

THE GOD I AM

“Who art thou Lord?” This question, asked by Paul in Acts 2:9, is at the core of everyone’s search for God. It was of utmost significance to this student of the Law. He had been trying his best to serve the God who, up till that moment, he thought he knew. The question is no less valid today. In order to please Him, it would help to know a little about Him. Some of the attributes that make up a part of what God is in total are summarized in a few of the titles given to God. These, in a sense, simply represent God’s response to those who need Him in different ways.

For those who seek a god to put first in their lives, our God is Alpha, the beginning, the author of our faith. He, who in the beginning created heaven and earth is also the Word that existed from the beginning. The God who said, “ Before Abraham was, I am,” also existed before the foundation of the earth was laid. This is the same God who has loved us since the dawn of time and before we ever knew Him. He is Alpha, the beginning.

For those who seek a resting place for their dreams and an end to their search for life’s meaning, He is Omega, the end, the finisher of our faith. He came as the Ancient of Days and promised to be with us always, even unto the ends of the earth. In Him, the Godhead is complete. Of His government, there will be no end. It is unto Him that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess. This is the God who promised that he that endures to the end will be saved. He is also the last one to whom we will ever give an account for our life. He is the Omega.

Those who come looking for a God to fill an aching hunger and a void within, meet the Bread of Life. A man may eat thereof, and never die. God said that whosoever would believe on Him would never hunger. Like the manna from heaven, He was given freely and without justification. He has been multiplied for the feeding of the multitude. This is the God who gave His flesh as bread, given for the Life of the world. "This is my body, take and eat," said the Bread of Life.

For those who look for a God to satisfy a thirst for righteousness in a land of drought, He is the Living Water, upon whom we can believe and never thirst again. This is the one that said that out of our bellies would flow rivers of living water. Cold water to a thirsty soul. Refreshing for the weary. A well springing up deep within us. The God who had compassion on the woman at the well is also the deep that calls unto the deep.

Some come looking for a sure foundation upon which to build their lives. To these, He is known as the Rock of Ages. This is the cornerstone that was rejected by the builders, the rock that was Christ Jesus. The stone that had to die and be laid down to fulfill its purpose. It will break us if we fall upon it. It will grind to powder that upon which it falls. Yet, it is under this rock that we can hide. It is this rock upon which we can build our lives. It is in this rock that we will trust. A rock that is higher than we are.

For those who come seeking a Savior, He is known as Jesus. This name is to be above every other name. This is more than a title. It was the role of a spotless lamb and it addressed the ultimate need. The angel proclaimed that He would be called Jesus, for He would save His people from their sins. On the day that Adam first sinned and ate of that fruit, he died, as far as God was concerned. The crucifixion of Jesus was the bridge that spanned the separation from God, or the spiritual death, which is the inevitable result of sin. For those of us who desire to walk with Him in the garden once again, He became Jesus. With His blood covering our sin, it is possible for us to once again fellowship with God.

To Moses and a captive people in need of freedom, He identified himself as the "I Am". This is the ultimate answer to those of us seeking to know if God can help us. In one sense, with that name, He basically said, "Whatever you need, I am." That's good to remember. No matter the problem or the circumstance, God is willing to fill the need. Always keep this thought in mind. You know "I Am."

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Was Saul sincere in his effort to force others to worship God in the manner in which he felt God should be worshipped?
2. Why do you feel God gave us so many names and titles for Himself?
3. Are all of His various names and titles still significant or were some only for a time or a season?
4. How is it possible that Jesus, born approximately 2000 years ago, existed before the foundation of the world was laid?
5. Is it possible to truly love someone before they are born?
6. When you imagine standing before God for judgment, do you look forward to that moment, or fear it?
7. If Jesus was a manifestation of the Word, and the scriptures are small parts of His essence, would that explain why we feel so hungry in our spirits when we are away from His presence and His Word too long?
8. The Holy Ghost is referred to as "living water". It is His presence within you that causes you to be alive to God. What is meant though, by the promise that living water would flow from your bellies (the seat of emotion in Eastern cultures such as that of the Jews)?
9. What is the difference between falling upon the rock that is Christ Jesus and having the rock fall upon you?
10. What does the presence of such a rock mean to you in your daily living?
11. The other names of God seem to have been given in response to various needs. But the name of Jesus is above every other name. Why would the name of Jesus and the need it represents be so much more significant than the other names and the needs they represent?
12. Can you imagine what it would have been like to walk and talk with God in the garden? Do you believe it is still possible to be a friend to God on that level?
13. Based upon the times that God has provided for your specific needs, what other names could you personally give the "I Am?"