

I Will Esteem My Name

The free gift of salvation is usually understood in the context of God's love.

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:14-17, CSB)

But is there something more that forms the basis and motivates God's love for human beings that are so undeserving?

1. Because of his faith in God, God promised Abraham that “that all of the peoples of earth will be blessed through you” (Gen 12:3). But the nation of Israel failed to keep their covenant promises and irrevocably broke the Mosaic Covenant, which set the conditions to enter the Promised Land. To fulfill His promise to Abraham, God makes a New Covenant to the house of Israel - descendants of Abraham. What do you observe about God's great and holy name?

“Therefore, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Lord GOD says: It is not for your sake that I will act, house of Israel, but for my holy name, which you profaned among the nations where you went. I will honor the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations—the name you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am the LORD—this is the declaration of the Lord GOD—when I demonstrate my holiness through you in their sight.

For I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries, and will bring you into your own land. I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.” (Ezek 36:22-27, CSB)

2. What does the Hebrew name Jesus mean in English?

3. What do you observe about Paul's statement about the name of Jesus?

This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Rom 10:8-13, CSB)

4. What do you conclude of God's statement, “I will honor the holiness of My great name”?

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Teacher Notes

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Review with the student: the covenant that God offered to the nation of Israel through Moses. What did the nation of Israel represent?

Moses went up the mountain to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain: “This is what you must say to the house of Jacob and explain to the Israelites: ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples, although the whole earth is mine, and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.’ These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites.” (Ex 19:3-6, CSB)

With the Mosaic Covenant, the nation of Israel became God's “own possession out of all the peoples, kingdom of priests and holy nation.”

Ask the student: when the nation of Israel failed to keep their covenant promises and irrevocably broke the Mosaic Covenant, how did this reflect upon God?

The nation of Israel “profaned the holiness of God's great name among the nations” To profane is “to make common or not treat as holy,” in other words, God's kingdom of priests did not honor God and distinguish Him from any other god.

Ask the student: what does God reveal to the prophet Ezekiel about why He is making the New Covenant?

“I will honor the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations—the name you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am the LORD—this is the declaration of the Lord GOD—when I demonstrate my holiness through you in their sight.”

2. What does the Hebrew name Jesus mean in English?

The proper name “Jesus,” translated from the Greek name “Iēsous,” originated from the Old Testament Hebrew name of “Yēšua’.” The name Yēšua’ came into general use around the time of the Babylonian Exile. Prior to the Exile, the ancient form of Yēšua’ was Y^əhōšûa’; and the Greek Old Testament, LXX, translates both proper names as Iēsous.

Y^əhōšûa’ is the oldest name containing God’s memorial name Yahweh, and it means “Yahweh is help” or “Yahweh is salvation.”

3. What do you observe about Paul’s statement about the name of Jesus?

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Ask the student: did you notice that Jesus is significant not just by what He does, but what His name means? How is this related to why God made the New Covenant? Take some time to discuss what Paul’s statement means: “for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

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Y^əhōšûa’ is the oldest name containing God’s memorial name Yahweh, and it means “Yahweh is help” or “Yahweh is salvation.”

“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Jesus Christ, Y^əhōšûa’, Yahweh is salvation) will be saved.”

4. What do you conclude of God’s statement, “I will honor the holiness of My great name”?

Ask the student: what is the meaning of God’s name Yahweh that sets Him apart from all other gods?

God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. (Ex 3:14, CSB) Hebrew language scholars indicate that grammatical construction of the phrase “I AM WHO I AM” makes the connection between the name YHWH and God’s essence Himself. The phrase can be understood as “I AM HE WHO EXISTS.” The real existence of God is what sets Him apart from all other dead pagan gods.

Ask the student: what did Jesus mean, “don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.” (Matt 5:17, CSB)

The Mosaic Law taught what sin was and how to atone for it. Jesus fulfills the Law by teaching what sin is and how He atones for it.

Note the sequence: 1) God vows to act to honor the holiness of His name, 2) God sends His only Son “God is salvation,” and 3) the apostle Paul confirms the fulfillment of God’s vow, “for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”