

January 3, 2024

He Calls You By Name

Shalom,

Our study for this week comes from *Shemot*, the Hebrew word for “**Names**.” The English Bible uses the word, **Exodus, and the portion we are considering is found in chapters 1:1 to 6:1**: the record of the **names** of the sons of Israel who came into Egypt during the famine, and Joseph who had been sent to Egypt thirteen years earlier when his brothers sold him into slavery. As Joseph indicated to the brothers when they were reunited, that they had thought evil toward him, but God used the event to provide deliverance to Israel and his family during the great famine.

*Now these are the names (**sh'mot**) of Bnei-Yisrael who came into Egypt with Jacob, each man with his family:... (Exodus 1:1 TLV)*

Names are used to call God’s appointed destiny on the lives of people. **The power of words** is central in scriptural understanding, and **names are words that carry power**. You will recall that the name, Isaac, which means laughter, was given to the child of promise, for his birth brought great joy to his parents, and prophetic promise to all people. His offspring brought forth the promised Messiah, Yeshua, Who turned our mourning into laughter.

When God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, He used his new name to empower him to powerfully speak his destiny every time his name was called. In fact, every time someone called his name, the destiny God had planned for him was spoken. **Hebrew letters and words form pictures in the imagination of those who study and have revelation of them**. People who speak English hear, “**Abraham,**” but to a Hebrew speaker, the title, “**Father of many nations**” was being called.

Because our natural minds are so limited, we may read name after name in scripture and forget that each name describes a person, the child of someone, part of a family who, in turn, became father or mother of a family; each person known by, and valuable and precious to, God.

I want you to notice something God spoke in this portion.

*God heard their groaning, and **God remembered His covenant with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya'akov**. God saw the people of Isra'el, and God acknowledged them.*
(Exodus 2:24-25 CJB)

That day **ADONAI made a covenant with Avram:** “I have given this land to your descendants—from the Vadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River—” (Genesis 15:18 CJB)

ADONAI said, “Should I hide from Avraham what I am about to do, inasmuch as Avraham is sure to become a great and strong nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by him? For **I have made Myself known to him, so that he will give orders to his children and to his household after him to keep the way of ADONAI and to do what is right and just, so that ADONAI may bring about for Avraham what He has promised him.**” (Genesis 18:17-19 CJB)

God confirmed His covenant to Isaac and to Jacob in Genesis 26 and Genesis 28.

*But now, thus says Adonai— the One Who created you, O Jacob, the One Who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you, **I have called you by name, you are Mine.**”* (Isaiah 43:1 TLV)

God personally considers His covenants and how He relates to everyone involved in them, including the children and children’s children throughout the generations. He not only called Abraham by name; He also calls all Abraham’s seed by name, He calls you by name, and He calls your children by name, because of His covenant. Nearly 400 years had passed from the time God covenanted with Abram in Genesis 15, and yet, He heard the groanings of his offspring in Egypt. **His covenant remains in force forever.**

Some of us have loved ones, children, and grandchildren who have taken wrong turns in their lives and appear oblivious to the love of God that is calling them back. Here is great hope from the scripture and much reason for laughter. His covenant love is still reaching out to each one. **Maintain your confession of faith, for He is faithful Who has called us. He will bring it to pass! In the Messiah, we are all the seed of Abraham. He knows you and yours intimately. He knows your name.**

Known by Him,
Terry

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