



What is in a Name?

Choosing a baby's name is tough! Most of us have been involved in that process at some time in our lives.

I remember when Becky and I were trying to figure out what we would name our daughter; we went to a Barnes and Nobles bookstore and found a couple of books filled with names. I started at the 'Z' names. Becky started with the 'A' names and we met somewhere in the middle.

Names are significant. They connect memories and hope, promise and power, past and future. Choosing a name is a major step in shaping a child's identity. Choosing a name is the beginning of charting a child's future.

In the Old Testament world, a name was not merely a label, but it would often times describe the person who carried it. In I Samuel 25:25 Abigail says to David, "May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. *He is just like his name – his name is Fool and folly goes with him.*" (Emphasis is mine)

Choosing a name is serious business.

God through the prophet Isaiah choose four names for his son: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6). These names were full of power and promise. They provided great hope for those those who were going through the dark days of Isaiah's time.

In these four names God gave us insight as to Christ's identity. He provides answers. He is victorious. He is personal and intimate, and he provides peace.

This Christmas, whom do you know that needs to know the hope of these four names? They are as significant now as they were when Isaiah gave them. Invite someone during this season, who needs to hear the message of a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

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"For the Mighty one has done great things for me-holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; and has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts."

Mary's song (Luke 1: 49-51)

SERMON SERIES *pastor Joel Sutton*

- 11-30-03 Names of Christ *Wonderful Counselor*
- 12-7-03 Names of Christ *Mighty God*
- 12-14-03 Names of Christ *Everlasting Father*
- 12-21-03 Names of Christ *Prince of Peace*

FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE PURPOSE STATEMENT



WE EXIST TO:

BRING PEOPLE INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS
CONNECT THEM TO GOD'S FAMILY,
MATURE THEM IN THEIR FAITH,
EQUIP THEM FOR MINISTRY SO THAT GOD'S NAME WILL BE
EXALTED.

“Jehovah Rapha” By Barb Hugo

One of God's covenant Names is Jehovah-Rapha (or Rophe)—the God that heals. God has many names, and these names express every aspect of the relationship He desires to have with each one of us.



Each name represents a different aspect of God's personality and provision. When God spoke to Moses and said "I am that I am", (Ex. 3:14), He was saying whatever you need is exactly what I am. Throughout Moses' life as God met his needs in various ways, God would add to His Name Jehovah.


Jehovah-Rapha comes from the experience Moses and the Israelites had in the wilderness when they were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The cloud at this time had led them for 3 days without water. They found a huge pool of water, but it was bitter.

Jesus was bearing our sicknesses and diseases as well as our sins. God wants to heal all of our conditions—physical, spiritual, mental and emotional. Jehovah –Rapha is health in every area of life. Everything we need in life is in the atonement. Christmas is an opportunity to get to know Him in all His fullness and in all that He has provided for us.

Moses cried to the Lord, and the Lord revealed Himself in the covenant Name of Jehovah-Rapha, saying, "I am the Lord that heals thee", or "I am the Lord your health". God revealed His way to supply their need for healing. Matthew 8:17 quotes Isaiah saying, "He Himself took our infirmities, and bore our sicknesses". 1 Peter 2:24 says..."by whose stripes, you were healed".

Everlasting Father (Stacy Olson)

I am fascinated by the sheer fact that God also identifies Himself as the Everlasting Father. (Ei Olam: God of everlasting time) Within the art community, various philosophies arise pertaining to “process” and how change is desperately needed in order for any concept to mature. In daily life I’ve been told to embrace change, and pursue it as one who is involved with the arts. In our world of advertisement, we gravitate towards things that are novelties. The fact is that we simply need to see things “fresh and new” to prevent stagnancy in our life. However, our everlasting father has all of the elements intact that we are lacking. He does not need to change in order to grow. He fully was and is the Alpha and Omega with nothing missing in between. Psalm 93:1-5 describes how God can show His mighty power by just being everlasting. How awesome is this truth that we can run to God, the source of all good things and delve into His wisdom and insight. The idea that God need not change because He is steady, constant and everlasting is such a comfort and profound promise for me. This is something I still strive to understand.

Address Updates	<i>UPCOMING EVENT</i>
<p>The Alfors REALLY like moving around....so here is another update on their address.</p> <p>David & Patsy Alfors B.P 1299 516-c/ o Oldberg Yaounde, Cameroon, Africa</p> 	<p>The Bible From 20,000 Feet</p> <p>Do you know someone who is new to the Bible, and wants a quick overview of the Christian faith? The Bible From 20,000 Feet is a great opportunity for you to invite that person who is curious. This event is gives you the chance to help them discover how the Bible ties together. The exploration begins Jan 19 and ends March 22!</p>

