

Now Zechariah was to burn incense on the altar during the time of prayer. As he was performing his duty, an angel appeared to him informing him that his wife was going to bear a son and that they were to name that son John or Yehochanan. Both Zechariah and his wife were pretty old by this time and they had had no children. So Zechariah knew that this was going to take some doing. He asked the angel, “Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. Since Zechariah hesitated and questioned the angel, he was stricken with dumbness until John was born.

The name “John” comes from two Hebrew words, Yehow or Yahu and chanan. Yehow or Yahwu have to do with the name Yahweh while chanan has to do with grace or favor. The name John can mean “to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to bestow a petition; or to grant a favor.

Putting the names Zechariah, Elizabeth and John together, we can now get this meaning: “The El, Father Yahweh, has remembered His oath to grant or bestow grace.

When John was born, the neighbors and relatives of the family were all gathered around and they were wanting to know what they were going to name him. His mother Elizabeth said that His name was John but the people resisted, wanting to name him Zechariah after his father. When Elizabeth persisted, they resorted to the father Zechariah. He took a writing tablet and wrote on it, ‘his name is John.’ When he did this, his dumbness was removed and he began to speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Here is what he said: “Blessed be Yahweh, Elohim of Israel; for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David; **as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets**, which have been since the world began: that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; **to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant; the oath which He sware to our father Abraham**, that He would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. And you, child, (speaking of his son John) shall be called the prophet of the highest: for you shalt go before the face of Yahweh to prepare His

ways; **to give knowledge of salvation unto His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our Elohim**; whereby the day-spring from on high has visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Do you get all of that brethren? Here was Zechariah, Elizabeth and John. Their names are announcing that it was time for Yahweh to remember His oath, His promise of grace to His people. Do you understand now how important these names were? Do you understand that Yahweh had these people named and brought them together in order to announce what He was going to do? Are you beginning to understand the importance of names?

Well, what about the name of the Creator, Himself? Do you think that His name is important to remember? There are a lot of ministers and people in this world who rail at us because we stand firm on the importance of knowing and speaking the name of the Creator. Why do they do this? Because they have built huge works on other names which are not the true names. For them to admit that they have been wrong would be damaging to their ego and maybe to the very work which they have built up.

A very dear brother recently sent me a copy of the *Chumash*. The *Chumash* contains the first five books of the Bible, the books which are credited to Moses, and it has many important comments or commentary concerning each verse.

Now in chapter one of the book of Genesis (the Hebrew name is Bereishis or Bereishiyth in the original Hebrew), the word employed for the Creator is Elohim. However, in chapter two there is an addition to this word Elohim. Gen. 2:1-4, “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day Elohim ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And Elohim blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which Elohim created and made. These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that **Yahweh Elohim** made the earth and the heavens.”

Now here is what the *Chumash* commentary says concerning this addition, “This is the first mention in the Torah of the Hebrew four-letter name ה - ו - ה - ם, which denotes G-d in His attribute of mercy. At first, G-d created the world exclusively with the

attribute of justice [Elohim], because the ideal state is for man to be judged according to his deeds, without a need for special mercy, but G-d knew that man cannot survive without mercy and forbearance. Therefore He added the name signifying mercy, to teach that He would temper justice with compassion (*Rashi TO 1:1*). The name ה - ו - ה - ם also signifies the eternity of G-d, because its letters are also those of the words אֶשֶׁר אֱהִיָּה אֲהִיָּה, *HE WAS, IS, AND WILL BE*. In the words of Rambam’s fourth principle of faith, G-d ‘is the very first and the very last.’ Everything in the created universe must have a moment when it came into existence, but G-d is infinite; He transcends time. In recognition of this concept, the four-letter name is often translated the Eternal One. **This is also the proper name of G-d**. In respect for its intense holiness, it is not pronounced as it is spelled. In prayer or when reciting a complete verse of the Torah, it is pronounced Adonoy. Otherwise, it is referred to as Hashem, or the Name.” (P. 11)

With all due respect to the Jewish people and their teachers, don’t you see the error in this reasoning? If the name Yahweh (ה - ו - ה - ם) is associated with mercy, then to take away the name and the knowledge of it, is to take away the mercy that is associated with it!

The Jewish people were originally instructed to pronounce “Adonoy” when they come to the Holy Name. Today they say “HaShem” (The Name). In the English Bibles it has been replaced with “The LORD”. In the Greek it has been replaced with “Kurios.” The Hebrew word “Adonoy” along with the word “Kurios” means the same in the English, they all mean “LORD”.

Here is what Yahweh says about the act of replacing and forgetting His name, “I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in My name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed.’ How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? Yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart which think **to cause My people to forget My name**, by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as **their fathers have forgotten My name for Baal**.” Jer. 23:25-27.

The word or name Baal also means “THE LORD.” When He says, “Their fathers have forgotten My name,” the word “forgotten” is defined

as mislay, i.e. to be oblivious of, from want of memory or attention. That is the condition of this world today! Almost all peoples are utilizing the word G-d. G-d is not a proper noun, it is a common noun like the common noun man. G-d is equivalent to the Hebrew word Elohim. Remember what we just read about this word Elohim? It is the word that is associated with the attribute of justice or judgment. In other words, utilizing the word Elohim or God while the name Yahweh, the name associated with mercy, is taken away, simply puts us under the attribute of justice, we are putting ourselves in the state of being judged according to our deeds.

This is a very subtle, deceptive condition that has been brought about by the serpent Satan the Devil. It is his desire that we come under judgment not mercy. He hates the name Yahweh. He hates Yahweh and he also truly hates man. His work is deception, lies and falsehood, which lead to destruction!

The apostle Peter proclaimed, "And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name Yahweh shall be saved** (Acts 2:21). Brethren, he was quoting the prophet Joel whose book appears in the Old Testament. Here is what Joel declared, "And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name Yahweh shall be delivered** for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as Yahweh hath said, and in the remnant whom Yahweh shall call," Joel 2:32.

The Apostle Paul concurs for he wrote, "For **'whosoever shall call upon the name Yahweh shall be saved.'** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" Ro. 10:13-14.

That's three witnesses, among so many others that we can find in the Scriptures.

Brethren, you must repent and be baptized in the true name of the Messiah Yahshua. Yahshua means "the salvation of Yahweh" or it can mean "Yahweh the Savior." It is the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. (ACTS 4:12).

Yahweh has remembered His oath to the fathers by raising up a horn of salvation. But that salvation must be obtained through the knowledge of the true name of the Creator Yahweh.

Scriptural names are important! Scriptural names

have important meaning! The name Yahweh is the most important name in all of creation! If you desire His mercy, then you need to turn to the name that is associated with mercy. Don't let the deceiver take away the importance of His name nor the knowledge of it. Yahweh revealed the importance of His name by inspiring it to be recorded in the Old Testament 6823 times. The problem is that Satan has deceived man into thinking that Yahweh's name isn't all that important, or, supposedly that it is so holy that it can't be or shouldn't be pronounced. These vain *See* philosophies have removed it from the knowledge of the people in order to bring in judgment. Even the knowledge of the true name of the Messiah has been taken away and replaced with another name which has the name of mercy removed from it.

Brethren, restore the Name of mercy in your life so that you can come under mercy and not judgment.

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Y. E. A.
The Menorah Shines on the Torah



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What's in a name? Are names important? In ancient times people gave names to their children which had meaning. Today, most people are naming their children with names, which supposedly have some kind of pleasant sound, but most of the names are absolutely meaningless.

By Jerry Healan

You can also tell how little the Bible is influencing people today. So many people used to name their children after famous Biblical characters, but that has changed greatly in today's world.

Names were important to the Creator Yahweh. As a matter of fact, in many instances people were named for the purpose that He would have for them. Let's take the name "Adam," for instance.

Adam is a Hebrew word and name which has to do with the very substance from whence he was made. It comes from the word "adamah" which means clay or thick, moist earth. The word "adam" itself means to be ruddy or red, to cause to blush, to put to shame, or even to show blood. As a matter of fact, the last three letters in the name "Adam", the letters "d-a-m" or "dam" means blood in Hebrew. So Adam was the father of all those men who are made from the earth and who are able to have blood or to show blood and frankly, the life of all flesh is in the blood.

The name "Abram" means high father. The name "Abraham" means high father of many nations or people. If we belong to the Messiah Yahshua, then we also become one of Abraham's seed, one of his children.

But let's get to the New Testament because I want to address the situation with the beginning of the births of John the Baptist and the Savior Yahshua.

In the book of Luke, we have the narrative of the announcement of John's birth. Luke 1:5, "There was in the days of Herod the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zechariah, of the course of Abia; and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth."

Now let's see if we can look at the meaning behind these names and find a story being made.

Abia is AbiYah in Hebrew. It means "Father Yah." Zechariah means "Yah has remembered." Elizabeth comes from the Hebrew Elisheba which means "the El of seven" or "El of the oath, or promise." Putting these names together, we can get this idea or understanding - The El, Father Yah, has remembered His oath or promise.