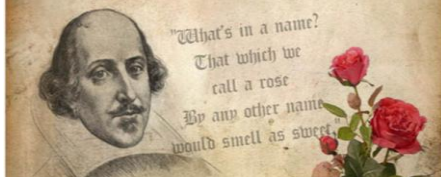


What's In a Name?



Names are of vital importance and meaning in our society. From the very beginning of recorded human history the usage and importance a name is significant. It helps distinguish us from others, it is a means of keeping records, and it is a means of identification – who we are and who we are connected to.

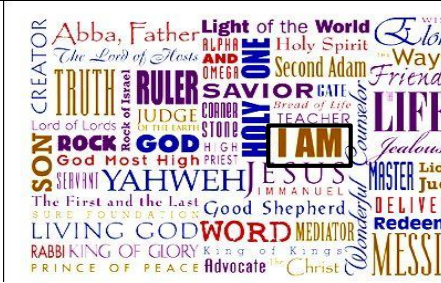
What's in a name?



Top Baby Names for 1958 & 2018

1958 Girls	2018 Girls	1958 Boys	2018 Boys
Mary	Emma	Michael	Liam
Susan	Olivia	David	Noah
Linda	Ava	James	Oliver
Karen	Harper	Robert	Mason
Patricia	Sophia	John	Carter

Those who know
Your name will put
their trust in You,
For You, O Lord,
have not forsaken
those who seek You.
Psalm 9:10



KNOWING WHO GOD IS HELPS US TO

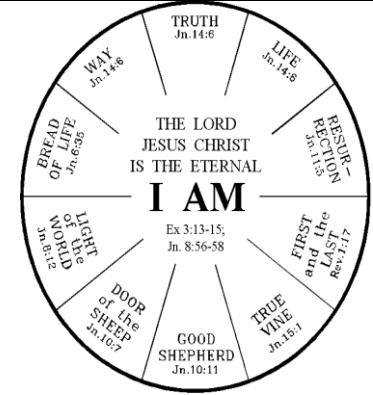
TRUST GOD

KNOW >>> TRUST
BELIEVE >>> BEHAVE



Exodus 3:13-15... *Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people 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 thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."*

Now let's move to the New Testament to see the same theme of 'I AM' carried through in just one instance. (There are dozens of I AM usages but we will just look at one)



Matthew 14:22-32... ²² Immediately (after Feeding the 5,000) Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd. ²³ After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Later that night, He was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! I AM. Don't be afraid." ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "Come," He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when He saw the wind, He was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught Him. "O, you of little faith," Jesus said, "why did you doubt?" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

With that in mind I think we would all agree that the most important name to be aware of is God. To be honest God is not His real name. God can technically be applied to any revered deity of any culture. But, I think we all hear today know that we are talking about God, who is the Creator of all things, who poured Himself into human flesh as Jesus, and now resides in every Christian as the Holy Spirit.

The reason knowing the names of God will help us trust Him with our daily affairs and with our eternal destinies is that in Scripture a person's name often signifies his character or ability or mission — especially when the name is given by God. Adam names his wife Eve, because she is mother of all the living ([Genesis 3:20](#)). God changes Abram's name to Abraham to show that He had made him the father of many nations ([Genesis 17:5](#)). God changed Sarai's name to Sarah ([Genesis 17:15](#)). He changed Jacob's name to Israel ([Genesis 32:28](#)). And when the Son of God came into the world, His name was not left to chance: ***“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”*** ([Matthew 1:21](#)). (John Piper. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/i-am-who-i-am>)

There are over a 1000 names of God and Jesus in the Bible. We do not have the time nor the patience to look at all of these. We will focus on just 1. YHWH – or Yahweh - i.e. the LORD - aka “I AM”

In verse 14, God says, *I AM WHO I AM*.

In verse 14, God says, *I AM has sent me to you*.

In verse 15, God says, *Yahweh . . . has sent me to you . . . this is my name forever*.

“So two facts persuade me that this text provides an interpretation of the name Yahweh. One is that the name Yahweh and the name I AM are built out of the same Hebrew word (*hayah*). The other is that Yahweh seems to be used here interchangeably with I AM. “I AM has sent me to you” (verse 14). “Yahweh . . . has sent me to you” (verse 15). I think it would be safe to say that God's purpose in this meeting with Moses is to reveal, as he never had before ([Exodus 6:2](#)), the meaning of his personal name, Yahweh. The key is in the phrase, I AM, and especially in the phrase, I AM WHO I AM”. (John Piper. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/i-am-who-i-am>)

What's in A Name? A lot. Remember What Your Believe Matters, because it can influence your thoughts, words and actions.

What you believe Jesus is saying when He states ‘I AM’, will influence and determine your level of peace in the midst of lives storms.

Let's change gears here and move into a story mode. Let's go back nearly 2000 years to the time that the previous scripture records. Let's look at a more personal view of “What's in a Name?”

Listen to a re-telling of this story through the eyes of Peter, the Disciple. Entitled - Trust Me ... IAM

(Note an adaption of J. Wil Ormand from “Preaching Eyes for Listening Ears” was used as a basis for the dramatic story sermon)

INVITATION:

As you close your eyes and bow your heads, will you take a moment to truly evaluate what you Believe about God, and how is affecting the way you Behave.

All of us face storms and troubled times. We all face fears of different types. It is only when we Know Who God is that We Can Trust Him to Help Us through whatever comes our way.

It's time to Trust....It's time to behave in a way that is Authentic and Genuine reflection of who God is and what He has told us.

Proverbs 3:5,6...Trust in the Lord, with all your hearts, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.

It's time to TRUST & OBEY

A Voice Against the Wind.

Adapted From Preaching Eyes for Listening Ears. By J. Will Ormand. CSS Publishing Co. Ohio. p.123-127.

Most of the time the wind was their friend, the sea their home, the boat their submissive chariot. Several of these men were fishermen who drew their livelihood from the sea. With skills sharpened by long years of practice, hands and muscles hardened by constant use, they could control the boat, guide it along watery lanes, and bring it to safe and certain shores. They liked the sting of the wind in their faces, and, at times, they could capture its strength in their sails to speed them on their way.

But this time they were distressed in rowing, for the wind was against them. Their boat was on the sea in the dead of night. The darkness obscured the distant shore. The wind pushed against them like a giant hand blocking their way. All their combined skill, all their corporate muscle bent against the sturdy oars could not release them from the grip of the tossing waves which held them fast.

Not only did the boat seem to stand still except for its restless rocking, but time, too, seemed not to move. What watch of the night was it? Stars were hidden by mist and clouds; the glow of the moon could not penetrate the gloom. Darkness seemed to close in upon them. Surely dawn must come sometime, but for what seemed like days instead of hours there had been no streaks of light on any horizon.

And with the darkness, the wind, and the crashing waves there came the sense of loneliness, of near despair, of forsakenness. Twelve of them were together in the boat, but still they felt alone. The presence of the One who had made them one was not among them. He had set them on their journey in the night. He had sent them on ahead of him. Surely there was in that sending the promise of his coming, that he would meet them on the other side.

But suppose they never reached the shore. How, then, could he join them? Why had he gone up into the hills? He was there alone on the land, and they were out here on the sea in the dark, distressed in rowing, for the wind was against them.

But what they did not know, or did not have the faith to believe, was that although they could not see Jesus at prayer in the hills, he could see them on the sea, and he knew that they were distressed in rowing.

Then at last, when the night is darkest and strength is exhausted and the lamp of life burns low, in that long, lonely stretch of night just before the dawn finally breaks, in the fourth watch of the night, he came to them walking on the sea.

With what splendid restraint the story is told. Here is quiet dignity, firm assurance, unshakable authority. This is no nick-in-time rescue effort; no dashing through the waves on angel wings. But walking on the sea, like a laird striding across his acreage; like a king strolling through his realm.

In fact, in the Mark account, he tells us that Jesus meant to pass them by. Did he need to come directly to them? Would it not be enough simply to show himself in silhouette, to let them know that he was near, steadfast against the wind? Would not such a passing by be enough to bolster their confidence and strengthen their faith?

Perhaps it should have been, but it was not. Such a coming did not fit their expectations nor their hopes. It shattered the limits of what they thought possible.

This was not the familiar figure whom they knew and could recognize. Jesus had startled them before by calming a storm only with his words, "Peace, be still." But that time he was in the boat with them; he had not left them alone.

But what was this strange shape striding across the waves? Who was this lordly figure defying the wind and the waves and moving majestically across the sea? Surely this was no source of comfort, but an apparition, a phantom from the realm of the dead, perhaps a sign of sure disaster.

So they cried out in terror, "It is a ⁸host," But the wind snatched their words and flung them scattered against the distant hills.

Then through the wind, against the wind, there came a voice, a voice which the wind could not catch nor distort: "Take heart; it is I; have no fear!"

What an extraordinary command! What a daring call for faith! "Take heart; have no fear!"

What evidence will he give to support such a call to courage? What reason will he set forth for abandoning fear?

He does not promise that the storm soon will cease. He does not say, "All will be well"; he does not declare, "Hold on a little longer; dawn is about to break"; he does not challenge: "Row harder and you will surely reach the shore."

The only word he gives them to call them to faith is this: "It is I." This word he flings against the wind. This word he brings to terrified disciples in a boat that will not move. "I AM, AND I AM HERE!"

This is a strong word. It is a revealing word. It is a word which calls for the response of faith.

When Moses stood before a burning bush and heard a command and asked the question, "Who are you?" the answer came, "I AM." This is a word which reveals that God is present and active, concerned and caring, whether spoken from a burning bush or from a voice against the wind.

After proclaiming, "Take heart; I AM; have no fear," Jesus came through the mist and got into the boat with his disciples. They were utterly astonished. His being with them still did not answer all their questions, for there was still much which they did not understand. There were lengths to go before their voyage of faith would land them on a safe and solid shore.

But the wind had ceased, the waves were calm, and the boat was on the move again, for they had heard a voice against the wind: "I AM."

Perhaps some of you have had the literal experience of being in a small craft in the dark of night, distressed in rowing because the wind was against you. If that is true, then you can identify with the disciples on the storm-tossed sea.

I have never had that experience, but I, like most of you I am sure, have known times when I was distressed in rowing because the wind was against me.

Who among us has not found himself or herself in situations which were about to overwhelm us, that were far beyond our skill or strength to control? A serious illness for ourselves or for someone whom we love; a controversy in the church which seems to have no ready resolution; tensions within the family circle which grow worse the more we try to work at them; disruptions in the world which are so deep and complex that we are at a loss to understand them, much less to know how to contribute to their salvation.

Are there not times when we dare to wonder whether God has abandoned us, whether Jesus has forgotten us, whether the Holy Spirit is after all simply a Holy Ghost?

Oh, we of little faith! Does Jesus not come to us again and again over the waves, through the darkness, with his voice against the wind?

He may not come on our terms nor according to our timetable. He may wait until the fourth watch of the night. But come he will!

Look then. That dim shape forming through the mist need not be a source of terror simply because it is new, mysterious, and does not fit what we believe is possible. Our Lord Christ exposes himself to the storm and comes to us through it.

Listen! There is a voice against the wind. The voice gives no easy assurances. But it speaks a strong word: "Take heart; have no fear, I AM." God is; God comes; God is here.

Is this not better than a smooth sea and a dull crossing?

Is this not better than a ship calm, rocking softly and sleepily with no shore for which to strive?

Is this not better than to feel no need for Jesus Christ to come to us **in** the fourth watch of the night?

Give us, then, the wind against us, the breaking waves, and a craft tossed in uncertainty and fear, if in such a setting we can see him coming to us through the dark, and hear his voice against the wind, "***Take heart; have no fear; I AM!***"

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