



Names, Fatherhood and Silence of God

*Life & Mercy Christian Fellowship
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Introduction

We have learned about the existence of God and about His nature and unity. In Bible lands names had and have significance unknown to us in the West. In a study of the Names of God, we learn many things about God.

I. The Names of God

The Names of God are found in three forms:

- Primary – One word only: El, Elah, Elohim, Jehovah, Adon, Adonai, God, Lord.
- Compound with El – Almighty God, Most High God, Everlasting God
- Compound with Jehovah – Lord God, Jehovah, the Everlasting God, etc.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>The One Who:</u>	<u>The Lord:</u>
1	Elohim	Genesis 2:4	Is Mighty	Who Creates
2	El Elyon	Genesis 14:22	Is Supreme	Who Owns
3	Adonai	Genesis 15:2	Is Ruling	Our Master
4	El Olam	Genesis 21:33	Is Mysteries	Who Reveals
5	Jireh	Genesis 22:14	Redeems	Our Banner
6	Rophi	Exodus 15:26	Heals	Who Heals
7	Nissi	Exodus 17:15	Fights for us	Our Banner
8	Yekaddia	Exodus 31:13	Is Sanctification	Who Sanctified
9	Shalom	Judges 6:24	Gives Peace	Our Banner
10	Sabaoth	1 Samuel 1:3	Is Possessing	Of Hosts
11	Zidkenu	Jeremiah 23:6	Is Justifying	Our Righteousness
12	Shammah	Ezekiel 48:35	Is Present	At Hand
13	Elyon	Psalms 7:17	Is Blessing	Who Blesses
14	Roi	Psalms 23:1	Is Caring	Our Shepherd

II. The Fatherhood of God

“Our Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 6:9); This is our happiest conception of God. Pagan religions know nothing of a God, who is a loving Heavenly Father. Pagan religions portray God as immense, terrible, cruel and One to be dreaded.

The Bible pictures God as loving, friendly, companionable, approachable and desirable. It was the Saviour who taught us to pray “Our Father” – a new revelation of God.

God is revealed as Father in two ways:

1. As the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ – John 5:17, John 1:14
2. As the Father of those who believe on the Lord Jesus. John 1:12, “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God”

The Jews thought of God as their Father in a national or poetical sense:

1. Poetical – Psalm 68:5 “A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.”
2. National – Exodus 4:22 “Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.”’

Israel did not have a personal consciousness of sonship, as “God is MY Father.” Modernism reasons, “God is my Father and my Father will not harm me, so I will take my ease, eat, drink and be merry and He will be merciful to me to the end.”

In John 8:44 Jesus, speaking to the Jews, said “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” So, God is the creator of all, but only the Father of those that are in the family.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18, ““Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”

As a Father God gives life to His children, there is no sonship without a new birth. As a Father, God bestows love on His children – to those in the family of God. This is a relationship, Father and son, gives a true ideal for work (it is not master and slave). It is a Father that He hears and answers our prayers, sifting the requests as a true Father.

III. The Silence of God

In times of difficulty men reason, “If there is a loving Father God, why is He silent? Why did He allow this to happen? Why didn’t He prevent this?” Why does He not prevent disastrous explosions, accidents, typhoons, floods and wars? An infidel having no faith in the existence of God argues from the silence of God – the greatest problem of our time.

Job 23:2-4 ““Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments.”

Psalm 28:1 “To You I will cry, O Lord my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.”

Men have devised several probable answers to this age-old problem:

1. Deism – God is a good God but He has no time to look after the entails of life. God is only a spectator of the affairs of this life.
2. Atheism – silence proves that God is a myth. A living God would speak.
3. Materialism – The world is governed by law, without a personal God. They teach that we are at the mercy of blind chance.

To reject God and the Bible only plunges mankind into greater darkness. Why, then, is God silent? Several negative answers present themselves:

1. Indifference – Christ suffering on the cross cries, “My God, My God,” God cared so much for our souls that He continued His wrath upon the Son
2. Unobservant – This is contrary to the omniscient understanding of God
3. Unloving – The parent that truly loves a child will punish it, Hebrews 12:7-8
4. Unwillingness – He sees the end from the beginning and plans our whole lives.

If these five negative answers are wrong, what, then, is the correct answer?

1. Common sense view – A lot of the difficulty is a result of deliberate sin due entirely to man's carelessness, neglect and folly, such as accidents. Galatians 6:7, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."
2. Reverent view – Is it right that my puny mind should question the workings of the Almighty God? Isaiah 55:8-9. Doubtless God's master plan for my life will include sorrow, suffering and pain
3. The philosophical view – Human free will involves the consequences of those actions. Human freedom means moral responsibility – adultery leads to syphilis
4. Lover's view – God is a jealous lover. Exodus 20:5 "I the Lord your God, am a jealous God." He seeks to divorce us from everything and cause us to cling closely to Him.
5. Dispensational view – This is the day of man, the day of sin, the day of grace, when God beckons, "Come home" but a day of judgement, interference, and the silence of God will be broken with audible condemnation. God will yet reckon accounts with men and their relationships with God and society.
6. Faith view – John 13:7 "Jesus answered and said to him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.'" Lord teach me to wait patiently.
7. The testing of my faith – 1 Peter 1:7, "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ"
8. The mysterious works of God – John 9:3, "Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him." This is the story of the man that was born blind. I may suffer, not for my sin but to be made a blessing to someone else. Only those who have passed through suffering and sorrow can comfort others.

Conclusion

Live in a conscious sense of His presence even though He seems to be silent. Learn to think positively. I know God – I spoke to Him today. He spoke to me through His own precious Word. He spoke through answered prayers. Live according to the knowledge that we have. Caution: Romans 1:21 "because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." then read verses 24-32.

Matthew 11:27 teaches that it is the work of the Son to reveal the Father. The quiet hour is our opportunity to deepen our acquaintance with the Lord God. Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God"

Review Questions

1. Give three names of God and their meanings
2. What is our happiest conception of God?
3. What is the price of having a happy relationship with God as our Father?
4. Does the silence of God prove His non-existence or indifference? Why?
5. What is the doctrine of Deism?
6. List three wrong answers given by man to explain God's silence.
7. What is the teaching of materialism in regard to the silence of God?
8. Give five possible reasons for the silence of God.
9. How can I become more God-conscious?
10. When is the best time to deepen our acquaintance with God?