

## The Place God Put His Name

It has been mere hours since the culmination of twenty years of effort in a celebration to end all celebrations. King Solomon has led Israel in dedicating a glorious temple to a glorious God. He has prayed for his nation from atop a brass scaffold, and they have offered 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep in sacrifices in celebration of the week-long Feast of Tabernacles. Two times, the glory of God has filled the temple to such an extent that the priests had to stop ministering as the people basked in the presence of the Lord. That night, as Solomon returns to his palace for some much deserved rest, God wakes him up with this message.

**2 Chronicles 7:12-22** [12] And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. [13] If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; [14] If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. [15] Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. [16] For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. [17] And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; [18] Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel. [19] But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; [20] Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. [21] And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the Lord done thus unto this land, and unto this house? [22] And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.

The 21st letter of the Hebrew alphabet is called the Shin (“sheen”). Psalm 119 is divided into 22 sections, each containing eight verses, and beginning with one of the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. You can find the letter Shin over the section beginning with Psalm 119:161.

The Shin stands high among the Hebrew letters because it represents two Old Testament names of God, Shaddai (God Almighty, the All-Sufficient, Unlimited One) and Shalom (Peace).

Chassidic thought suggests that the Shin looks like man in the proper position of praying. The middle prong represents man’s head while the two outer prongs represent his hands raised heavenward. In Exodus 17:11, as long as Moses held his hands heavenward, Israel prevailed. Why? Because Moses lifted up the name of the Lord, even in silhouette!

**Exodus 17:11** And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

The Shin is also seen in the shape of the valleys which surround the ancient city of Jerusalem. The left prong with the bottom represents the Hinnom Valley. The middle prong is the Tyropean (Cheesemakers) Valley. The right prong is the Kidron Valley. Why? According to Deuteronomy 16:11, God chose Jerusalem as the place to put His name. Rabbinic sources tell us that this is why the letter shin is seen in the topography of Israel’s ancient capital city. Amazingly, then, even the geography of the city of Jerusalem declares the name above all names!

**Deuteronomy 16:11** And thou shalt rejoice before the Lord thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the Lord thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

God is very possessive about His name, isn’t He? Like us, He does not lend His name or His reputation easily.

**Exodus 20:1-7** [1] And God spake all these words, saying, [2] I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. [3] Thou shalt have no other gods before me. [4] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: [5] Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; [6] And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. [7] Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

**Exodus 34:14** For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Jerusalem had no other claim to fame but the fact that she was God's holy city. She had no river frontage like Babylon, no harbour like Alexandria, no power like Rome. She was not even on the main roads. But she was located high on a mountain called Moriah, a place God chose to put His name. Long before Solomon ever built a temple there, God's attention was on this hill.

### **ABRAHAM AND ISAAC (GENESIS 22)**

**Genesis 22:2** And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

- Wood laid upon Isaac (v. 6)
- God will provide himself a lamb (v. 8)
- Ram "crowned with thorns" (v. 13)
- This "place" called "Jehovah Jireh" – "the Lord, the Provider" (v. 14)
- "Thy seed" (singular – Jesus) shall bless all nations (v. 18)

2000 years later, on the very same day, Jesus carried His cross to the same spot and became our substitutionary Lamb!

### **DAVID'S ENCOUNTER WITH GOD (2 SAMUEL 24)**

- David sins by numbering the people (v. 10)
- He is given three choices of punishment (v. 13)
- It is a sacrifice (purchased at great cost) that appeases God (v. 24)

**2 Samuel 24:24** And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

This was just a few hundred yards away from where Abraham offered Isaac, on the top of the very same mountain.

### **SOLOMON'S TEMPLE (2 CHRONICLES 3:1)**

**2 Chronicles 3:1** Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

1000 years later, God would robe Himself in a temple of flesh and give His life on the very same mountain!

### **LAMENTATIONS**

Jewish tradition says that Jeremiah wept over Jerusalem's destruction on this hill about 600 years before Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

**Luke 13:34** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

**Lamentations 3:22-23** It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

**2 Timothy 2:13** If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

### **CALVARY (JOHN 19)**

**John 19:30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Literally, "It is finished, it stands finished, and it always will be finished!"

### **GOD'S NAME IS PLACED ON MY LIFE – I AM HIS POSSESSION!**

Christians are baptized into His name – Acts 2:38

Christians will suffer shame for His name – Acts 5:41

Christians will hazard their lives for His name – Acts 15:26

Christians will die for His name – Acts 21:13

Christians give thanks to His name – Hebrews 13:15

Christians get healed in His name – James 5:14

Christians do EVERYTHING in His name! – Colossians 3:17

### **Because of this, I am marked for life – I will never be the same!**

**Exodus 21:5-6** And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.