

NAMES OF THE FATHER
Part XII
Psalm 8:1-9

Introduction: The immense beauty of a diamond is reflected in the myriad of colors it displays. It is perfuse and many-sided, and each side projects equal beauty. Each of the revelations of God is like unveiling a secret chamber with a wealth of new truth about Him. Each of His glorious attributes permits me to know Him more intimately. In knowing God more intimately, we can understand how he relates to us and our everyday needs.

I. The names of God

- A. *El Olam* / the Everlasting God, a secret name for God. This hints at His mysterious nature.
1. The prefix *el*, as we have noted, is from *Elohim*, or Strong Creator. *Olam* means time, or age. With a tiny change in the vowel sounds in Hebrew, the ancient rabbis spelled it *olam* (hidden), underscoring the mysterious nature of God. God's everlasting or timeless nature – without beginning or end – is one of the most profound mysteries of His nature.
 2. In Psalm 90:2, the psalmist exalts God. The Hebrew word *olam* is a synonym for the Greek word *aion*, meaning dispensation.
 3. In Psalm 10:1, the meaning of *olam* (secret or hidden) is illustrated.
 4. Genesis 21:33. Abraham called on God *Olam*, because he knew He would answer.
- B. The title "Everlasting God" was first revealed to Abraham at the desert oasis called Beer-Sheba. The only water there was a well dug by Abraham. It was the last well before entering the desolate Sinai-Peninsula. After a confrontation with Abimelech, a covenant of peace was made. Abraham then planted a grove and there called upon "the Name of the Everlasting God." Genesis 21:33. By faith, Abraham saw this as a down payment of the everlasting covenant God made with him, recorded in Genesis 17:7-8. Israel is not occupying someone else's land. The land of Israel was given to the Israelites by God Himself. Note verse 8. Furthermore, the present Palestinians are not the descendants of the Canaanites. The extent of the land given to Israel is recorded in Numbers 34:2-12.
1. *El Olam* is the God who is always available to us. He is an omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent God who never changes. Psalm 25:6, 100:5. *El Olam* means "the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto the children's children." Psalm 103:17.
 2. At Beer-Sheba, Abraham was calling on God for protection. While the future was hidden from him, the God *El Olam* could mysteriously see the future.
 3. The apostle Paul teaches that these Old Testament events were shadows or types of what was to come in Christ. For example, the birth of Isaac of a "freewoman" and Abraham's rejection of the "son of a bondmaid" is a picture of God dealing with the Jews and later with the gentiles. Galatians 4:22-30. Since these things are done in a mystery, their fulfillment awaits a dispensation (*olam*) yet to be revealed because they are in the hands of *El Olam*, the God of secrets and mysteries. Paul gives us what he understands of the mystery. Ephesians 3:2-5.

Conclusion: When Hannah gave her son Samuel to the Lord (1st Samuel 1:22), she wasn't sure of how God would use her son in the future so she lent him to the Lord. Verse 28. God had a secret plan for Samuel to carry out in leading Israel to greatness. The name *Yahweh* is taken from the verb *Hayah*, which means, "I am that I am," the God of the present tense. *El Olam* is the everlasting God, the God of the future, who "will be." The New Testament application is found in Ephesians 3:8, God's secret purpose for our lives. (God's unsearchable riches!)