAME. So, also, an old name may acquire new concept and significance through new and varied experience of these sacred relations."

Personally, I am thrilled to find that statement in Jewish literature. I wish that every Christian and Jew could read it and understand it.

One obvious example of the quote from the JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA is in Exodus 6:2-3.

"And ELOHIM (GOD) spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am YAHWEH (The LORD)! And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the NAME of EL SHADDAI (GOD ALMIGHTY), but by my NAME YAHWEH (JEHOVAH) was I not known to them." In other words, GOD changed His NAME.

There, in one verse, we find THREE NAMES (natures) of GOD: 1. ELOHIM, 2. EL SHADDAI, 3. YAHWEH.

Did you notice that there were THREE different Hebrew words translated FOUR different ways in English - for "GOD"? No wonder that there is little agreement as to what GOD is like!

GOD CHANGED HIS NAME

We also find that GOD did not appear with the SAME NAME (nature) to everyone. GOD appeared to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob by the NAME (nature) of EL SHADDAI.

About 500 years later, GOD changed His NAME (nature) to YAHWEH when He appeared to Moses.

And, about 1500 more years later, JESUS gave a new NAME OF GOD, ABBA, to us.

Now we can begin to see some reasons for the differences between Abraham, Moses, David and JESUS, when we see that they each knew GOD by a different NAME (nature).

In other words, when we want to know what GOD is like, we must also define the time period about which we are thinking.

ABRAHAM AND SARAH NO LAW

This adds light to the question of: How did Abraham get away with treating Sarah like he did (gave her to the King of Egypt) when he should have been stoned under the law that YAHWEH gave to Moses? There was no law of Moses (from YAHWEH) at that time. The law (from YAHWEH) did not come until 500 years had passed after Abraham. Abraham was not under the law of YAHWEH. Abraham only answered to commands of EL SHADDAI.

A NEW NAME-NATURE OF GOD

Remember the quote, "A new manifestation of His interest or care may give rise to a new name"? As slaves in Egypt, Israel only needed to know the NAME (nature) of EL SHADDAI (provider). But 500 years later a newly trained army of Israelites needed a new manifestation of a new NAME (nature) of GOD - YAHWEH (leads to victory).

CONFOUNDED CORRUPTION

The Hebrew NAMES OF GOD were not rendered consistently and were sometimes confounded as they were translated into English

Simply stated, we believe that it is now the time for Christendom to rediscover the truth of the NAMES OF GOD.

Many people say that there is nothing left to fight about - after they have seen the differences between the NAMES (natures) of OUR ONE GOD.

MATURITY AND GOD'S NAME

Here is a little tip. Keep a watchful eye out for the following parallel thoughts. They will reinforce each other.

As we study the history of our GOD's interest and care in dealing with His people, we will notice that there is a parallel between the raising of a child from infancy to manhood (a period of about 20 years) and the development of the nation of Israel from Abraham to Christ (a period of 2000 years).

A child's god (little "g") changes from Mama, to Mom, to Mother, to Dad, to Father as the child matures. The nation of Israel followed the same basic pattern in the Bible.

Abraham knew God as the feminine EL SHADDAI. Moses met God as the masculine YAHWEH. David gave glimpses of the Most High, EL ELYON. Solomon returned Israel to the masculine law giver YAHWEH. JESUS reintroduced the love mercy and forgiveness nature of EL ELYON. That outline parallels the way that a little baby boy grows up to become a big man.

NAMES OF GOD

Now, let us try to examine a familiar story using the concepts of the NAMES (natures) of GOD.

YAHWEH (Justice) demanded that the adulterous woman be stoned. She was caught in the very act. She was guilty. All the Jews knew that YAHWEH (Justice) demanded punishment. And they were ready to execute her. They demanded LAW, JUDGMENT, CONDEMNATION, PUNISHMENT and DEATH.

But EL ELYON (Mercy) told his son JESUS to bring no condemnation. She walked out of a very bad situation with LOVE, LIGHT, FORGIVENESS, MERCY and LIFE.

LAW OR LOVE?

Yes, there was a great conflict. And we still deal with that conflict in our own daily lives - until we shift our priorities and realign them in the same order that JESUS placed His.

Most every person had tried to reconcile the GOD of love, mercy and peace with the GOD who hardens hearts, wounds and kills whole nations. Perhaps this will help.

This ministry does not exist apart from the prayers and gifts of our students and friends.