

NAMES OF THE FATHER
Part XIII
Ephesians 3:2-5

Introduction: As we advance in our continuum, and juxtaposed with our last study, we continue looking at the transcendent mystery of God and His exponential essence. In some ways, it is beyond our comprehension to fully fathom God in all of His majesty. However, we can get a glimpse of His fullness through examining the meaning of His names along with His attributes.

- I. The names of the Father
 - A. *El Olam*- the God who is mysterious and everlasting.
 1. The name *Yahweh* is taken from the verb *Hayah*, which means, "I Am that I Am." *Yahweh* is the God of the present tense. *El Olam* is the everlasting God, the God of the future, who says, "I will be what I will be."
 2. The New Testament application of *El Olam* is found in Ephesians 3:8. Paul here speaks of "the unsearchable riches of Christ." God has a secret purpose that we do not fully know, but it is full of grace. Paul describes how the secret is revealed. Ephesians 3:10. Only in the New Testament do we see the full explanation of the eternal plan of *El Olam*. Note Ephesians chapter 3 verse 11.
 - B. There are many complex things in the Bible that transcend our ability to understand. Deuteronomy 29:29.
 1. God seems to have a law respecting the first born and the first fruits. In His mysterious wisdom, He chose Jacob instead of Esau through whom to fulfill His promise to Abraham. Romans 9:13.
 2. He chose Ephraim over Manasseh. Genesis 48:14-17. When we are asked why, we can only look to *El Olam*.
 3. We see the mysterious periods of time that are often repeated: seven days, seven weeks, seven months, seven years, and seven times seven. Leviticus 25:8-9. We read of the seven years of tribulation and the coming periods of time, and we do not understand why time is divided in sevens. Yet *El Olam* understands the reasons.
 - C. Several applications can be drawn from the revelation of the name *El Olam*, the everlasting God whose name is secret.
 1. The secrets of God give new meaning to the believer developing a life of faith. Since believers must walk by faith, we must understand the nature of faith.
 - a. Faith is affirming what God has said in His Word. Hebrews 11:6.
 - b. To walk by faith is to obey the principles of the Word of God.
 - c. The better we know His Word, the greater the possibility we have for a successful life of faith.
 - d. The name *El Olam* infers that we sometimes must obey what is unknown. Deuteronomy 29:29. Obviously God has withheld some information from us. Job 13:15.
 - D. On what grounds should we trust God?
 1. First, the nature of God. He will always act right and judge right. God cannot go against His righteous nature.
 2. Second, the things God withheld in the Old Testament He later revealed in the New Testament. Since God is always looking out for our own good, we can trust Him even when we don't understand.
 - E. The silence of God gives new meaning to the voice of God. Something is happening even when God is not speaking. How does God speak?
 1. He speaks through His Word. Hebrews 1:1-2.
 2. Two, God speaks through nature. Romans 1:18-20.
 3. Three, God speaks through our conscience that tells us when we violate God's moral law. Romans 2:15.
 4. When we commit an overt sin, God doesn't have to speak, because He already has on the matter.

Conclusion: As a believer, God has revealed much to us through His Spirit. 1st Corinthians 2:9-10. We are responsible for what we do know. Vv. 12-14. The walk of faith is a glorious way to live. No matter what is happening around us, we can walk confidently knowing that our life is hid with God in Christ.