

NAMES OF THE FATHER

Part V

Genesis 1:1-3

Introduction: The writer of the Proverbs cogently wrote this paragon statement: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7. This is not talking of an inordinate, cringing fear of God but rather developing an awe of God. The more I know Him, the more I am in awe of Him and of how He relates to me. The love of God for man is transcendent, and His plan for us is scintillating!

I. The names of God and their relationship to me

A. Righteousness: *Yahweh Tsidkenu*

1. Psalm 23:3 says that it is *Yahweh Tsidkenu*, He leads me in the paths of righteousness. Sin is many things, among them seeking our own way or straying as wayward sheep from the right path. Isaiah 53:6 says, "We have turned every one to his own way." Even though we deserve the judgment of hell, *Yahweh Roi*, our Shepherd who guides us, is also *Yahweh Tsidkenu*, the Lord our Righteousness, who in mercy gives us a new standing before Him.
2. The phrase *Yahweh Tsidkenu* is found in Jeremiah 23:6. He says that when the Lord returns at the end of the age, the Jews who have rejected Jesus Christ will recognize Him as their Messiah and turn to Him as Savior. Jeremiah predicts that they will then know Him by the name, "The Lord our Righteousness." It is through His righteousness that the Jews will come to know the justification that Christians already experience.
3. Justification is not being made inherently righteous, but being declared righteous through the righteousness of Christ. We cannot in ourselves declare ourselves righteous; God does it for us. Note that in Psalm 23:3, it is *Yahweh Tsidkenu*, He "leads me in the paths of righteousness." He declares His own to be righteous not because of what we have done, but "for His Name's sake."

B. Courage: *Yahweh Nissi*

1. *Yahweh Nissi*, "the Lord my banner!" Psalm 23:4. The courage that conquers our fears comes from *Yahweh Nissi*. Fear often comes when we face the unknown. When we walk with *Yahweh Nissi*, "the Lord our Banner," we can walk with courage and with confidence of victory.
2. The term *Yahweh Nissi* was a battle term. The soldier who became separated from his outfit in conflict needed to be able to find his army's battle staff or flag flying above the conflict. He could rally to the flag and not fight alone. So, *Yahweh Nissi* is "the Lord our Banner." This title was revealed when Israel went to battle with Amalek. This was Israel's first fight after escaping from Egypt. Joshua led the troops into battle at Rephidim. Exodus 17:8-16. Note verse 15, Moses built an altar and called its name, *Yahweh Nissi*, "the Lord is my Banner."
3. "The Lord my Banner" means *the Lord that prevails*. Even though men fought the battles, God gave the victory. Amalek served as a symbol for the flesh in the Old Testament. In today's world, Christians battle with the flesh and struggle with the old nature. It is God who gives us the victory because of the death of Jesus on the cross. A Christian can fight the battle of life with confidence because *Yahweh Nissi*, "the Lord my Banner," will prevail.
4. As Christians, we must press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14. This infers a struggle or a battle. Ephesians 6:10-18.

Conclusion: Knowing that our victory is already secured through Christ removes unnecessary anxiety from our lives and allows us to live in peace. The faith life talked about in Hebrews 11:1 is only possible when we have the confidence and assurance that our God has already won the battle for us.