

knowing God by name

intro

"Hello, nice to meet you, my name is..."

This basic introduction plays out over and over as people make a new acquaintance. Revealing your name and then learning someone else's name is a basic building block upon which to construct a relationship. You might not bother to exchange names with someone you are having a momentary encounter with, like a cashier or a delivery person. But once you know someone's name, the relationship suddenly becomes more personal.

When God revealed Himself to Moses through a burning bush in Exodus 3, Moses asked a very bold question: "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?" (Exodus 3:13, NLT). Moses wanted to know God's name! And God, in His grace and mercy, answered him. "God replied to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:14, NLT). God had revealed His name.

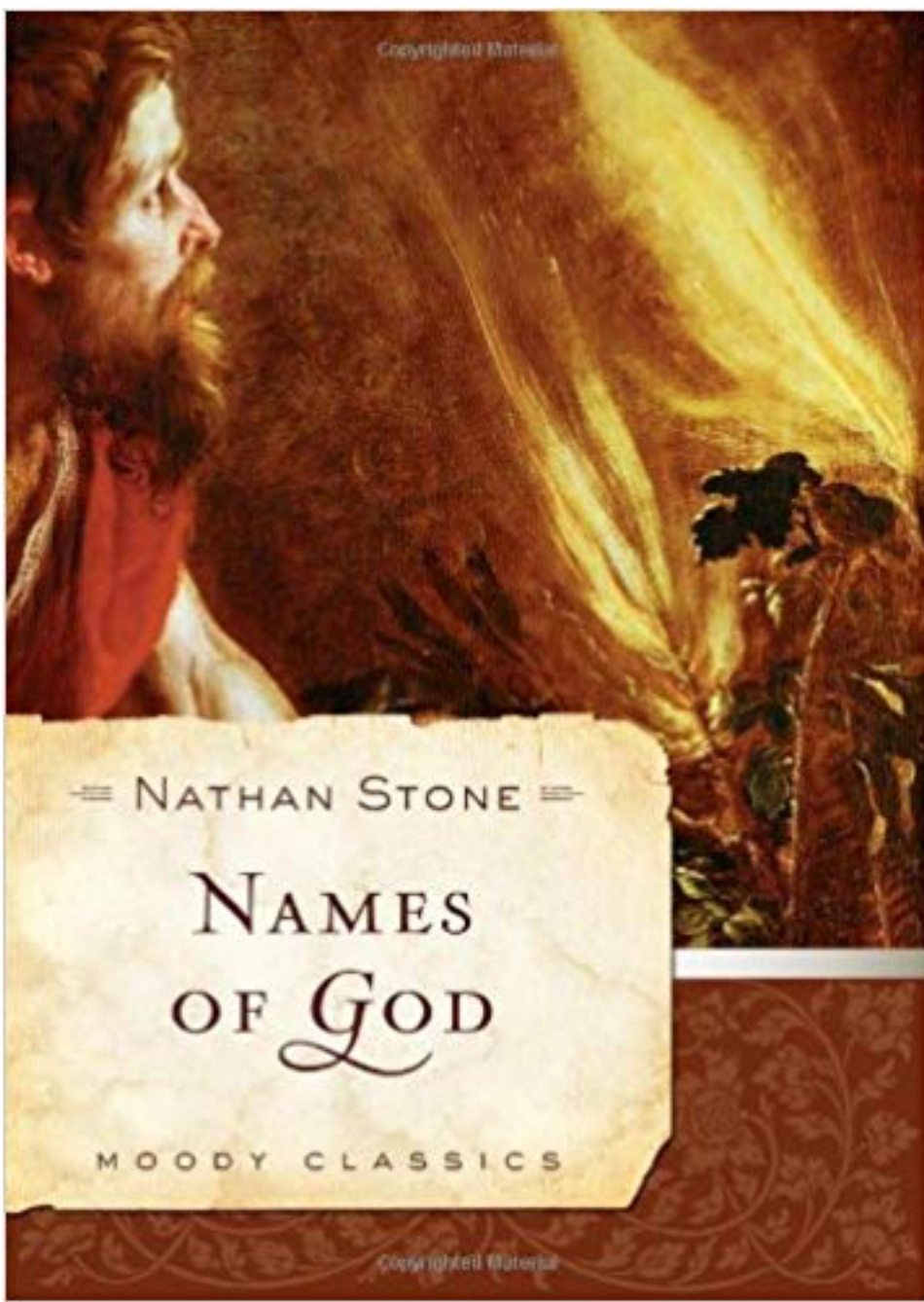
Theologian J. Scott Horrell writes, "What's in a name? His name reveals God's person, and represents God's person, and is, therefore, sacred." When we know God by name, we know things about who God is. We learn about His strength and His sovereignty. We learn that He is a covenant keeper as well as Lord and Master. We learn that He is a provider and He is our peace. God's names show us that He is Healer, Shepherd, and our victory banner. We see in our great God's name that He is a God of love and forgiveness. In His Old Testament names, we see a picture of what the New Testament will call "grace."

Over the course of our study we will encounter nine Hebrew words that refer to God by name. Each will give us an insight into God's person and work. Each will be in the context of the story of God's relationship to His people, Israel. Each will point us to the fullest revelation of God that we have, Jesus Christ. Knowing who God is and what God does is the foundation for all discipleship. Grounding our identity in the character and work of God is essential in learning to trust and obey Him. Pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit we will learn to know God by name. Pray that through this study we will know Him better and see Him more fully expressed in our lives and ministries.

schedule

Month	Sat/Sun	Passage	Name
June	1/2	Genesis 1	Elohim
	8/9	Exodus 4:10-12	Adonai
	15/16	Exodus 3:14; 6:2-7	Yahweh
	22/23	Genesis 22:8-14	Jehovah Jireh
	29/30	Judges 6:22-24	Jehovah Shalom
July	6/7	Exodus 15:22-27	Jehovah Rapha
	13/14	Psalms 23	Jehovah Rohi
	20/21	Exodus 17:15-16	Jehovah Nissi
	27/28	Psalms 51	Jehovah Hesed

resources



Names of God

By: Nathan Stone

In this slim volume, missionary, pastor, and Moody Bible instructor, Nathan Stone, draws from his early Jewish education. Originally delivered as a series of radio Bible studies, each chapter seeks “...to show not only the significance of the names of God in the Old Testament, but that they find their complement and fulfillment in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ in the New.”

As Ann Spangler suggests in the introduction, “Learning about these names and titles can help us experience more of the love, power, and holiness of the God we revere.”