

The names of God versus the name of man:

Going into 2019 whose name are you going to trust. In 2018 we have been bombarded by man's words on the news here in South Africa and around the world. Cyril Ramaphosa, Donald Trump, Julius Malema the DA, State Capture etc. etc.

From previous experiences trusting in a man can wear you down as it always ends in hurt or disillusionment.

Psalms 146:3 (King James Version)

146:3 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

The psalmist's advice in this verse is an often-repeated theme throughout Scripture. Psalm 118:8-9 reads, "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Jeremiah 17:5 also says, "Thus says the LORD: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.'"

This is the understanding of this verse: Human beings, compared to God, are sooner or later untrustworthy – they can change their focus and their plans. While people must be trusted from time to time in everyday life - in the most important matters, however, we cannot afford to lean on human aid and understanding. They may not be able to provide all of our needs. Ultimately, we are bound to be disappointed because people—even the most well-intentioned—will fail us.

There are several reasons for this. First, people are weak; even the most powerful of men are limited in what they can do. Unlike God, they do not have total control over people, nations, nature, or time. Their limitations make them inconsistent, unable to help when it is needed most.

Second, men are mortal and this shows in their decisions, which are mostly self centered. Scriptures warn us not to put our trust in other human beings - people are here today and gone tomorrow.

For instance, Psalm 62:9 tells us, "Surely men of low degree are a vapor, men of high degree are a lie; if they are weighed on the scales, they are altogether lighter than vapor.

"His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; in that very day his plans perish" (Psalm 146:4).

Because men live and die so quickly, they lack both the wisdom and the perspective to be trusted on the "big questions" of life. Man may claim to see the full picture. Only God has the eternal knowledge and experience to give us the right help and answers we need.

Human beings over the passage of time have proved to be grossly unreliable. They blow hot and cold, as it were. They have self-interests that sometimes align with our

own and at other times they do not. They are sometimes compared to tumble weed that blow which ever way the wind is going.

Presidents and other leaders—especially, do not have our best interests in mind, they may have, not only personal desires, but also political goals or their own agendas to pursue. God, however, though the greatest Leader in the universe, always does what is best for us. Test Him on this. Moreover, He is always faithful to what He has promised. He really does care about us and wants us to have the best.

(I Corinthians 1:9), God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. So, if we go to Him and ask Him for help that He has pledged to us, He will give it.

If we have to call it - mans name and character can be unreliable at times. History and our relationships prove this over and over.

Today I want to relate a few instances when God revealed his name and character in the Bible and this year 2019 if you build on God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit you will and can have a blessed year.

Psalm 83:18 King James Version (KJV)

18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth

The Israelites called God Jehovah, a name they regarded as one that could not be communicated and explained . The name means the 'self-existing One', and the 'I Am'. He was the Creator of all things; an awesome and unknowable supreme being.

But God desired to be known in a personal way. He did not want to be unapproachable and independent. He wanted to have a two way relationship with man. So, He added to the name Jehovah five revealing titles – word-portraits/pictures of Himself to help us better understand and relate to Him. Israel discovered these word-portraits during times of crisis and distress, and I hope they will bless and encourage you during your times of need through 2019 knowing that it may get difficult but God will see you through another year. All you have to do is call on Him.

Let's look at each.

Genesis 22:14

King James Bible

And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah Jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Jehovah-Jireh (Ask Meaning): The Lord will see; the Lord will provide. (Remember the story of Abraham and Isaac) Abraham was about to sacrifice his son when God provided a lamb for the offering in Isaac's place. In response, Abraham called Him Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord who sees and provides. And it doesn't just apply to Abraham. The New Testament says the Lord sees your needs and provides answers. Jesus said,

Matthew 6:32 King James Version (KJV)

32 For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Like a caring, alert, observant parent who anticipates his child's every need, God provides well-timed solutions. 2019 will have its struggles and yes it will be difficult but when this happens – pray his name Jehovah Jireh - The Lord will see; the Lord will provide.

Will you allow Jehovah Jireh to be your provision, do not have another tiring and stressful year, let him see your situation and provide for you.

Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord my banner :

Exodus 17

8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

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

12 But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

15 And Moses built an altar and called the name of it Jehovah Nissi: The Lord my banner.

When Israel was threatened by the mighty forces of Amalek at Rephidim, God gave them a supernatural victory. Realising that God was fighting the battle for them, Moses built an altar to Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord my banner.

A banner is something that identifies and unifies a particular group of people. For example, a military flag or standard is sometimes called a banner. The Israelites' saying, "The Lord is my Banner," was a way of identifying themselves as the unified followers of the Lord God. A banner also functions as a gathering point for troops in a battle. The altar Moses built in Exodus 17 marked the place where God intervened on behalf of His people and promised to utterly defeat His enemies. He told them their enemies will be removed from history.

Psalm 20:5 to 8 says, “May we shout for joy over your victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God.” , “Now this I know: The Lord gives victory to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.”

Children of God continue to say in 2019, “The Lord is my Banner,” because it is in His power and in His name that our enemies are destroyed and we have the victory. The Lord is our Banner - in that He is the One under whom we unite. He is our Saviour. We are rescued by Him and identified in Him. He is our Commander in Chief.

Exodus 14:14 King James Version (KJV)

14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

The only sort of spiritual conflict that’s ever successfully won, is the one God fights for you. He doesn’t expect you to win the battle, only to surrender to Him and let Him win it for you!

Just because God fights your battles doesn’t mean you’re not involved. It’s not easy to hand control over to the Lord and let Him fight on your behalf. You may feel like you’re ducking out, or being irresponsible. You’re programmed to think, ‘Don’t just sit there – do something!’

2 Chronicles 20:17 King James Version (KJV)

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you.

The hardest part about the order to ‘stand still and see the salvation of the Lord’ is that most of us mistake standing still for doing nothing. Fear says, ‘Do something – anything!’ Faith says, ‘Stand in faith. Let God do it!’ That’s about as far from doing nothing as you can get! It’s faith at its highest. God’s ways are not our ways – we may not understand it at times, but He requires us to be obedient and be good followers and then only can we see the victory and the hand of God moving.

In 2019 – human abilities are useless against spiritual forces. Are you going to assemble under the Banner of the Lord – Are you going to let him fight your battles. In 2018 you may have just lived by human effort, now in 2019 you can live by trusting in and relying on Jehovah-Nissi – The Lord My Banner – assemble under his protection.

One thought – Moses was not alone on the hill – he had the support from Aaron and Hur – we are not called to fight alone – an army is made up of many soldiers. You

cannot be an army alone. People in our body are other soldiers, in 2019 lean on them when you need strength and your arms are failing.

Also, I do not believe for a moment that Moses stood raising his staff only – I believe he raised his hands to the Lord and called on him to give them the victory – reminding the Lord of his promises – In 2019 do not forget to raise up prayers to the Lord reminding him of the promises in his word and implore him to fight whatever battles may come your way.

Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord our peace

Judges 6:22 -24 King James Version (KJV)

22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God! for because I have seen an angel of the Lord face to face.

23 And the Lord said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the Lord, and called it Jehovah Shalom:

The name Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord our peace, was discovered by Gideon when God told him to lead Israel against the Midianites – a position he felt was far beyond his capacity. 'How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest...and I am the least in my family' (v. 15 NIV 2011 Edition).

Here's how the Lord responded: 'I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites...Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die.' A frightened Gideon believed God and before the battle was even fought or the victory won, by faith he saw the peace of God and allowed it to lead and guide him – Jehovah Shalom. So, he built an altar to Jehovah-Shalom, 'the Lord is peace / The Lord our peace.

God used Gideon to tear down the altars and idols of Baal and defeat the Midianites. A man who thought he was weak and insignificant – God has the amazing ability of taking people like you and me who the world thinks as useless and empowers us for his purpose and kingdom.

We often assume we'll only have peace when our situation changes. Then like Gideon we learn that inward peace doesn't depend on altering our outward circumstances; it depends on believing - God is with you and experiencing His inner peace. Jesus promises: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace [inner, faith-based] I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives [outward, circumstantial]. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid' (John 14:27 NIV 2011 Edition).

However inadequate you may feel to face the challenges of 2019 or the dreams and visions God has laid on your heart, remember Christ's words: 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace...take heart! I have overcome the world' (John 16:33 NIV 2011 Edition). Notice: your job is to 'take heart', and trust Jehovah-Shalom to handle the rest!

Will you operate from a position of peace and rest in 2019 and accomplish God's will for your life, your family, your community and your church.

Jehovah-Tsidkenu: The Lord our righteousness

Jeremiah 23 King James Version (KJV)

23 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord.

2 Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord.

3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.

5 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness.

This passage of scripture also warns against Pastors/Leaders who may lead the flock astray and cautions us to look to Jesus as our righteousness.

The name Jehovah-Tsidkenu: The Lord our righteousness, was given by God through Jeremiah, announcing the coming of Jesus the redeemer: 'I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line...And this will be his name: "The Lord Is Our Righteousness"' (vv. 5-6 NLT).

Before Jesus came, our righteousness lay in our own efforts. The old covenant - 'We will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands...God has given us' (Deuteronomy 6:25 NLT). We absolutely failed that righteousness test!

But 'The Lord our righteousness' became our solution. 'For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him' (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV).

Notice: it's only 'in Jesus' that we 'become the righteousness of God'! You're not to try to do right so you can feel righteous before God, or to generate a supply of good works to draw from when needed. You're to draw continually from the 'righteousness' deposited in your account by Jesus Christ.

It's useless to look within yourself for humility, patience, kindness, love, etc. They're not there! You must take them by faith from the supply stored up for you in Jesus.

Guilty hearts can draw forgiveness, anxious spirits can draw peace, and weary souls can draw strength from Jehovah-Tsidkenu. You received salvation by faith alone. And in the same way you must draw righteousness, and everything else you need, by faith in what God has accomplished and stored up for your use in Jesus, The Lord our righteousness!

Will you look to Jesus ,The Lord our righteousness in 2019,he has been sent by the Father to ensure you remove your eyes from all the confusion and place your trust on him alone.

Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord is there

Ezekiel 48:35 King James Version (KJV)

35 It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there.

In Ezekiel chapter 48 – his last vision – he sees the blue print for the perfect city and perfect temple dwelling side by side in unison.

During Israel's twenty-fifth year of captivity, Ezekiel the prophet received from God His name Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord is there. God described Israel's future home, Jerusalem, saying, 'And the name of the city...shall be, The Lord is there [Jehovah-Shammah].'

Terrible events happened in Jerusalem during Ezekiel's life. Unlike Jeremiah, Ezekiel was not present in Jerusalem when these things happened. Instead, he was in exile in Babylonia. But Ezekiel still saw these events. He saw them in visions, by the power of God's Holy Spirit. On some occasions, it seemed as if the Holy Spirit lifted him up in order to take him back to Jerusalem. Each time, Ezekiel recorded carefully the things that he saw.

So, Ezekiel saw the terrible things that happened to God's holy temple. He saw how people were worshipping false gods there. He saw how the inhabitants of Judah had become well-known for their wicked behaviour and murders. He saw that God would not permit this evil situation to continue. And Ezekiel saw when, at last, God's glory left his temple. Then Ezekiel knew that Jerusalem had lost God's special protection. Enemies would destroy the city and the temple. The inhabitants would suffer terribly.

This last vision in the Book of Ezekiel happened 25 years after Ezekiel went into exile. This was 14 years after the Babylonian army had destroyed Jerusalem. So, nobody was then living in Jerusalem. The walls, the houses and even the great temple were just piles of stones. The nations called Israel and Judah seemed to be in a hopeless situation. But God gave this vision to Ezekiel. And this vision was wonderful.

Ezekiel saw a temple. And this temple was similar to the one that the Babylonian army destroyed. But, unlike in the old temple, people were obeying God's law. The whole nation was loyal to God. The rulers were fair. The priests were holy. God's glory was again present in his temple. And the people even had a new name for their capital city: 'The Lord is there.' - Jehovah-Shammah.

Some commentaries do not think that this temple will actually exist. They think that God was using this vision to teach the exiles. He wanted to show them what the word 'holy' really means. He wanted to teach them how priests should behave. He wanted them to know what proper worship is. And he wanted to explain that people

should obey his law willingly. Then he would live among them. They would be his people and he would be their God.

Most believe for the Churches today - If God has not established a building to be his house, then the builders work in vain (Psalm 127:1). Unless God sends his glory to fill a place, the greatest temple or church is just an empty building. We can only worship God in a proper manner when he sends his Holy Spirit. The important principle is God sending his glory and often we are tripped up by man filling the house with his glory.

The meaning of the vision for us:

God wanted to live with his people again. But before this could happen, they had to change their attitudes. They must not simply continue the sins that they had carried on in the past. Instead, they must turn from their sins and they must be loyal to God. He wants to reside in a clean temple. His glory would be there. And he would use the temple to show his kindness to his people. This would be like a river that flows through a desert. Such a river makes it possible for things to live in places that used to be dead. And so, God's Spirit would make it possible for his people to have a new relationship with him. The blueprint shows that the City and the Temple dwell side by side – meaning a synergy between government and worshipping God. What a perfect picture when God is in control.

When Jesus came, people saw God's glory in him (John 1:14). Jesus said that his body was the new temple (John 2:21). God wanted people to worship him in spirit and truth (John 4:21-24).

Jesus, the Lord of the new covenant. His name, 'Immanuel', like Jehovah-Shammah, means, 'the Lord is with us' (see Isaiah 7:14). And it means at all times, in all places, under all circumstances, and for all of us, God is ever available and ever present!

David proclaimed: 'I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me and your strength will support me' (Psalm 139:7-10 NLT).

In Israel's deepest despair God's response was always, 'I am with you.' Those words guaranteed that their needs would always be met! And today God is saying to you, 'I'm with you', and 'neither death, life, angels, spirit-powers, present or future fears, height, depth, nor anything else in all creation will ever separate us' (see Romans 8:38-39).

That promise extends to all God's redeemed children. Why you ask, why should I look to the character of his name or his promises. It unlocks power and victory for us, it allows us to take up our rightful place as Sons and Daughters of God. It helps us restore the God appointed authority in our lives. It will change the way we go into 2019.

The Bible says the arms of flesh will fail you, you can place your trust in man or in the assurances in this world but are they for eternity. They may last for a while. Mans peace has a track record of lasting a short time before the parties involved start to renegotiate the contract .

Gods ways and promises are unchanging.

The future always looks uncertain when we do not have the peace of God in our lives. Land expropriation, elections, corruption, ever increasing poor service delivery, dysfunctional governments departments.

What are we going to do this year – build on the foundation of the Father , Son and Holy Spirit , be covered by the blood of the lamb , remind God about his promises to us and look up to Jesus daily - another amazing fact from Noah and the Ark – the ark had 3 floors – representing the Father , the Son and the Holy Spirit – the ark was covered with pitch on the inside and the outside – representing the blood of the lamb covering them on the inside keeping them safe – and reminding the Father of the blood of the lamb on the outside not to forget them or his promise to them – the Ark had one window that was on top – to look out you had to turn your head back and look up – signifying that we need to look up to Jesus always.

Whatever we are doing we are preparing for eternity, we are only here on earth for a short time practicing what we are to be doing forever – either worshipping and praising God forever or entering eternal damnation forever .

It is time that we forget past indiscretions and start praying for the Fathers will to be done then like Abraham, Moses and Gideon we will be able to erect altars to the glory and testimony of our God or like Jeremiah and Ezekiel God will reveal his plans to us in dreams and visions.

Remember the song – The name of the Lord is a strong tower the righteous run into it and they are safe from Psalms – In 2019 the Lord will provide an escape for us no matter whatever situation we face – an important fact to note – the righteous can run into the protection of the Lord – we need to concentrate on ensuring that we are righteous in 2019 – seeking Gods will to enjoy his protection and not being side tracked by mans will and the media.

Jehovah-Jireh - The Lord will see; the Lord will provide - provision

Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord my banner – uniting under our Commander in Chief

Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord our peace – not being anxious about anything

Jehovah-Tsidkenu: The Lord our righteousness – Looking to Jesus

Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord is there – the Lord wants to be a part of us