

The **Bible** Unpacked

Comprehensive Study Series

The Bible's teaching presented
for Bible students

Paul Mallison

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for Bible students

1. God's Being

Paul Mallison

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This copy made: 18-Nov-17.

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A Quick Word

This series of studies aims to present a compilation of the Bible's teachings in a clear and readable order. There are 40 booklets in the series, based on the 40 chapters of the book *The Bible Unpacked - Comprehensive Edition*. Each booklet has two sections, which can be used for two or more studies.

See *Topics in This Series* towards the end of this booklet for a full listing of all the topics. Note that studying booklets alternatively from the two major sections (*What to Know* and *What to Do*) would add variety.

The material contains Bible verses. Before the verses are headings, which reflect what the verses say – in particular the parts of the verses in *italics*. The verses are sometimes followed by a comment.

The verses often have a brief introduction. Usually these state who is speaking and often who they are speaking to. Apart from God and Jesus Christ, the main speakers are:

- Moses – who led the Israelites and taught them God's laws;
- David – Israel's greatest king who wrote many of the psalms, most of which are essentially prayers;
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and other prophets – who spoke to the people of Israel on God's behalf; and
- Paul, Peter, John and other leaders of the early church – who spoke to various groups and wrote letters to believers.

Much care has been taken in order to correctly interpret the verses. Nevertheless, if you encounter a verse that is used to teach something that is contrary to or goes beyond your understanding, assess its use by doing such things as: reading the passage it is from; and considering how its teaching fits in with Scripture as a whole (e.g. interpret OT teaching in the light of NT teaching).

For more information on *The Bible Unpacked* and free downloads, go to the website: www.thebibleunpacked.net.

Suggestions for Study Groups

Preliminary matters:

- Beforehand the leader should: check the context of any verses they are not familiar with; and review the questions. If need be, they should compose questions more applicable to the group.
- Each person should have a Bible, for things such as checking a verse's context. It would also be helpful to have Bible commentaries on hand.
- Pray before beginning the study. Ask God for help in understanding the meaning of the verses and to affect your lives through them. Also pray together at the end.

Doing the study:

- Ideally, read the material and answer the questions prior to the meeting. Then share answers and discuss any issues arising from the material in the meeting.
- Alternatively, read the material and answer the questions in the meeting – reading either aloud as a group or individually (prior to sharing answers). If reading as a group, **try having one person read the headings, another read the verses and another read the comments.** Additionally, a fourth person could read the Bible references.

General or concluding questions:

If time permits, conclude with one or more of the following questions:

- What is something that you either: **did not know** before; gained **greater insight** into; or **needed reminding** of?
- What verse would be helpful to memorize and bear in mind during the next week?
- In taking the verses seriously, is there anything you should change in:
 - (a) how you relate to God and/or to other people; or
 - (b) any other area of your life (e.g. attitudes, values or behavior)?

If so, are there any specific steps you could take to do this?

I. Basics

The concepts in the first half of this chapter are fundamental to understanding what God is like, as they concern basic attributes of his being. These include attributes which show God to be very different to us, but also attributes which indicate that he is like us in that he is a personal being.

a) God's Form

God is one

MARK 12:29B, 32 [JESUS, QUOTING MOSES:] Listen, Israel, *the Lord our God, the Lord is one.* ... ³²The expert in the law said to him, "*That is true, Teacher; you are right to say that he is one, and there is no one else besides him.*" NET

In teaching that God is one, the Bible indicates that God is a single entity or being.

God is spirit . . .

JOHN 4:24 *God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.* NET

God's nature is spirit; he is a spiritual being. So God is not a physical being, in contrast to people and particularly to idols.

. . . As such, God cannot be seen by people

1TIM 6:16 [PAUL, SPEAKING OF GOD:] He alone has endless life and lives in inaccessible light. *No one has ever seen him, nor can anyone see him.* Honor and eternal power belong to him! Amen. ISV

God is everywhere, not just in temples . . .

JER 23:23–24 "*I am a God who is near,*" says the LORD. "*I am also a God who is far away.*" ²⁴"*No one can hide where I cannot see him,*" says the LORD. "*I fill all of heaven and earth,*" says the LORD. NCV™

1KI 8:27 [SOLOMON, PRAYING AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE:] *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!* NKJV

. . . Thus, God is always near

Ps 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, *an ever-present help* in times of trouble. GW

Ps 139:7–10 [DAVID, TO GOD:] *Where can I go to escape your spirit? Where can I flee to escape your presence? ⁸If I were to ascend to heaven, you would be there. If I were to sprawl out in Sheol, there you*

would be. ⁹If I were to fly away on the wings of the dawn, and settle down on the other side of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand would guide me, your right hand would grab hold of me. NET

However, God primarily dwells in heaven

DEUT 26:15A [MOSES, TO GOD:] Look down from *your holy dwelling place in heaven* and bless your people ... NET

Verses which speak of God being in heaven are not understood to indicate that he is in any way confined to one location. But they do suggest that his form is such that his primary presence is in heaven. Note that some verses imply that God is present throughout the earth through his Holy Spirit (cf. Ps 139:7–10 ↑).

What does God being spirit mean for us in relating to him?

How should the fact of God being everywhere – always present with us – stimulate and/or encourage us?

What steps could you take to make yourself more consistently mindful of God's presence with you?

Pray for persecuted Christians

b) God's Glory

Scripture often speaks of God's glory in reference to his wondrous being. In doing so, it has in view God's essence and/or his attributes. Regarding his essence, God's glory pertains to his essential being itself, such that his presence is on occasions perceived as his glory and spoken of in terms of it. Regarding his attributes, God's glory emanates in part from his attributes – such as his power – which in a sense reflect the glory of God's essence and presence.

Glory is a prominent and key attribute of God

Ps 138:5 They [kings] will sing about the ways of the LORD, for *great is the glory of the LORD!* ISV

ROM 3:23 *All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.* CEV

In their sinful state, people are not compatible with God's wondrous glory. The fact that it is God's glory that people are measured by or compared to, underlines that glory is a key attribute of God.

God's glory is an integral aspect of God's presence . . .

Ps 26:8 [DAVID, TO GOD:] I love *the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells.* GNT

Here David speaks of God's temple as being a prime location of God's presence and thus his glory. As such, David associates God's glory with his presence.

. . . Moreover, God's glory manifests his presence

LEV 9:23–24 Moses and Aaron then entered into the Meeting Tent. When they came out, they blessed the people, and *the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.* ²⁴*Then fire went out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat parts on the altar, and all the people saw it, so they shouted loudly and fell down with their faces to the ground.* NET

ACTS 7:55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently toward heaven and *saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.* NET

Leviticus 9:23–24 (above) correlates “the glory of the LORD” (v. 23) with “the presence of the LORD” (v. 24). Acts 7:55 (immediately above) correlates “the glory of God” with “God” himself – and so likewise with God’s presence.

In association with his glory, God is surrounded by brilliant light . . .

EZEK 1:26–28A [EZEKIEL, DESCRIBING A VISION OF GOD:] I then saw what looked like a throne made of sapphire, and sitting on the throne was a figure in the shape of a human. ²⁷From the waist up, it was glowing like metal in a hot furnace, and from the waist down it looked like the flames of a fire. *The figure was surrounded by a bright light, ²⁸as colorful as a rainbow that appears after a storm. I realized I was seeing the brightness of the Lord’s glory!* CEV

Here Ezekiel sees a vision involving what appears to be a manifestation of God’s glory.

. . . and God has great majesty

Ps 145:5A [DAVID, TO GOD:] I will meditate on *the glorious splendor of Your majesty* ... NKJV

God’s glory is reflected in his powerful deeds

JOHN 11:40–44 Jesus responded [to Martha], “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, *you would see the glory of God?*” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. *Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you that you have listened to me.* ⁴²I knew that you always listen to me, but I said this for the sake of the crowd standing around here, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³*When he had said this, he shouted in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”* ⁴⁴*The one who had died came out, his feet and hands tied up with strips of cloth, and a cloth wrapped around his face. Jesus said to them, “Unwrap him and let him go.”*

NET

God’s glory was seen (v. 40) or reflected in the raising of Lazarus from the dead, with Jesus effectively calling on God and his power (v. 41) in raising Lazarus.

God's glory is evidenced throughout the earth and the heavens . . .

Ps 8:1 *O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.* ESV

Ps 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky displays his handiwork.* NET

The above verses speak of how God's glory is evidenced throughout the earth and the heavens. For God so wonderfully created them, reflecting his glory.

. . . God's glory will be explicitly revealed throughout the earth, to all nations

HAB 2:14 *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.* ESV

The revelation of God's glory in the destruction of Babylon (cf. vv. 12–13) may initially be in view, but the verse probably also has a final fulfillment at the end of the age.

What is the relationship between God's glory and his presence?

How is God's glory evidenced in the world today?

How should being mindful of God's glory affect the way we view and relate to God?

Pray for persecuted Christians

c) God's Personhood

God is not a "thing" but a personal being that one can interrelate with. God thinks, has a will, has feelings and has character. Furthermore, God is active, communicates and interacts with people.

God has a mind – knowing and comprehending things . . .

1SAM 2:3B For *the LORD is a God who knows; he evaluates what people do.* NET

1CHR 28:9A [DAVID:] And you, Solomon my son, obey the God of your father and serve him with a submissive attitude and a willing spirit, for *the LORD examines all minds and understands every motive of one's thoughts.* NET

. . . and God has a will

EPH 1:11 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] In the Messiah we were also chosen when we were predestined according to *the purpose of the one* [God] *who does everything according to the intention of his will, ...* ISV

God has feelings and character . . .

2CHR 36:15 But *the LORD God felt sorry for his people*, and instead of destroying the temple, he sent prophets who warned the people over and over about their sins. CEV

JAMES 5:11B You have heard of Job's endurance and you have seen the Lord's purpose, that *the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.* NET

. . . and God feels emotional pain

ISA 63:9A *Through all that they suffered, he suffered too.* NET

God suffered in response to the suffering of his people.

God is active

JOHN 5:17 But Jesus said to them, "*My Father never stops working, and so I keep working, too.*" NCV™

God communicates . . .

PHIL 3:15 [PAUL, TO THE PHILIPPIAN BELIEVERS:] All of us who are mature should think in this same way. And if any of you think differently, *God will make it clear to you.* CEV

HEB 1:1–2 After *God spoke long ago in various portions and in various ways to our ancestors through the prophets,* ²*in these last days he has spoken to us in a son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he created the world.* NET

. . . and people can communicate with God

DAN 6:10B–11 Three times each day *Daniel would kneel down to pray and thank God, just as he always had done.* ¹¹*Then those men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.* NCV™

God interacts with people, responding to their requests and needs

JAMES 4:8, 10 *Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and make your hearts pure, you double-minded. ...* ¹⁰*Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.* NET

Ps 91:15 [GOD, SPEAKING OF A PERSON DEVOTED TO HIM:] *When he calls out to me, I will answer him. I will be with him when he is in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him honor.* NET

How does God communicate and interact with us?

How might the concept of God having feelings and even feeling emotional pain affect the way we view and/or relate to him?

Do you see God as a personal being that you can relate to? Explain.

Pray for persecuted Christians

d) God's Eternity

God is alive

2SAM 22:47 *The LORD is alive! My protector is praiseworthy! The God who delivers me is exalted as king!* NET

God has always been alive, the first of all things . . .

Ps 93:2 *Your throne, O LORD, has been firm from the beginning, and you existed before time began.* GNT

ISA 44:6 This is what the LORD, Israel's king, says, their protector, the LORD who commands armies: *"I am the first and I am the last, there is no God but me.* NET

. . . God existed even before the world began

Ps 90:2 [A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] *Even before the mountains came into existence, or you brought the world into being, you were the eternal God.* NET

God will live forever . . .

DAN 4:34B [KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR:] *I extolled the Most High, and I praised and glorified the one who lives forever. For his authority is an everlasting authority, and his kingdom extends from one generation to the next.* NET

1TIM 1:17 [PAUL, SPEAKING OF GOD:] *Now to the eternal king, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen.* NET

. . . In fact, God transcends time

2PET 3:8 [PETER, TO BELIEVERS:] *Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years are like a single day.* NET

God dwells outside of the limitations of time, not bound by its finite perspective. From his eternal perspective, diverse periods such as a day and a thousand years are both small, even insignificant. To God the distinction between them is merely relative.

God is self-existing

JOHN 5:26 For as *the Father has life in himself*, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ESV

God does not change

JAMES 1:17 All generous giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from *the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or the slightest hint of change*. NET

Note that “the Father of lights” refers to God as the creator of the lights in the sky, i.e. the sun, moon, and stars (cf. CEV, GNT, NCV, NLT).

What evidence or reasons could you give to a non-believer that God is indeed alive, that he does exist?

Why would God’s eternity have evoked praise from Paul (cf. 1Tim 1:17)?

How does God’s eternal perspective on time result in him viewing things differently to us?

II. God's Pre-Eminence

See also:

- [God's] *Holiness*, Ch. 2

A failure of many of us in the church today is that we have an inadequate view of God, failing to fully appreciate his pre-eminence. All Christians need to understand and be mindful of God's surpassing greatness and incomparable capabilities – notably his power, knowledge and wisdom.

a) God's Greatness

God is great and awesome

DEUT 10:17 [MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] For *the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who is unbiased and takes no bribe ...* NET

God is greater than all others . . .

JOHN 10:29 [JESUS:] *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them from my Father's hand.* NET

Ps 150:2 [A PSALMIST, SPEAKING OF GOD:] *Praise him for his mighty acts! Praise him for his surpassing greatness!* NET

. . . and God is exalted above all others

Ps 113:4 *The LORD is exalted over all the nations; his splendor reaches beyond the sky.* NET

There is no one like God . . .

JER 10:6–7 [JEREMIAH:] I said, “*There is no one like you, LORD. You are great. And you are renowned for your power.* ⁷Everyone should revere you, O King of all nations, because you deserve to be revered. *For there is no one like you among any of the wise people of the nations nor among any of their kings.* NET

. . . God does things which show that there is no one like him

ISA 40:22–26 *God is the one who rules the whole earth, and we that live here are merely insects. He spread out the heavens like a curtain or an open tent.* ²³*God brings down rulers and turns them into nothing.* ²⁴*They are like flowers freshly sprung up and starting to grow. But when God blows on them, they wilt and are carried off like straw in a storm.* ²⁵*The holy God asks, “Who compares with me? Is anyone my equal?”* ²⁶*Look at the evening sky! Who created the stars? Who gave them each a name? Who leads them like an army? The LORD is so powerful that none of the stars are ever missing.* CEV

God is in fact beyond our comprehension

JOB 36:26 *Yes, God is great – beyond our knowledge! The number of his years is unsearchable.* NET

JOB 11:7–9 *Can you discover the essence of God? Can you find out the perfection of the Almighty? ⁸It is higher than the heavens – what can you do? It is deeper than Sheol – what can you know? ⁹Its measure is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.* NET

The extent of God's being and attributes are far beyond our understanding.

In what ways is God greater than everyone and everything else? (Do not limit your answer to just what is mentioned in the verses.)

What is one thing about God that you find particularly awe-inspiring and/or hard to comprehend?

How should we respond to the greatness and awesomeness of God?

b) God's Power (I): Ultimate Power

God is mighty in power . . .

Ps 106:8 Yet he [God] saved them for his name's sake, *that he might make known his mighty power.* ESV

EPH 3:20 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. *By this power he can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.* GW

. . . He is Almighty

REV 15:3B “Great and amazing are your deeds, *O Lord God the Almighty!* Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ESV

The words translated as “Almighty” are understood by many to convey God's all-surpassing, infinite power (or omnipotence) and his sovereignty.

God can do all things – nothing is too hard

JOB 42:2 [JOB, TO GOD:] I know that *you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.* ESV

LUKE 1:36–37 [THE ANGEL GABRIEL, TO MARY:] Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. ³⁷*Nothing is impossible for God!* CEV

God does whatever pleases him

Ps 135:6 *He does whatever he pleases in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the ocean depths.* NET

God's power is far superior to that of anyone else . . .

2CHR 20:6 He [Jehoshaphat] prayed: “O LORD God of our ancestors, you are the God who lives in heaven and *rules over all the kingdoms of the nations. You possess strength and power; no one can stand against you.* NET

EPH 1:18B–19 [PAUL, TO BELIEVERS:] ... that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in

the saints, ¹⁹*the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe, as displayed in the exercise of his immense strength.* NET

... No being can do what God can do

Ps 86:8 [DAVID:] No god is like you, O Lord. *No one can do what you do.* GW

Power in fact belongs to God

REV 19:1 [JOHN, DESCRIBING A VISION:] After these things I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a large crowd in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and *power belong to our God.* ISV

Verses which speak of power as belonging to God, point to him as having ultimate power and being all-powerful – and even as being the ultimate source of all power.

Nominate one verse (not necessarily from the ones above) that for you epitomizes or sums up God's power. Say why you chose it.

What are the implications of God's supreme power for the world?

What is one aspect of your life that should be affected by the Bible's claim that by his power God "can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine" (Eph 3:20)? How might or how should it be affected?

Pray for persecuted Christians

c) God's Power (II): His Deeds

God's great power is shown in his deeds

Ps 77:14 [A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] *You alone work miracles, and you have let nations see your mighty power.* CEV

God performs great and awesome deeds

JOEL 2:21 Do not fear, my land! Rejoice and be glad, because *the LORD has accomplished great things!* NET

ISA 64:3 [ISAIAH, TO GOD:] *When you performed awesome deeds that took us by surprise, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.* NET

God's deeds are largely incomprehensible

JOB 37:5, 15 God thunders with his voice in marvelous ways; *he does great things beyond our understanding. ...* ¹⁵*Do you know how God commands them [clouds], how he makes lightning flash in his storm cloud?* NET

ECC 8:17 [A WISE TEACHER:] *... then I discerned all that God has done: No one really comprehends what happens on earth. Despite all human efforts to discover it, no one can ever grasp it. Even if a wise person claimed that he understood, he would not really comprehend it.* NET

The phrase "what happens on earth" alludes to the earlier phrase "all that God has done". No one really comprehends all this, that God does.

God's deeds are uncountable

JOB 5:9 [ELIPHAZ, SPEAKING OF GOD:] *He does great and unsearchable things, marvelous things without number; ...* NET

God is glorified in his powerful deeds

Ps 86:9–10 *All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.* ¹⁰*For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.* ESV

God is glorified through his powerful deeds partly in that people glorify him (v. 9), in response to his deeds.

Apparently scientists still do not understand what makes lightning flash (cf. Job 37:15). What is one thing in nature that you find particularly incomprehensible or stunning?

What is something that God has done in your own life or in the life of someone close to you, that you do or should exalt him for?

Is there anything that God does not do – or has not done yet – that you wish he would do? Why do you think he does not or has not done this?

Pray for persecuted Christians

d) God's Knowledge and Wisdom

God knows everything

1JN 3:20B God is greater than our conscience and *knows all things*.
NET

JOB 37:16 [ELIHU, TO JOB:] Do you know about the balancing of the clouds, that wondrous activity of *him who is perfect in knowledge?*
NET

God sees all people, seeing and knowing all that they do . . .

Ps 33:13–15 The LORD watches from heaven; *he sees all people*.
¹⁴From the place where he lives *he looks carefully at all the earth's inhabitants*.
¹⁵He is the one who forms every human heart, *and takes note of all their actions*. NET

Ps 139:2–3 [DAVID, TO GOD:] *You know when I sit down and when I get up; even from far away you understand my motives*.
³*You carefully observe me when I travel or when I lie down to rest; you are aware of everything I do*. NET

. . . No one can hide themselves or what they do from God

JOB 34:21–22 *God's eyes are on a person's ways. He sees all his steps*.
²²*There's no darkness or deep shadow where troublemakers can hide*.
GW

God knows all people's "hearts" and minds

Ps 44:21 God would have known, because *he knows what is in our hearts*. NCV™

EZEK 11:5B This is what the LORD says: *"This is what you are thinking, O house of Israel; I know what goes through your minds*. NET

God knows the future

ISA 46:10 [GOD, TO ISRAEL:] *From the beginning I revealed the end. From long ago I told you things that had not yet happened, saying, "My plan will stand, and I'll do everything I intended to do."* GW

God has incredible wisdom

Ps 147:5 Our Lord is great and has awesome power; *there is no limit to his wisdom.* NET

God's knowledge and wisdom is far superior to that of people – beyond our comprehension

ISA 40:13–14, 28B *Who has known the mind of the LORD or been able to give him advice? ¹⁴Whom did he ask for help? Who taught him the right way? Who taught him knowledge and showed him the way to understanding? ... ²⁸... No one can understand how great his wisdom is.* NCV™

As such, God knows much that people do not know . . .

DEUT 29:29A [MOSES, TO THE ISRAELITES:] *There are some things the LORD our God has kept secret, but there are some things he has let us know.* NCV™

1KI 8:39B [SOLOMON, TO GOD:] *Only you know what is in everyone's heart.* NCV™

. . . Furthermore, God can take away worldly wisdom

1COR 1:19B [GOD:] *“I will cause the wise men to lose their wisdom; I will make the wise men unable to understand.”* NCV™

How do you feel about God knowing everything? How does it encourage or challenge you?

List some factors that set God's wisdom apart from human wisdom.

How can we utilize God's incredible wisdom in our own lives?

Pray for persecuted Christians

e) Addendum: God's 'Name'

In biblical times, a person's name represented or embodied their whole person – including their nature, authority and even their purpose or significance. This is highlighted by references to the "name" of the person.

Thus when used in regard to such things as God's interaction with his people, references to God's "name" are understood as being synonymous with God himself. For example, God's "name" is used in expressing God's presence amongst his people and also his care of them. Furthermore, God's people are said to do such things as trust in, fear, love and praise his "name".

God's "name" is synonymous with God himself . . .

ISA 48:9A, 11A [GOD:] *For My name's sake I will defer My anger, ...
"For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it ...* NKJV

Here and in the following verse, God's "name" is shown to be synonymous with God himself by the same or similar things being done in regard to God and also to his "name".

Ps 18:49 [DAVID:] *For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing to your name.* ESV

. . . Likewise, God's "name" is synonymous with his presence

1KI 9:3 And the LORD said to him [Solomon], "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by *putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.* ESV

Note that the "house" refers to the temple that Solomon had built for God.

God's "name" is synonymous with God in him helping his people . . .

Ps 20:1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! *May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!* ESV

. . . and it is also synonymous with God in people relating to him

Ps 116:¹³ [A PSALMIST:] I will celebrate my deliverance, and *call on the name of the LORD*. NET

God's "name" is correlated with his authority and power

DAN 9:⁶ [DANIEL, TO GOD:] We have not listened to *your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name* to our kings, our rulers, our ancestors, and our whole nation. GNT

JOHN 10:^{25B} [JESUS:] *The deeds I do in my Father's name* testify about me. NET

Jesus performed his miracles in the "name" of his Father – i.e. by the "authority" (CEV, GNT) or "power" (AMP) of God.

God's "name" is holy

LUKE 1:⁴⁹ [MARY:] God All-Powerful has done great things for me, and *his name is holy*. CEV

God's "name" is great . . .

Ps 99:^{3A} [A PSALMIST, TO GOD:] Let them praise *your great and awesome name!* NET

. . . God's "name" is glorious and exalted

NEH 9:^{5B} May you be blessed, O LORD our God, from age to age. *May your glorious name be blessed; may it be lifted up above all blessing and praise*. NET

Note: God declared his actual name to be the "LORD"

Ex 34:⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with Moses, and *the LORD called out his name: the LORD*. NCV™

Ex 3:^{13–15} Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to

you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. ESV

“LORD” (v. 15) can be derived from “I AM” (v. 14). For the actual Hebrew that is rendered as “LORD” is “YHWH” (most likely pronounced “Yahweh”) and it “is derived from the verb *HAYAH, to be*” (NASB text note) to which “I AM” is also related. Note that “I AM WHO I AM” (v. 14) may well have the sense: “I will be who I will be” (cf. NIV text note). This title and its shortened form “I AM” (v. 14) appear to express God’s unchanging nature, self-existence, self-determination and omnipresence.

What is the significance of one’s “name” in the Bible?

What is meant by the expression “call on the name of the LORD” (cf. Ps 116:13)?

As best as you can, explain God’s reply to Moses’ question regarding his name (cf. Ex 3:14).

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Christian Solidarity Worldwide – www.csw.org.uk

It advocates for freedom of religion and justice for persecuted believers.

Open Doors – sb.od.org; www.opendoors.org.au

It equips believers for persecution and maintaining a witness to the Gospel.

Religious Liberty Commission – www.worldevangelicals.org/commissions/rlc

RLC defends and aids persecuted Christians. See also www.idop.org.

Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin – rlprayerbulletin.blogspot.com.au

It provides weekly bulletins. Send a blank email to join-rlpb@hub.xc.org.

The Bible League – www.bibleleague.org/persecuted; www.bibleleague.com

It supplies Bibles to persecuted Christians and also provides training.

Voice of the Martyrs – www.persecution.com; www.persecution.com.au

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