



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Volume 9 Issue 1

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 12:1-5



STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- 1 **BLESS (H1288) "Barak"** - to kneel; by impl. to bless God (as an act of adoration) x abundantly
- 2 **GREAT (H1431) "Gadai"** - to twist; caused to make large (as in mind, body, estate or honor); advance, boast, bring up, exceed. (Gen. 12:2)
GREAT (H1419) "Gadowl" - great in any sense; hence older; insolent; high, long, mighty, more, much, noble (x exceedingly). (Mal. 1:11)
- 3 **NAME (H8034) "Shem"** - an appellation, as in a mark or memorial of individuality; impl. honor, authority, character
- 4 **TAKE (H5375) "Nacah"** - to lift (in a variety of applications); to bear (-er, up), bring (forth), wear, yield.
- 5 **VAIN (H7723) "Shav"** - desolating; evil (as destructive); ruin; idolatry (as false); uselessness (as deceptive).

When we understand the greatness of the name of the Lord and of all that it implies, we can understand the grievous sin of "bearing" His name in vain. It is an oxymoron to dishonor this name and claim to be a child of God.

TEXT OF THE WEEK

"Thou shalt not take (bear) the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh (beareth) his name in vain."
- Exodus 20:7

"I Will Bless Thee and Make Thy Name Great"

Much time and thought is spent on the selection for the name of a new child. What can we learn about the name given to those God has called to save?

INTRODUCTION: With what does the world associate a great name? What is important to the world about making a name for yourself? The Bible describes two extreme categories for names that identify mankind. What are they? *Proverbs 10:7; 22:1; Ecc. 6:3-4*

THE NAME OF ABRAM

1. What did God tell Abram when He called him out of Haran? *Genesis 12:1-3*

- Read the Hebrew definitions found on the side column for the following bold words in vs. 2, "I will **bless** thee and make thy **name great**." Compare this "great" to the one found in *Malachi 1:11*. What do you find?

THE NAME OF GOD

2. What can be learned about the name of God and its greatness?

- The Description: *Judges 13:18; Ps. 99:3; 135:13; 148:13; Prov. 18:10; Jer. 10:6-7*
- The Purpose: *Ps. 79:9; 124:5-8*
- The Response: *II Chron. 7:14; Ps. 102:15; 145:1-2; Is. 26:8; 52:6*

3. How is the Lord great? *Ps. 104:1ff; II Sam. 7:21-22*

THE NAME OF GOD'S PEOPLE

4. By what name does the Lord call His people? *II Chron. 7:14; Is. 43:7; Jer. 15:16*

- Study the process for the name "Israel": *Gen. 32:28; Matt. 2:6; Ro. 9:6-8; Gal. 6:16*

5. Why would God give His name to His people? *Ezekiel 36:21-23, 32*

6. The importance of God's name is written in the 3rd commandment. List reasons why "taking (bearing) God's name in vain" (Ex. 20:7) is such a grievous sin: *Ps. 139:20-22; Prov. 30:8-9; I Tim. 6:1*

- Read the Hebrew definition on the side column for the word "vain." Discuss the areas in which we fall prey to violating this command.

CONCLUSION

7. Study the names given by God to His own Son (Is. 9:6; Matt. 1:21, 23). With what are they connected? A) Salvation B) Judgment C) God's Glory D) Other:
8. What is and will be mankind's reaction to Christ's name? *Phil. 2:9-11*

"I will bless thee and make thy name great" represents the greatness of God's salvation to His people and the blessing that unfolds is an adoration of the greatness of His mercy. As we are called to "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12) may we begin by repenting when we have taken God's precious name in vain and turn from our sin.