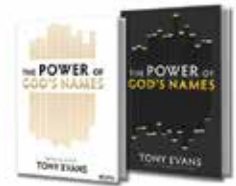




THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



The goal in this message is to introduce you again to God by His name. But it's not enough for you to merely learn how to pronounce His name. I want you to understand the nature behind His names because they reveal His attributes and characteristics that you need to become familiar with if you want to live in relationship with Him.

SERMON POINTS:

1. YOU CAN CALL ON ONE OF GOD'S NAMES IN EVERY SITUATION YOU FACE.

- God has revealed His names to show different characteristics of His nature that can help you in your specific time of need.
 - When young David faced the giant Goliath, David called on the Lord of Hosts, the Sovereign Commander of the heavenly armies who fought for Israel and who could defeat not only Goliath but also the entire Philistine army (1 Samuel 17:45).
 - Proverbs 18:10 reminds us that the name of the Lord is a strong tower, a fortified place that Christians can run to when the circumstances of life seem as if they are crushing us.
- No matter what situations we face, at least one of God's awesome names reveals a characteristic we need to cling to (Psalm 111:9).

2. TRUST IN GOD'S MAJESTIC NAME.

- David didn't just know God's name; he had learned to trust in God's character, revealed in His name (Psalm 8:1).
 - David experienced God's protection and provision when for years he fled from Saul's bloodthirsty armies.
 - David experienced God's grace when God responded to David's contrite heart and forgave David of his sins.
- God allows only those who actively depend on Him to experience the power of His name.
 - God reveals His strength through the cries of newborn babies and infants (Psalm 8:2).
 - Jesus explained that God reveals Himself (His name) not to wise and intelligent people but to those who are humble like infants (Matthew 11:25).
- When we rest from working to attain our salvation and

to provide for ourselves, not just on Sunday but every day, we show that we trust God to provide for us, and we remember to know and experience the power of God's names, we must become humble and dependent on Him, just like infants who depend on their parents for everything.

3. HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD'S HOLY NAME.

- God has revealed His names to show different characteristics of His nature that can help you in your specific time of need.
 - In the Lord's Prayer Jesus taught us to recognize God's hallowed name, His holy character, when we pray (Matthew 6:9).
 - Jesus also instructed us to set God apart and make Him first in our minds, actions, and priorities.
- God's separate dwelling place in heaven shows that He is holy and that we should revere Him.
 - God rules over and sustains the entire universe from His throne in heaven.
 - Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to God, so we should humbly submit everything we have to Him.

4. GOD'S NAME MUST BE REVERED, NOT EMPTIED OF ITS MEANING.

- Many people in our society use God's name in vain—in a way that isn't consistent with His character, thereby stripping it of its meaning (Exodus 20:7).
 - As Christians, we should never use God's name in vain and forget that His name reflects His holy, powerful character.
 - God will judge those who misuse His holy name.
- Satan used God's name in vain when he tempted Eve (Genesis 3:1-5).
 - Satan misrepresented God's command and misused His name to deceive Eve.
 - Many people misuse God's name and misrepresent His Word to deceive people and draw them away from the truth.

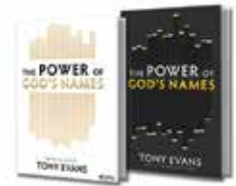
5. UNDERSTAND THAT GOD IS POWERFUL, IS PERSONAL, AND CARES FOR YOU.

- Elohim is strong.



THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



- Only a strong God can create everything from nothing (Hebrews 11:3).
- We can trust our strong God who spoke everything into existence, even in the most difficult circumstances.
- As the Creator, Elohim is separate from creation (Genesis 1:1).
 - "In the beginning" God created time, so He is separate from and outside time.
 - "God created the heavens and the earth," so He is separate from and rules over space, matter, and all creation.
 - Although God lives in another dimension that we can't access apart from His grace, He chooses to enter time, space, and matter in order to interact with His creation (Genesis 1:1-2).
- Elohim is triune and relational.
 - The word Elohim is plural, which points to the fact that God exists in three divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
 - God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2) and God the Son played parts in creation (John 1:1, 14; Colossians 1:16).
 - God created Adam and Eve in His triune, relational image (Genesis 1:26-27).
- Elohim can create beauty from a garbage dump.
 - The Spirit of God hovered over the formless earth that God created (Genesis 1:2).
 - Because God doesn't create formless garbage dumps (Isaiah 45:18), something happened between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 to make the earth uninhabitable.
 - Many Bible scholars believe between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, Satan was thrown out of heaven, fell to earth, and destroyed the earth (Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14).
 - Elohim created light, created the sky, and made the land inhabitable (Genesis 1:3-10).
- Elohim rested on the seventh day and set it apart as a holy day (Genesis 2:1-3).
 - God didn't need to rest, but He modeled the principle of rest for us.
 - When we rest from working to attain our salvation and to provide for ourselves, not just on Sunday but every day, we show that we trust

God to provide for us, remember to worship Him for His power and provision each day (Hebrews 4:9-16).

6. WORSHIP GOD BY REFLECTING ON HIS HOLY NAME

- We must recognize God's amazing works and praise Him.
 - David praised God after looking at the sky and realizing that God created the sun, moon, stars, galaxies, and everything else from nothing (Psalm 8:3).
- Humility is the key to worship.
 - When David compared himself to the holy Creator of the universe, he recognized his dependence on God, and he worshiped God (Psalm 8:4-9).
 - When we realize how big God is, we realize not only how small we are but also how important we are to the God who created us.
 - Let's join David and magnify God's name, making His name bigger in our minds and hearts as we worship Him and learn about His holy character (Psalm 34).

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

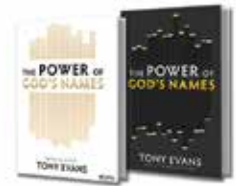
REVERE GOD'S NAME: If the President of the United States walked into the room, we shouldn't say, "What's up, Barack?" His position as president demands that we respectfully address him as "Mr. President." His position and title require reverence, humility, and respect. And if a human leader garners our respect, how much more should we give the God of the universe our humble adoration?

SET GOD APART IN YOUR HEART: Many people have two kinds of dishes—everyday dishes and special-use dishes. We keep the everyday dishes in the cupboards along with all the other eating utensils and baking dishes. We run the everyday dishes through the dishwasher and toss them back into the cupboard when they're clean. But we often keep the special-use dishes—the fine china—in a separate, locked cabinet. We have set them apart, literally, and sanctified them for special occasions. They are "holy" dishes. We treat them with care, and we wash them by hand when they're dirty. Then we carefully place them back in the locked cabinet until the next Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. In the same way, we should set apart God in our thinking and in our priorities to reflect our belief that He alone is holy. And we shouldn't use His name in vain, forgetting that His name reflects His holy character.



THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

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UNDERSTANDING GOD'S IMMANENCE: Air is present everywhere. No matter where you go on earth, you will have air to breathe because the atmosphere encompasses the whole planet. God is like the atmosphere. Since God is Spirit, He has an atmospheric presence on earth, but His presence is not limited to earth. No matter where we go, on earth or beyond, we cannot leave God's presence. In fact, when you leave here to go to there, He doesn't have to catch up with you; He's there when you show up because He is simultaneously present everywhere. That is why everybody can pray at the same time, and God can hear and respond to everybody's prayer—because His presence and His power are everywhere at the same time.

GOD'S IMAGE. An image is a mirror. When you go to the mirror in the morning, you see your image flash in the mirror. Only man was created with the capacity to mirror God. The flowers, the fish, and the beasts weren't created to mirror God's image. Everything else is a validation of God's creative power. But only male and female were created to mirror God and to reflect His image.

GOD'S FINGERPRINTS ARE ON EVERYTHING. Detectives use fingerprints to find the person who committed a crime. Fingerprints are unique and point to only one person. The entire universe, from the most distant galaxy to the smallest cell, bears God's fingerprints because He created everything. Most people want to promote evolution because they want to remove those fingerprints. The issue of evolution is not merely science but the realization that if we admit to seeing God's fingerprints in creation, we have to deal not only with His fingerprints but also with Him. On the other hand, if we recognize God's fingerprints and submit to Him through Christ, we will develop a relationship with the Creator of the universe.

WORSHIP GOD'S HOLY NAME. Most of us have sought the autograph of someone we believed to be significant, like an athlete, a movie star, or an entertainer. We stand in line waiting for the famous person to write their name on a T-shirt, a football, or another piece of memorabilia. Why? Because we admire their name. Their name represents their achievements. And we want to have something to show that we had a chance to stand in their presence for a few minutes. While many of us have waited in line for hours to get the autograph of a person who is fading—whose name may mean nothing in a few months or years—how many of us spend as much time in God's presence? God's name will never fade in significance because He will eternally be the holy Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE: **WORD STUDY ON ELOHIM.** The Hebrew word for Elohim refers to the one, true God who has all strength and power. In Deuteronomy 4:35-39 Yahweh is set apart as Elohim, the one, true God. All the nations surrounding Israel claimed to have their own gods and goddesses and even their own creation stories. But only Israel claimed to have one God who not only created everything from nothing but also rules over all creation.

OUR VAST UNIVERSE. In 1997 the Hubble Telescope discovered that the Milky Way is only one of the millions of galaxies that exist. Experts say that each of these galaxies has up to a hundred billion stars. One of the close galaxies to the Milky Way that Hubble could see was Andromeda. Andromeda is 2.2 million light years from us. If someone living in Andromeda sent you a message at the speed of a radio wave, and since radio waves travel around the earth seven times a second, it would take 4.4 million years for you to get the message. Imagine—our powerful God created all the galaxies that exist in our vast universe!

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you understand the holiness of God's name and character.

This sermon will teach you why you can worship and trust God when trying circumstances come.

QUOTATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"God's name is like a key that unlocks the treasure to the inquiring mind."

"God's name is critical to our understanding of His multidimensional nature."

"God has a name for every situation you're in. ... And when you discover that name, you discover the power, the potency, the privilege, the productivity of that name."

"There must be a humbling, if you will, on all of our parts if we really want to know His name."

"Everybody is using His name, but not everybody is being consistent with His nature; therefore, the use of His name is in vain."

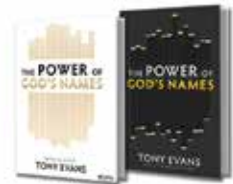
"When the awe of God grows, the worship of God is tethered to it."

"You know why worship is so hard? We don't know His name."

TonyEvans.org | KAFellowship.org | ChurchAdoptaSchool.org

**our mission field is not merely across the sea.
it is across the street.**





"Names matter. They matter so much that men and women and companies trademark their names."

"God is transcendent. Transcendent is a big, long theological word to say that He is distinct from the creation that He created."

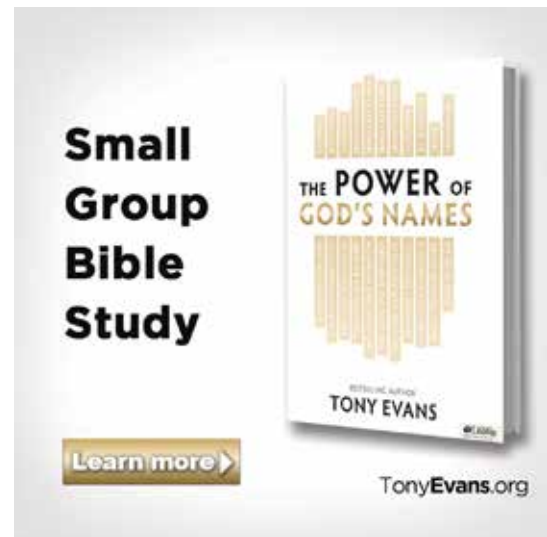
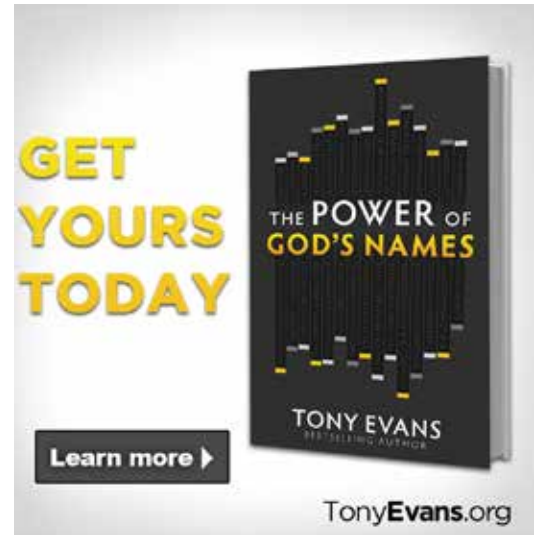
"Elohim is also immanent because He exists inside time, space and matter... The theological word we use for that is omnipresent. He is everywhere present at the same time."

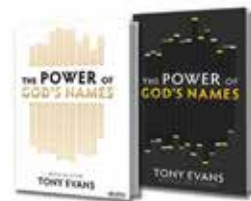
"The issue of evolution is not merely science; the issue of evolutions is 'I don't want to have to deal with [God's] fingerprints.' "

"Look, you can't have a watch without a watchmaker! You can't have a design without a designer! You can't have a painting without a painter! In order to have an effect, there must be a preceding sufficient cause, and the cause must be worthy of the effect."

"We're supposed to mirror Him because we have His image stamped on us. We have the capacity, as part of the new creation, to mirror Him."

"Whatever God has planned for you has already been planned. Whatever God is purposed for you has already been purposed."





MESSAGE TWO: JEHOVAH AND ADONAI

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Exodus 3:10-15 (NASB)

10 Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, '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, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

Genesis 15:1-8 (NASB)

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." 2 Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it." 8 He said, "O LORD GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?"

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on God's names Jehovah and Adonai

is to help you understand that He is the eternal, unchangeable, and sovereign Owner of everything and to help you trust that His will for you is good.

INTRODUCTION:

A little boy in school was drawing a picture, and the teacher came over to him and asked, "Son, what are you drawing?" The boy said, "Well, I'm drawing a picture of God." She said, "You can't draw a picture of God, because no one knows what God looks like." And the little boy said, "Well, they will when I'm finished."

Everybody has their view of what God looks like. If I handed each of you a sheet of paper, and you tried as best you could to draw His identity, there would be many different expressions of how we perceive God.

In the Old Testament God prohibited His people from drawing or carving any images of Him because people have a tendency to misrepresent Him. Any picture you draw of God will be a poor rendition. And the many pagan people surrounding Israel not only created poor images of their gods but also worshiped them. So God, desiring His people to be holy and completely different from their pagan neighbors, prohibited them from trying to represent Him in visual form.

In this message, as we look at two more of God's names—Jehovah and Adonai—I would like to help you understand the nature of God and His true identity, not so that you can draw a picture of Him but so that you can worship and trust Him.

SERMON POINTS:

1. UNDERSTAND THAT JEHOVAH IS PRESENT WITH YOU IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE.

- The name Jehovah, which means He is, reveals that God is eternal (Exodus 3:14).
 - God has always existed because He is the eternal Creator who created time itself.
 - The tense of the verb am is present tense, which shows that Jehovah will be with you at all times, always ready to help you.
- The name Jehovah shows that God is a Person who

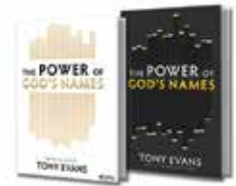
our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



wants to relate to His people.

- When God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and to bring God's people out of Egypt, Moses wanted to know God's name (Exodus 3:13).
- In revealing His personal name to Moses, God proved that He wanted to build a relationship with Moses and with the Israelites.
- The name Jehovah proves that God is self-existent.
 - God revealed His name to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14).
 - God's existence doesn't depend on anyone or anything else. He doesn't owe His existence to parents or another creator, but He exists in Himself.
 - God is the only completely self-sufficient and self-generating Being in the universe.
- The name Jehovah illustrates that God doesn't change.
 - If God is self-existent and eternal, then His essence and being must also be changeless over time. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
 - God's character and attributes are the same at every point in time, from eternity past to eternity future.
 - God, who is the Creator and Sustainer of the stars and galaxies, doesn't change. Even though we experience shadows as Earth rotates, God's character and essence remain consistent outside Earth's change in position (James 1:17).
 - Even the Bible verses that say God repented or changed His mind don't mean that His essence or character changed but that God adjusted His actions (for example, His judgment) to the sin or rebellion of the people He created (Genesis 6:6).

2. REALIZE THAT BECAUSE JEHOVAH IS THE SELF-REVEALING ONE, HE WANTS TO MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN TO YOU.

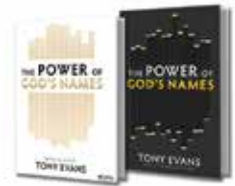
- Jehovah often reveals Himself in the midst of confusing or challenging circumstances.
 - When Jehovah appeared to Moses in a flaming bush that did not burn up, Moses probably felt confused (Exodus 3:1-2).
 - Moses' curiosity caused him to stop and look at the bush. That's when Jehovah called Moses'

name and told him it was time to lead His people out of Egypt (Exodus 3:3-4).

- Jehovah told Moses to take off his shoes and respect the holy ground he stood on to remind Moses that He was in control (Exodus 3:4-5).
- When Moses turned to Jehovah in the burning bush, Jehovah gave him a new plan and purpose for his life.
- Jehovah revealed Himself personally when He created in the beginning (Genesis 2).
 - By planting a garden for Adam, Jehovah revealed Himself as a loving provider (Genesis 2:8).
 - By providing a companion for Adam in Eve, Jehovah revealed Himself as a caring God (Genesis 2:18).
- Satan doesn't want people to know God personally as Jehovah.
 - Even though the LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, when the serpent tempted Eve, he dropped God's personal name Jehovah (Genesis 3:1-4).
 - Satan wanted Eve to forget that she had a relationship with Jehovah, because then it would be easier for her to disobey Him.

3. MAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW JEHOVAH.

- Getting to know Jehovah takes time.
 - After spending lots of time with Jehovah in the tent of meeting, Moses wanted to know God more (Exodus 33:7-11).
 - Moses asked to see God's glory, so Jehovah revealed His name and His character to Moses (Exodus 33:18-23).
- To get to know Jehovah better, we have to make our relationship with Him our priority.
 - The apostle Paul made his relationship with Jesus Christ his top priority in life (Philippians 3:7-11).
 - Paul willingly walked through suffering and difficulty in order to get to know new facets of Christ's character as the sovereign, caring, loving Jehovah.



4. UNDERSTAND THAT ADONAI IS THE OWNER OF EVERYTHING YOU POSSESS

- Adonai reveals Himself as the Owner of everything.
 - The psalmist acknowledged that the entire earth belongs to Adonai (Psalm 97:5).
 - Adonai owns everything on earth, from the cattle and the birds to you and me (Psalm 50:10-12).
- Because Adonai owns everything, He is responsible for everything.
 - When we submit to Adonai as the Owner of our lives and of everything we have, we can trust that He will take responsibility for it.
 - Adonai expects us to take responsibility for our lives too. For example, when Sarah called her husband, Abraham, adonai (lord), she acknowledged his responsibility over their family (1 Peter 3:6).

5. TRUST IN ADONAI'S TIMING.

- Abraham had to trust that Adonai, the Owner and responsible One, could fulfill His promise to build a great nation through Abraham's offspring.
 - God promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation (Genesis 12:2).
 - But 10 years later, the aging Abraham still didn't have any children (Genesis 15:1).
 - Though Abraham trusted God's promise, he didn't understand His timing since Abraham and Sarah were both beyond their childbearing years (Genesis 15:2).
 - Adonai reaffirmed His promise to Abraham. Abraham believed His word, and as a result of his faith, God considered Abraham righteous (Genesis 15:4-6).
- Moses trusted Adonai to equip him to carry out his task.
 - When God called Moses and commissioned him to deliver Israel from Egyptian slavery, Moses felt inadequate to face Pharaoh (Exodus 4:10).
 - Adonai promised to take responsibility for His plan to deliver His people through Moses (Exodus 4:11-12).

6. REMEMBER THAT ADONAI IS SOVEREIGN IN YOUR LIFE, AND HIS WILL REIGNS.

- Adonai, the Owner and responsible One, has the power to accomplish His will.
 - Adonai told Gideon to go and defeat Midian

with an army of only three hundred men to prove that He had the sovereign power to accomplish His will (Judges 7).

- Gideon chose to trust God, and as a result, his faith grew (Judges 8:23).
- Adonai is the Ruler who reigns over all human authorities.
 - When Judah's human king, Uzziah, died, Isaiah mourned and probably wondered where God was (Isaiah 6:1).
 - Adonai graciously revealed to Isaiah His sovereignty not only over Judah but also over the entire earth (Isaiah 6:1-4).
 - Faced with Adonai's sovereignty and holiness, Isaiah realized his sin, received forgiveness, and agreed to share God's message of judgment and restoration (Isaiah 6:5-8).
- Adonai is in sovereign control and will fulfill His will as He sees fit.
 - King David made plans to build God's temple in Jerusalem, but Adonai told David that his son, not David, would build the temple (2 Samuel 7:1-17).
 - David recognized Adonai as the Sovereign One, so he remained humble before Him and submitted to His will (2 Samuel 7:18-29).
- Whenever Adonai wants to claim ownership in our lives, He holds something back in order to teach us to trust Him.
 - God told Adam and Eve they could eat from any tree in the garden except one—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17).
 - God commands Christians to give to Him financially in order to remind us that He owns everything and that He will provide for us (Matthew 6:25-33; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

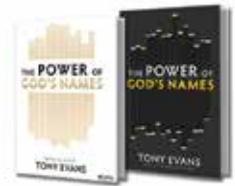
7. CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS ADONAI IN YOUR LIFE.

- Jesus Christ is Lord, Adonai, over everything (Psalm 110:1).
- Jesus revealed Himself as Adonai to Paul as he traveled on the Damascus road, on his way to persecute Christians (Acts 9:1-6).
- The apostle Paul submitted to Jesus as Adonai in his life, and Paul's entire life testified to Jesus' sovereignty and grace



THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



- Christians must not only believe that Jesus is the Son of God but also submit our hopes, dreams, finances, relationships, and plans to Him (Romans 10:9).
 - When we surrender to Jesus as Adonai, we will begin to see Him carry out His will for our lives.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

MAKE GETTING TO KNOW JEHOVAH A PRIORITY: When a guy really cares about a girl, he makes getting to know her a priority. He calls her, takes her out on dates, considers her likes and dislikes, and expresses his feelings for her. But if a guy says, "I want to get to know you," but he never calls and never spends time with you, that guy is lying! In the same way, if Christians say they want to get to know Jehovah, but they don't spend time with Him, talk with Him, worship Him, and obey Him, they are lying.

SUBMIT TO ADONAI'S WILL: Everybody believes in God and recognizes His creatorship, but many don't submit to His lordship. It's like a cowboy breaking a wild stallion. He buys the wild stallion, so he owns it. The only problem is that the stallion doesn't want anybody on its back. So the cowboy gets on the horse's back to tame it. But the rebellious horse doesn't want anybody telling him what to do, so it bucks until it throws the cowboy off. You know what the cowboy does? He gets right back on its back until the stallion submits. Many of us can't hear a word from God because every time God wants to get on our back, we try to buck Him off. We try to hold on to the reins of our lives. But because He owns us and because He loves us, He won't leave us alone until we learn to surrender to and trust Him.

DEED YOUR LIFE TO ADONAI: If you own your home, you have a deed showing that the house belongs to the bank until you pay for the house. Because Adonai owns everything, including you and me, let's deed our lives, our relationships, our finances, and our futures over to Him and trust that He will lead us according to His will.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

WORD STUDY ON ADONAI: It's found over three hundred times in the Bible, and its meaning is very interesting. The word "adonai" means to own or to be the master of. The background of the word adonai was a master who had a slave or slaves. He not only owned them but also bore responsibility for them. He was to provide for them, protect them, and guide them. So what he owned, he took responsibility for. That meant the slave had somebody, if he was a good adonai on the human level,

who would take responsibility for the servant. In fact, when you read the Bible, particularly in the New Testament, the apostles called them bond servants or bond slaves of Jesus Christ. That is, Jesus Christ owned them.

YAHWEH, OR JEHOVAH, IS THE EVER-PRESENT HELP TO HIS PEOPLE:

Although the name Yahweh refers to God's eternal existence, in Exodus 3 Yahweh wanted to help Moses understand that He would be present as Moses stood up to Pharaoh. God sent Moses in response to His people's anguish as they cried out to Him from under Egyptian oppression (Exodus 3:7-8). Wanting to help and deliver His people, Yahweh promised to be Moses' ever-present help as he led the Israelites out of bondage. So Yahweh is not only the everlasting God but also the ever-present God who desires to help His people.

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you understand that Jehovah is the personal, eternal, and unchangeable God.

This sermon will help you entrust your life to Adonai's hands.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"When God wants to make a special point about Himself, He is JEHOVAH—the Self-Revealing One!"

"When you're in your mess, ... don't just look at it, look for Him because He's about to call your name and introduce you to another dimension of JEHOVAH."

"You want to know Elohim also as Jehovah because you want to know that the powerful God is talking to you. ... He is personally interfacing with you."

"The devil wants you to have religion. He wants you to come to church, to meet Elohim as long as you don't bring in JEHOVAH. The moment you bring in JEHOVAH, you've got to relate to the true God."

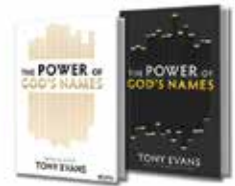
"You know why we don't know God's name as JEHOVAH? We're too busy and too distracted to want to know more. ... We are satisfied with an introduction."

"[Jehovah] wants to give you an experience you never had before. But that won't come because you know He's Elohim. That will come because you know [Him as] JEHOVAH, the Self-Revealing God."



THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



"When the Bible talks about God as Adonai, it's talking about the fact that because He owns everything and everybody, He is responsible for that which He owns."

"If God is the Owner, you are not!"

"We want God to do what the Word says He can do without giving Him the right to own. God's not going to give you more of JEHOVAH if you're not willing to confess more Adonai."

"Our problem today is we've got Christians who want God to get them to heaven, who do not want Him to own them on earth."

"Unless there is an Adonai confession of God, then your JEHOVAH experience of His self-revelation will be limited."

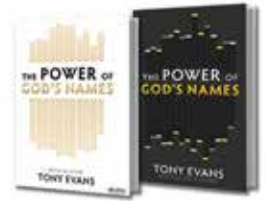
"Adonai has the ability to reach into a situation and flip it, twist it, turn it because He created mouths and noses and eyes and ears and intellect."

"You have not begun to see what God can do if He ever becomes your Adonai."

"He doesn't just want to be in your life; He wants to own your life because the Owner is ultimately responsible."

"Everything is on loan; you are a borrower, so God expects you to recognize Him as Adonai."

"There's only one response you give to Adonai, and that is surrender. It is surrender of your will to His will, your way to His way, your self to His self."



MESSAGE THREE: JEHOVAH NISSI AND JEHOVAH TSABA

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Exodus 17:8-16 (NASB)

8 Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." 10 Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. 13 So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner; 16 and he said, "The LORD has sworn; the LORD will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."

I Samuel 17:41-47 (NASB) 41 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. 42 When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. 43 The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field." 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on Jehovah Nissi and Jehovah Tsaba is to learn how to gain victory over your greatest fears through the LORD our Banner, the LORD of Hosts.

INTRODUCTION:

In the Olympics you see American flags being waved to demonstrate that Americans are pulling for their fellow athletes. At a Cowboys game, banners are waved to show we are rooting for a victory by our favorite football team. When I wave a banner, I'm stating that this is the team I'm committed to, this is who I am, this is where my allegiance lies, and this is the one I'm looking to for victory.

Now as you know, it doesn't always turn out your way. Your banner may not wind up signifying the winner because of the limitations of the players operating under that banner. Your team has a competitor with other people waving banners for them. You will see Rangers banners at Texas Stadium because their fans are pulling for a Rangers victory, and they are operating under that banner. The problem is, San Francisco fans are waving banners too, and their commitment lies elsewhere. Thus, banners signify where your allegiance lies, under what authority you're operating. And the goal of a banner is always the same—victory.

Did you know you're waving the banner of victory? One of God's names is Jehovah Nissi, which means the LORD Is My Banner. This name comes from Exodus 17, where God defeated the Amalekites. In response, Moses built an altar and named it The LORD Is My Banner. The Lord secured a victory for His people against the Amalekites. But He also won a victory for His people against a giant-sized problem—Goliath and the Philistine army.

Goliath was a Philistine warrior who was over nine feet tall. There was much to fear about him. He was an evil force the Israelites feared.

Perhaps you are facing a giant-sized problem too. Maybe you have a bully at work. Perhaps you have a fear that seems

our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





impossible to defeat. For those of us in this camp, we have another name of God to encourage us—the Lord of Hosts.

David knew God was the Lord of Hosts. As Lord of Hosts and Creator of everything, God always rises to victory. The Lord of Hosts always wins.

SERMON POINTS:

1. FACE YOUR FEARS WITH GOD'S HELP.

- Moses told Joshua they had to fight against the Amalekites (Exodus 17:9).
 - Some obstacles in life you cannot hide from, just as Moses and Joshua could not hide from the fact they had to fight against the Amalekites.
- Moses stationed himself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hands while Joshua was to fight down below in the valley.
 - Moses was not to fight down below in the valley. Instead, He was to wage war in the spiritual realm by lifting up the staff of God.

2. FIGHT COURAGEOUSLY WITH DEPENDENCE ON GOD'S HELP

- Joshua was to fight in the valley with his chosen men (Exodus 17:9).
 - Sometimes you need to assume responsibility and be willing to fight, just like Joshua and his men.
- Moses was to fight on top of the hill with the staff of God (Exodus 17:9).
 - When fighting, you must rely on God's help. You cannot fight with only human effort. You must turn to God for power.
- The key to fighting is bringing both the mountain and valley together.
 - One extreme is to abdicate personal responsibility and not fight. "I'm trusting that God will fix it" may be your excuse for not taking action.
 - Another extreme is to fight with only human capability. This person relies only on their skill, training, and strength without relying on God's help.

3. FACE YOUR FEARS IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

- When Moses' hands were heavy, he got the help of Aaron and Hur.

- Aaron and Hur put a stone under Moses and supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other (Exodus 17:12).
- Their only job was to help Moses maintain contact with God by supporting him.
 - Because spiritual matters can often weigh us down, we need to have brothers and sisters in Christ support us and help us maintain contact with God by reading His Word and by praying.

4. CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE BY APPLYING THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S NAMES.

- Just like Moses, David had a perspective that included the spiritual realm (1 Samuel 17:45).
 - David countered Goliath's mockery by announcing that he had the LORD of Hosts (Jehovah Tsaba) on his side, whereas Goliath did not.
- David saw the spiritual reality behind the social problem.
 - David understood that Goliath was not circumcised and did not have God's covering.
 - David told Goliath that he had offended the LORD of Hosts and that the LORD would kill him.
- David had confidence because he knew the power of God's name.
 - Whereas the Israelites' perspective focused on Goliath's physical stature, David's perspective focused on God's power.

5. GIVE YOUR BATTLES TO GOD.

- David understood God was supreme over the situation.
 - David informed Goliath that the LORD would deliver him into his hands (1 Samuel 17:46).
- David didn't abdicate his personal responsibility.
 - David chose to pick up stones for his sling and to engage Goliath in battle.
- David trusted God for victory.
 - David claimed, "The battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands" (1 Samuel 17:47).

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

ADDRESSING EVERY SIN IN YOUR LIFE: If you have cancer, you really want to get rid of it all. You don't want even a little bit of cancer hanging around. Why? Because it will come back with a vengeance!



THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



Some of us are still hanging out with some of the evil in our lives; it keeps coming back! We don't have it as full-time evil; we have it as part-time evil. Or maybe we don't have it as part-time evil; we just give it visitation rights. But then visitation rights become squatters' rights, and now it makes itself home again. And you wonder why it's worse! God said He wanted to "utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven" (Exodus 17:14). Amalek represents the evil that is preventing you from reaching God's purpose for your life. God says you must address it all if you are to have spiritual victory.

JESUS AS YOUR STANDARD: The movie Inception is about a dream world. A man could enter dreams—and then dreams within dreams. The problem was that reality got all confused. So he created a totem—a spinning top—to guide him. If he spun the top and the top kept spinning without falling over, he knew he was in the dream world. But if he spun the top and it eventually fell over, that meant he was in the real world. That's how he measured reality. For Christians, Jesus is our standard. Jesus is how we are to measure reality. We are to operate by His will, His Word, and His standard to deal with the battles we are facing.

VICTORY IN JESUS: In the classic movie The Wizard of Oz, the lead character, Dorothy, winds up in another world. She starts out in Kansas, but a whirlwind takes her to a different place, where she gets lost. A witch tells her to follow the yellow brick road because at its end she would find a city called Oz. In Oz she would meet a wizard who could show her which way to go. At the end of the movie, the wizard tells Dorothy she could have gone back to Kansas anytime she wanted. Her confusion was in her head. All she needed to do was click her heels three times, and she would be back in Kansas. For Christians, victory is right there in front of us. All we need to do is turn to Jesus and seek His help to give us victory over the Amalekites in our lives.

CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVE: The sun is staggering in size. But if you hold a quarter up to your eye and look directly at the sun, that small quarter can actually block out the enormity of the sun. Sometimes we allow the size of our problems to eclipse the size of God. That's how we lose our battles. We allow something small to eclipse a larger power.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

MOSES' STAFF: Moses' staff was a shepherd's hook that had been sanctified. God had sanctified it sometime earlier. It was

the same shepherd's hook that brought about the plagues and that opened up the Red Sea. Through Moses' sanctified staff, God used the natural to perform the supernatural.

AMALEKITES: Amalek represents the forces of evil because he stood in opposition to God's purposes and God's people. Anything in your life that blocks you from doing what God wants done is your Amalek. Amaleks try to thwart God's purposes, programs, and progress. Amaleks show up many times in the Old Testament, always trying to block God's people from getting to where God wants them to go.

REPHIDIM: Rephidim is a rugged desert place near Mount Horeb, where the water source had been very low. God's people were weary from thirst. Just when things appeared to improve because the Israelites finally got some water, things went south again because the Amalekites wanted to fight them. To the Israelites, it looked as though the Lord was not on their side.

JEHOVAH NISSI: Moses built an altar and named it Jehovah Nissi, that is, The LORD Is My Banner. What made the Lord Moses' banner? The Lord had sworn He would have war against Amalek from generation to generation. It's as if God was saying, "Whenever Amalek shows up, I will show up. Amalek is on My radar, and whenever Amalek messes with you, Amalek will mess with Me, because I am your banner."

Holding a banner in this case was the rod of God, but for us it can be flags and other items. The word "banner" means to glisten. Just as our banners have glistening sequins, the rod of God glistened. Holding up the rod of God meant Moses was going to operate underneath the banner. The banner was going to be over Moses; it was going to be his standard. So that raises a question, doesn't it? What's our banner today? What exactly are we supposed to hold up as we enter our battles?

GOLIATH: Goliath was over nine feet tall and came from a rare species, the Nephilim, one of a dying breed of giants whose reputation was at times enough to keep an enemy at bay. Goliath's looming presence dominated the landscape. His footsteps beat the ground. Draped over his supersized frame was "scale armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze" (1 Samuel 17:5). The armor alone probably weighed more than David himself. One hundred and seventy-five pounds of armor

made Goliath seem impenetrable. And that was only for his upper body. The passage goes on to tell us that “he also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver’s beam, and the hand of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him” (1 Samuel 17:6-7).

JEHOVAH TSABA. The name Tsaba essentially means army, host, warfare. David knew God was the Lord of the army, and as the Lord of the army—and the Creator over all—the victory was ultimately His. You can fight the Lord in battle; you just can't win.

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you understand the biblical significance of relying on Jehovah Nissi and Jehovah Tsaba in gaining victory over your fears and your giant-sized problems in life.

This sermon will outline five ways Jehovah Nissi and Jehovah Tsaba will help you address giant-sized problems in your life.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"The bad news today is, life has problems. The good news today is, God has a name for them. That whatever you're facing, there is a name for God that is applicable to the crisis that you are in."

"You must bring the mountain and the valley together to experience the victory."

"When you maintain contact with the spiritual, you prevail!"

"If all you see is what you see, then you do not see all there is to be seen."

"The reason you need the spiritual to make contact with heaven is because you not only want to address the situation but the evil that's driving it."

"Most of us can handle regular problems or the normal challenges in life. We don't like them, but when they loom at a distance, we are somehow able to keep going in spite of them. Yet when that one giant shows up in your life, that changes everything."

"A giant has a way of intimidating you at such a deep level that you end up doing nothing."

"Keep in mind, perspective is never just what you see. Perspective is how you view what you see. Perspective is a key you gain in knowing and applying the character of God's names in order to live the abundant life."

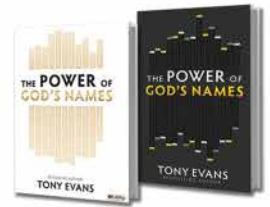
"There are certain benefits and privileges that come with the names of God. Use them."

"Accept it. Satan has your game film. He has studied you. He knows your weaknesses. He knows just what to do to get you to go where you never would even think of going and do what you never would even dream of doing, or to paralyze you in fear, or even to get you sidetracked on seemingly good things, but in so doing, keep you from what is best—the destiny and victory for which you have been created."

"Some of the most incredible things God will ever do in your life will occur when you think that you have nothing."

"When God secures your victory for you in His name, have confidence that He not only has gained you the victory but that His name has the power to give you back 'what the locusts have stolen' (Joel 2:25)."

"God's name covers all: past, present, and future. But it especially covers those giants who rear their ugly heads from time to time. Trust Him. He's bigger than Goliath."



MESSAGE FOUR: JEHOVAH ROHI AND JEHOVAH JIREH

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Psalm 23:1-6 (NASB)

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Genesis 22:9-14 (NASB)

9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on God's names Jehovah Rohi and Jehovah Jireh is to help you understand that He is your faithful Shepherd who will protect and guide you and to help you trust that He will provide for your physical and spiritual needs.

INTRODUCTION:

Many of us have watched one or all of the Superman movies. In one particular scene there was a burning inferno, and Superman swooped in and saved a man from the fire. After he picked up the man, Superman flew across the sky to take

the man home. But Superman noticed the man was trembling. Superman asked what was wrong, and the man said, "I'm afraid. I'm way up here in the sky, and if I fall, I'm going to die." Superman responded, "Do you think I have enough power to deliver you from the fire but not enough power to deliver you safely home?" In other words, "Though I was able to get you out of the fire, you think I'm going to drop you on the route home."

You see, some of us have trusted the Lord to keep us from the fire, but we're not sure He can bring us safely home. We believe in Him for eternity, but we just don't have much confidence that He can take care of the fires in our lives. We know He will take us to heaven; we're just not sure He's got our back on earth. He got us out of hell, but we're not sure He can handle history. If you can identify with these statements, then this sermon is for you!

As we explore God's names Jehovah Rohi and Jehovah Jireh, let's begin to see Him and trust Him as our loving Shepherd and our faithful Provider here on earth—even when the fires seem so hot that our faith might melt. First, let's turn to Psalm 23 and learn about our Good Shepherd.

SERMON POINTS:

1. TO UNDERSTAND YOUR SHEPHERD, JEHOVAH ROHI, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT YOU ARE LIKE A SHEEP.

- Sheep are dumb.
 - If one sheep walks in a circle, going nowhere, all the sheep will follow until they fall over from exhaustion.
 - If the shepherd doesn't lead his sheep, they will walk aimlessly and get into trouble.
- Sheep are defenseless.
 - Sheep have no way to defend themselves against an attack from wolves.
 - The shepherd must scare away predators.
- Sheep are dirty
 - Because of their shape and their thick coats, sheep cannot clean themselves.
 - If the shepherd doesn't clean the sheep, they will start to smell and get sick

our society's problem
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- Sheep are dependent.
 - Sheep need the shepherd's wisdom to help them find food and water.
 - Without a shepherd's guidance and provision, sheep would die of starvation.
- We are all like sheep..
 - "All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6).
 - Without Jehovah Rohi we would live aimless lives, be prone to attack, get stuck in our sin, and have no hope.
 - Thankfully, we have a Good Shepherd (John 10:11).

2. TRUST THAT JEHOVAH ROHI SHEPHERDS HIS SHEEP.

- Jehovah Rohi cares for His sheep individually and in every situation (Psalm 23:1).
 - When David called the Lord his Shepherd, he used a present-tense verb to show that Jehovah Rohi would always protect and care for David.
 - David trusted that God cared for him individually, so David called the Lord his personal Shepherd, not just the Shepherd of the flock in general.
- Jehovah Rohi meets all the needs of His sheep (Psalm 23:1b).
 - David proclaimed that because God was his shepherd, David would not be in “want” (Psalm 23:1); he wouldn’t have any unmet needs.
 - To understand what it means to be in want, we must recognize what our true needs are—food, shelter, and clothing.

3. TRUST YOUR SHEPHERD TO MEET YOUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

- Jehovah Rohi puts us in situations where we have no other option but to trust Him completely (Psalm 23:2a).
 - God allowed David to run for his life from King Saul for years in order to teach David to lie down and trust Him.
 - When we lie down and trust our Shepherd, we realize we can rest in beautiful green pastures.
- Jehovah Rohi leads us in the way that will give us peace, restoration, and stability (Psalm 23:2b).
 - As a shepherd, David knew in order to get his sheep to drink water to restore their strength, he had to lead them to still water.

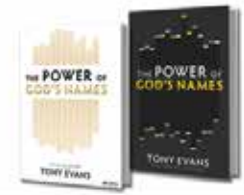
- Sheep couldn't drink from running water because they are not surefooted. If they fell into the river, their coat would become saturated and cause them to sink.
- Likewise, our Shepherd leads us beside still waters, in situations where we have stability, gain sure footing, and find restoration.

4. BELIEVE YOUR SHEPHERD GUIDES YOU IN WAYS THAT WILL GIVE HIM GLORY.

- Jehovah Rohi meets our need for direction in life (Psalm 23:3).
 - Sheep regularly take the wrong route and get disoriented.
 - All people are prone to wander away from God (Isaiah 53:6).
- Jehovah Rohi leads us in the right path—the path of righteousness.
 - Our Shepherd will get us back on the right path when we take the wrong turn.
 - Our Good Shepherd, Jesus, took our sin and gave us His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).
 - God leads His sheep on paths that will bring Him glory and fame.

5. TRUST THAT YOUR SHEPHERD WILL PROTECT YOU AND TAKE AWAY YOUR FEAR.

- Jehovah Rohi meets our need for security. (Psalm 23:3).
 - We all fear losing our jobs, our loved ones, our lives, and other important things.
 - When David was a shepherd, his sheep would get scared when they had to walk in the deep valleys between mountains, because predators lived in the dark shadows.
 - When the shepherd walks with his sheep through the valley, they feel secure.
- Our Shepherd meets all our spiritual needs.
 - David fixed his eyes on the Shepherd, not on the scary shadows.
 - Our Shepherd has our spiritual and emotional needs covered.
- Jehovah Rohi protects us from our enemies and meets our physical needs (Psalm 23:5).
 - David trusted God to meet his physical needs, just as a shepherd gives his sheep food even in the midst of predators.



- Jehovah Rohi comforts us and gives us more than we need.
- David experienced God's overwhelming blessings and watched as He fulfilled His promises to guide and provide for David.
- Through Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, we have comfort, guidance, and eternal assurance.

6. TRUST JEHOVAH JIREH AS YOUR PROVIDER.

- Jehovah Jireh either allows or creates situations so that we will trust Him as our Provider.
 - God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:1).
 - Isaac was the son through whom God had promised to bless Abraham and create the nation of Israel (Genesis 12:1-3).
- The only way to experience God's provision is by obeying Him when He tests us.
 - When God's difficult command came, Abraham didn't ask his friends for advice or think about it for a while.
- Jehovah Jireh is sovereign and powerful, and His will is beyond our understanding.
 - Abraham trusted that God would fulfill His promise to build a nation through Isaac; Abraham said he and Isaac would both return (Genesis 22:5).
 - Because Sarah had miraculously conceived Isaac in her old age, Abraham knew God could raise Isaac from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19).
- When faced with a choice between trusting the Provider or holding on to what He has provided, what will you choose?
 - Abraham had waited a long time for his promised son, Isaac.
 - God asked Abraham to give Isaac back to Him in worship.

7. BELIEVE GOD HAS A PLAN EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

- When Jehovah Jireh tests you and wants you to trust Him in a confusing situation, He already knows what He's going to do.
 - Abraham trusted that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice (Genesis 22:8).
 - Abraham still obeyed God's command to sacrifice his son, even though the angel stopped

- him before he killed Isaac (Genesis 22:9-11).
- When you obey God and pass His test, He will reveal His will, and it will be better than anything you could imagine.
 - Abraham's test proved to Abraham the strength of his faith (Genesis 22:12).
 - After the test Abraham experienced God's amazing provision of a ram as a sacrifice in place of his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:13).

8. ENTRUST YOURSELF TO JEHOVAH JIREH'S PROVISION.

- Keep track of God's provision in your life to remind you of His faithfulness.
 - Abraham renamed Mount Moriah, where God provided a ram instead of Isaac, Jehovah Jireh (Genesis 22:14).
 - Every time Abraham passed the mountain, he remembered God's provision.
- Put your Isaac on the altar.
 - Examine your heart to determine the thing you're holding tight and don't want to let go—your singleness, your marriage, your career, your health, your money, etc.
 - Are you willing to trust God with your Isaac?
- God's provision follows after we obey.
 - Abraham got Isaac back after he proved his willingness to obey God.
 - God reaffirmed His covenant to make a great nation through Isaac (Genesis 22:16-19).
- God's ultimate provision for our sin came through Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus was crucified on Calvary, which is a few hundred feet from where Isaac sacrificed his only son on Mount Moriah.
 - Isaac is a type of Christ, which means just as Abraham, in a sense, received Isaac back from the dead, Isaac foreshadowed Christ's death and resurrection and God's provision through Him (John 8:56; Hebrews 11:19).

the media, their friends.

Teaching biblical values to children: After they're planted, it takes olive trees fifteen years before they start producing olives. For

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it is *across the street*.**



necessarily come to church. You're just spiritually drained. You need your soul back! And the way He does it is, He makes you lie down by creating scenarios that force total dependency on Him."

"God makes us lie down. He puts us in situations where we are totally dependent upon Him, not because He's trying to be mean but the same reason you take a nap: you're trying to get your strength back. He's trying to restore your soul."

"When God allows you to go through things, and it doesn't make sense, that's because He's getting ready to tell you His name! He's getting ready to let you see something about Him that you had never seen before."

"What is the heart of the test? When faced with a choice between the blessing and the Blesser, what will you choose?"

"What means more to you—the blessing or the Blesser? We can fall so in love with the blessing that it trumps the Blesser."

"At the heart of the test of God revealing His person to you in the contradiction of life, it's always a choice between the blessing and the Blesser. It is a matter of worship."

"Since God cannot compromise His Word, He's going to keep His Word even though the method He's going to use to keep His Word makes absolutely no sense!"

"Do you know your answer could be sitting right next to you, but you'll never know it until God is ready to reveal it?"

"What must God see so that He might provide when you're caught in the contradictions of life? What must God see so that you can name the place in the mess you're in, Jehovah Jireh?"

"Delayed obedience becomes immediate disobedience."

"See, what we want is delayed obedience and partial obedience but maximum manifestation!"

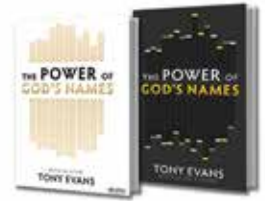
"If you are trusting God for your eternity, you ought to be able to trust Him for time because eternity is a lot longer than time."

"Are you willing to trust God with your Isaac, the thing that you want to release the least, the thing that means the most, the thing that you're holding tight and don't want to let go?"

"Loving God means acting on what God said, not just singing songs, praying prayers, and hearing sermons."

"One of the reasons that some of us do not know the name Jehovah Jireh is God is still waiting for you to act on what He said, even though you may not understand how it's going to work out."

"Just as Isaac was put on the altar two thousand years ago, Jesus was put on the altar. And just like Isaac was given back to Abraham, Jesus is given back to His children, and He ever lives to make intercession for the saints. He's in heaven right now ready to become your Jehovah Jireh!"



MESSAGE FIVE: EL ELYON AND EL SHADDAI

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Genesis 14:17-24 (NASB)

17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 He blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
20 And blessed be God Most High,
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

He gave him a tenth of all. 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself." 22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.' 24 I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."

Genesis 17:1-8 (NASB) 1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

1 "I am God Almighty;
Walk before Me, and be blameless.
2 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you,
And I will multiply you exceedingly."

3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.
5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram,
But your name shall be Abraham;
For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. 7 I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God

to you and to your descendants after you. 8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on God's names El Elyon and El Shaddai is to help you understand that He is the Most High God and the Possessor of everything and to help you trust that He is all-sufficient to meet all your physical and spiritual needs.

INTRODUCTION:

On August 5, 2010, a wall collapsed in a mine in Chile, trapping 33 men in a deep, dark pit. They were in a hole, over two thousand feet underground, with no way out. They couldn't see and were surrounded by barriers they couldn't penetrate. They were in a hopeless situation. For 17 days they didn't even know whether anybody else knew where they were. It's bad enough to be in a pit; it's even worse when you can't get out and nobody can get to you. In fact, these 33 men were all in the same hole, so they couldn't even help one another get out.

All of us know what it's like to be in a pit, to be in a situation you can't get out of, stuck in a place where you're locked in and no one can help you.

If those miners were ever going to get out, if they were ever going to be delivered, someone from on high would have to drill down low to reach them in their hole. They couldn't get up, so something up there had to reach down where they were to deliver them.

In Genesis 14 Abraham found himself in a situation like the one these miners faced. There had been a number of wars in the cities near him. Several kings had invaded Sodom and Gomorrah and had taken all their possessions, as well as Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family. Abraham had to do something to rescue Lot.

SERMON POINTS:

1. BELIEVE GOD IS EL ELYON—GOD MOST HIGH

- El Elyon is more powerful than all human rulers.

our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





- Several kings had invaded Sodom and Gomorrah and captured their king, inhabitants, and possessions (Genesis 14:11-12).
- Abraham took 318 of his besttrained warriors and rescued Lot, the king and people of Sodom, and all their possessions (Genesis 14:16).
- After Abraham defeated the kings and delivered Sodom and Lot, Melchizedek, the king of Salem, met Abraham (Genesis 14:18-19).
 - Melchizedek, whose name means king of righteousness, brought bread and wine to Abraham.
 - Melchizedek, who was also a priest, blessed Abraham in the name of the Most High God.
- El Elyon is higher than any other power in heaven or on earth.
 - El comes from God's name Elohim, the powerful Creator, and Elyon means highest or most.
 - Melchizedek blessed Abraham in the name of El Elyon because He is higher than every king and had given Abraham victory over the kings.
 - El Elyon is higher than you and the authorities over you.

2. BELIEVE ALL POWERS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH ARE SUBJECT TO EL ELYON.

- Evil powers are subject to El Elyon.
 - Satan wanted to be like El Elyon (Isaiah 14:12-14).
 - El Elyon judged Satan and threw him and his followers out of heaven (Isaiah 14:15).
 - Demons were subject to Jesus' power as El Elyon and needed His permission to enter the herd of pigs (Mark 5:12-13).
- El Elyon won't share His glory with anyone else (Isaiah 42:8).
 - Satan wanted to be like El Elyon (Isaiah 14:12-14).
 - The king of Sodom wanted credit for defeating the kings who had captured him.
 - Abraham refused to make a deal with the king of Sodom, who wanted to keep the captives of the defeated kings, while Abraham kept the spoils, in order to look like the victor (Genesis 14:22-23).
 - Abraham wanted El Elyon to get the glory for the victory (Genesis 14:24).

3. RESPOND TO EL ELYON AS THE SOURCE IN YOUR LIFE.

- El Elyon can meet your needs because everything in heaven and earth belongs to Him.

- Melchizedek, the righteous king of Salem and priest of God, reminded Abraham that El Elyon gave him victory (Genesis 14:19).
- Abraham's 318 trained men didn't win the battle. El Elyon did.
- Recognize El Elyon as your Source by giving back to Him from all He has given you.
 - Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe (10 percent) of all the spoils he had received from the defeated kings (Genesis 14:20).
 - God commands us to give back to Him from all He has given us to demonstrate our trust in Him (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
 - Abraham tithed because he recognized El Elyon as the Source and Owner of everything, and Abraham trusted Him.

4. REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR SOURCE AND HIGH PRIEST.

- Jesus Christ is our priest in the “order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 5:1-10).
 - Melchizedek didn’t have a genealogy; he had no father or mother.
 - Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13).
- We all must trust in Jesus as our El Elyon and our High Priest (Hebrews 7:1-8:2).
 - Jesus Christ is the King of righteousness, the King of peace, and as our High Priest and as the God-Man, He is the only mediator between God and man.
 - We receive God’s material and immaterial blessings through Jesus, our High Priest.
 - When Melchizedek met Abraham, he may have been the preincarnate Son of God.
 - Have you trusted Jesus as your El Elyon and as your only access to God?

5. BELIEVE GOD IS YOUR EL SHADDAI—YOUR ALL-SUFFICIENT ONE

- El Shaddai reveals God's nurturing care for His people.
 - The prefix El comes from Elohim, the powerful Creator.
 - Shaddai comes from the Hebrew word shad, which means breast, referring to the nourishment only He can provide (Isaiah 60:15; 66:10).

- Christians must be holy as God is holy (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).
- God's role is to keep His covenant, and our role is to obey and wait.
- When God revealed Himself as El Shaddai, Abraham fell on his face in worship (Genesis 17:3).
 - Abraham realized that he and Sarah had made a mistake by trying to carry out God's plan with Hagar and Ishmael.
 - Abraham humbled himself before God.
- God changes our identity (our "name") to fit His promise and to remind us of His sufficiency to accomplish it.
 - God changed Sarai's name to Sarah, which means mother of nations (Genesis 17:15).
 - Those who believe in Jesus are called Christians, which means little Christs, and this title defines who we are.
 - Christians are also called sons and daughters of God, and these titles reflect our place in the new covenant (Romans 8:15-17).
- El Shaddai will provide for our physical and spiritual needs because He has made a covenant with Christians.
 - When we're beyond our capacity to provide for our physical or spiritual needs, like Sarah, who couldn't conceive a child, El Shaddai must step in.
 - When the hungry crowds greatly outnumbered the fish and loaves available, Jesus multiplied the food and fed more than five thousand (Matthew 14:13-21) and more than four thousand (Matthew 15:32-39).
 - When people realize their sin is a barrier to a relationship with God, El Shaddai provides grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 9:8).
 - Even as Christians, El Shaddai provides sufficient grace when we mess up as Abraham and Sarah did.
 - We must remind ourselves every day that without Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5).

- El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One, will keep His promise even if He seems slow..
 - Sarah and Abraham had to wait 25 years (from Genesis 12 to Genesis 18) for God to give them their promised son, Isaac.
 - Even though Abraham and Sarah came up with their own plan to have a son through Sarah's servant, Hagar, because God's plan seemed too slow, God still blessed them with Isaac.
 - Since El Shaddai is the all-sufficient, life-giving, covenant-keeping God, He does not need our help to fulfill His plan.
- When we try to speed up God's plan by human means, we delay His blessing and hinder His plan..
 - When Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham and she gave birth to Ishmael, their action stalled God's plan and created lasting problems for Israel (Galatians 4:22-23).
 - Abraham and Sarah should have trusted El Shaddai, who is all-sufficient and created life from nothing, and waited on His timing.

- El Shaddai commands His people to obey.
 - God told Abraham, "Walk before Me and be blameless" (Genesis 17:1).

EL ELYON IS THE ULTIMATE JUDGE. A health-care law has been passed. Regardless of your political position on the issue, an appeal has been filed for the Supreme Court to hear whether the U.S. government has the right to pass a law mandating Americans to purchase a product. Even though



THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



"Don't first look at the odds, because a lot of times the number won't give you the final story."

"Whoever [is] your El Elyon is your god! And if your El Elyon is not the true God, then what you're doing is looking to a false god, which is idolatry."

"Idolatry is simply looking to anything other than the true God to be god in your life."

"What you need to understand about knowing God's name as El Elyon is you have access to the highest court of appeal."

"The principle is simply this: you only have one source! The worst thing you and I can do is treat a resource like it's a source."

"My one Source is Possessor of all other resources because He's the Owner, Possessor, of heaven and earth."

"You've got to clarify what's the Source and what's the resource. A resource is merely the means God uses to get it to you."

"The purpose of the tithe is a visible, physical recognition that El Elyon is the Owner of heaven and earth! When you fail to recognize God's ownership, that means you're unresponsive to El Elyon's blessing."

"That job is not your source. That's why you don't get all shook up if you get a pink slip, because your job was never your source in the first place."

"When you are rightly related to Jesus Christ, you get what Melchizedek gave Abraham because Jesus is the continuation of Melchizedek."

"Jesus Christ is to you what Melchizedek was to Abraham. He is your King of righteousness, your King of peace."

"If the circumstance[s] are not looking in your favor, you need a Melchizedek. You need somebody who's in charge of what's right, who's in charge of the peace, who can make contact with God when you can't even reach God."

"Everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ is part of what the Bible calls the new covenant."

"A blessing is never only what God does to me; that's half a

blessing. A blessing has to go full circle. It's what He does to me in order that it might flow through me."

"God does not want your help, meaning He does not want you to go outside His plan to help Him out."

"When you and I go outside God to help God out, not only do we not help God out, but we delay the blessing. We get in the way of the program. We hinder the progress."

"As El-Shaddai, He has the power to work in the invisible, without something being seen, to bring about the visible."

"We've got stuff, but it hasn't been blessed because it hasn't been put in His position. See, it's better to have a blessed 99 percent than an unblessed 100 percent."

"He's powerful enough to be your sufficiency because of the covenant."

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expensive presents at Christmas. He paid the price so that you can understand that He is Immanuel, the God-Man, who wants to give you eternal peace.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

WORD STUDY ON IMMANUEL (GOD WITH US). In Psalm 46:8-12 the psalmist used a phrase that is similar to "God with us" when he declared, "The LORD of hosts is with us." The psalmist announced his confidence in God's ability to deliver His people from their enemies. In Isaiah 7:14 the proper name Immanuel points to the child who would symbolize God's presence with His people. And God's presence wasn't meant just to comfort His people but to deliver them from their sin. While many people in Jesus' time expected Him to deliver Israel from the oppressive Roman dominion, Jesus' mission would provide the means by which they would be delivered from the dominion of sin and its eternal consequences.

THE FULFILLED PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH 7:14. When Matthew wrote his Gospel, the Holy Spirit inspired him to apply the prophet's words in Isaiah 7:14 to Jesus Christ. So Matthew 1:23 is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. But what did Isaiah's words mean to him and to the people of his time? Several prophecies in the Bible have several fulfillments, one fulfillment during the time in which the prophecy was spoken and a final fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The fact that Isaiah 7:14 is followed by verses 15-17, which don't apply to Jesus Christ, means that Isaiah also had another woman and child in mind. But whom? The most likely interpretation is that Isaiah, who prophesied to the royal house of David, had in mind an unmarried virgin in the royal family who would soon get married and have a child. Though her child wouldn't literally be Immanuel, God with us, his birth, which would confirm God's words through His prophet Isaiah, would show that God was with His people. At the time of Isaiah, God's people feared the mighty Assyrian army would attack. But God wanted to show them that He was in complete control. Even though King Ahaz's lack of trust in God would eventually lead to Assyria's attack on Israel, God also wanted to show that ultimately, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would come to deal not only with our earthly enemies but also with sin and its consequences.

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you believe the baby in the manger is Immanuel, God with us.

This sermon will help you trust that Immanuel alone has provided the way for you to have peace with God.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"Please notice the distinction: the child is born, but the Son is given because the Son existed before the child was born."

"The virgin had a child, but the child that the virgin had existed as the Son before the virgin ever got pregnant. So the Son wasn't born; the Son was given."

"The essence of Christmas is Immanuel, the name God with us! If you missed that, you missed Christmas. All you wind up with is fancy songs and fancy programs and fancy events with no deity."

"The issue of Christmas is the Deity of God in a person."

"Let me tell you about the kid in the cradle who is the King, who can bear the government, the rule of your life on His shoulder. He is not only the Wonderful Counselor; He is the Mighty God who can empower you to pull off what the good advice told you ought to do."

"He is the Prince of Peace. He is the One who can put together what's unraveling in your world. He is the One who can speak peace in the middle of a storm."

"Our problems today can all be tracked back to sin. Sin is rebellion against that standard of God."

"Unless you are delivered from sin, you won't be delivered in life."

"God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ to deal with the issue of sin, sin's penalty, sin's power, and sin's presence in eternity."

"The Jesus of the Bible came to identify our sins, forgive us for our sins, give us victory over our sins, and forever give us a home totally absent of sin."

"Only Jesus Christ deserves your total worship. He deserves your total praise. Worship Him as your Savior."

"Let's not be ashamed to welcome Him, to worship Him, and then to witness about Him because His name is Immanuel."