

THE
NAMES
OF
GOD

INDIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Names in the ancient world functioned differently than they do today. In addition to distinguishing one person from other names were thought to reveal the essential nature and character of a person. To know God's name was to enjoy a privileged access to him. Once his people knew his name, they could cry out to him, claiming his help and protection.

For God to associate his name with a particular people also risked the possibility that they would dishonor him by behaving in ways that are contrary to his nature.

Our prayer is that you can use this quiet time booklet to experience God and Jesus in fresh ways by encountering his names and titles in the scriptures and by learning about the biblical and cultural context in which these were revealed.

This booklet has been edited from the book
THE NAMES OF GOD- ANNE SPANGLER
for in house circulation only.

DAY 1 - *ELOHIM* (e-lo-HEEM) - GOD, MIGHTY CREATOR

Read: *Genesis 1*

Elohim (e-lo-HEEM) is the Hebrew word for God that appears in the very first sentence of the Bible in **Gen 1:1**.

Elohim is the one who began it all, created everything.

Elohim is the God of gods, the highest of all

Jesus used a form of this name in his agonized prayer on the cross- "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani*"---which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' –***Matt 27:46***.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. God gave you dominion and stewardship over earth. How have you honored the creator?
2. In what ways do you benefit and enjoy from creation each day?
3. Since God made us in his image, he has instilled in us creative power. What are your creative gifts?
4. God made everything including you good. How does this fact shape your attitude towards yourself and towards the World?
5. How will your life change if you live in constant awareness that he created you to bear His image in this world?

DAY 2 *EL ROI* (EL raw-EE)-THE GOD WHO SEES ME

Read: Genesis 16:1-16

Hagar the Egyptian slave of Sarah who was pregnant by Abraham was cast out by her mistress when Hagar despised her.

Hagar and her son Ishmael would have fared better had Hagar not forgotten her place the moment she learned about her pregnancy. Still Sarah's treatment of her seemed harsh.

In the midst of her difficulties Hagar learned that *El Roi* (EL raw-EE) was watching over her and he had a plan to bless her and her son.

Hagar's *El Roi* is the one who numbers the hairs on our heads and who knows our past, present and future. When you pray to *El Roi*, you are praying to the one who knows everything about you.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Why do you think the angel of the Lord began his talk with Hagar by questioning her?
2. What must Hagar have felt all alone in the desert? Describe circumstances in your own life that may have produced similar emotions.
3. What gave Hagar courage to go back to Sarah and face her?
4. Sarah bungled God's attempt to bless her with a child. Describe your bungled attempts to preempt God's plan in your life.
5. How have you experienced *El Roi's* watchful care?

DAY 3 _ *EL SHADDAY*(EL shad-DAI) - GOD ALMIGHTY

Read: **GENESIS 17:1-8, 15-18**

God revealed himself as *El Shadday* (EL shad-DAI) - God Almighty, to Abram and told him of the everlasting covenant he was establishing with him and with his descendants. *El Shadday* may be literally translated as “God, the Mountain One.” Like the mountains themselves, God is seen as strong and unchanging. *El Shadday* reveals God not only as the one who creates and maintains the universe but the one who initiates and maintains a covenant with his people.

When we pray to *El Shadday*, we invoke the name of the one for whom nothing is impossible.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Why do you think God revealed his name to Abram while speaking of his covenant with him and his descendants?
2. God changed Abram and Sarai's names? What do their new names signify?(See also **Gen 12:2-3**)
3. What was Abraham's response to revelation of God's name? How would you have responded?
4. List the Promises God made to Abraham.
5. Have you waited long for God to act in your situation? Describe your experience.
6. What does the name *El Shadday*, God Almighty mean to you? How have you experienced God's almighty power work in your life?

DAY 4 *EL OLAM* (EL o-LAM) - THE EVERLASTING GOD or THE ETERNAL GOD

Read: GENESIS 21: 22-34

Olam in Hebrew is translated as eternal, everlasting, forever, lasting, ever or ancient. It refers to the fullness of the experience of time or space.

El Olam (EL o-LAM) meaning “Eternal God” or “Everlasting God” is applied to God and his laws, promises, covenant and kingdom. *El Olam* is our God who has no beginning and no end and for whom one day is like thousand years and a thousand years like one day. His plans stand forever. His love endures forever.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What do the words of Abimelech the leader of Philistines say about the nature of God's faithfulness to Abraham?
2. Why do you think Abraham planted a tamarisk tree (a long-living tree requiring large amounts of water and producing as many as 500,000 seeds per plant) after both he and Abimelech swore an oath?
3. What images come to your mind when you think of *El Olam*-Eternal or Everlasting God?
4. What might these names imply about the nature of God's promises?

DAY 5

YAHWEH (yah-WEH) - LORD

Read- EXODUS 3:1-20

God introduces himself in Exodus 3:14 as YAHWEH- "I AM WHO I AM".

God is self-existent but he is always present with his people. *Yahweh* is not aloof but he is intervening in history for his people. *Yahweh* is the name that is most closely linked to God's redeeming acts in the history of his chosen people. We know God because of what he has done.

Yahweh appears 6800 times in OT books (all except Esther, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs.)

As the sacred personal name of God it was spoken aloud only by priests in the Jerusalem temple.

After the destruction of the temple in AD 70 the name was not pronounced at all. *Adonay* (Lord) was substituted for *Yahweh* whenever it appeared in the biblical text. English editions of Bible translate *Adonay* as Lord and *Yahweh* as LORD.

When you pray to *Yahweh* remember that he is the same God who draws near to save you from the tyranny of sin just as he saved his people from tyrannical slavery of Egypt.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Why do you think Moses asked God to reveal his name?
2. Make a list of everything God has revealed about himself in this passage.
3. What does this passage reveal about what is in the heart of God for his people?
4. Why do you think Moses was afraid to look at God?
5. Like Moses describe a time when you were similarly reluctant to do something God was calling you to do.

DAY 6 **ADONAY(a-do-NAI)-Lord, Master**

Read- EXODUS 4:1-5, 10-15

Adonay implies a relationship: God is Lord, and we are his servants.

Adon is a Hebrew word that means “lord” in the sense of an owner, master, or superior always used for people. *Adonai* is plural form of *Adon* and always refers to God as Master or Lord.

When *Adonay* and *Yahweh* appears together the NIV translates it as “Sovereign Lord” or “LORD God”.

In NT the word for Lord is *Kyrios*.

As we pray to *Adonay*, tell him you want to surrender every aspect of your life to him. Pray that you become the kind of servant who is quick to do God's will. Jesus was both Lord and Servant. In his latter role he exemplifies what our relationship to *Adonay* is to be.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. How is the lordship of God displayed in Exodus 4?
2. What might have Moses thought would happen to him if he obeyed the Lord? What are your fears about obeying the Lord?
3. Why was the Lord angry with Moses?
4. Notice that Moses expressed reluctance to doing God's will at the same time he was addressing him as “Lord”. Have you ever done the same? What held you back?
5. Although God was angry with Moses, how did he respond to Moses' request to send someone else?
6. Has God ever sent someone to come alongside you when you were insecure and hesitant about obeying God? Describe how this person helped you?

**DAY 7 YAHWEH YIREH-(yah-WEH yir-EH)
THE LORD WILL PROVIDE**

Read: GENESIS 22:1-14

The Hebrew verb *ra'ah* (from where *yireh* is derived) means “to see”. In this case, it is translated as “provide”. Since God sees the future as well as the past and the present, he is able to anticipate and provide for what is needed.

The English word “provision” is made up of two Latin words that mean “to see beforehand”.

When you pray to *Yahweh Yireh*, you are praying to the God who sees the situation beforehand and is able to provide for your needs.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. If you were Abraham making the three day trip to Moriah to sacrifice your only child, what will be filling your heart?
2. Why do you think Abraham told his servants that he and his son would worship and then come back to them (Vs5)?
3. Why do you think God tests people?
4. What is the most difficult sacrifice God has asked you to make? How did you respond?
5. In what all ways God has provided for you? Think about last week, last month, last year, your whole life.

DAY 8 YAHWEH ROPHE (yah-WEH row-FEH) THE LORD WHO HEALS

Read: EXODUS 15:20-27

The Hebrew word “*rophe*” means “heal”, “cure”, “restore”, or “make whole”. Shortly after his people left Egypt for Canaan God revealed himself to them as *Yahweh Rophe*. God is the source of all healing.

Though it often refers to physical healing, it also refers to healing the entire person. *Yahweh Rophe* heals the body, mind and soul.

Yahweh Rophe also heals the water, land and nations. *Yahweh Rophe* heals sin and apostasy.

As you pray to *Yahweh Rophe*, ask him to search your heart. Take time to let him show what it contains. If he uncovers any sin, ask for his forgiveness and then pray for healing. The NT reveals Jesus as the Great Physician, the healer of body and soul, whose miracles point to the kingdom of God.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. How do situations or circumstances influence people's attitude towards God? Describe a time in your life when your circumstance caused your faith to waver?
2. How does Moses' example here teach us about how we should respond to difficult circumstances?
3. The waters of Marah were bitter and God made them sweet. What areas of bitterness in your life might need to be healed or have been healed?
4. On what condition does God base his promise to keep the Israelites from disease?
5. Like the Israelites have you felt the testing of God in your life? Describe how did you respond?
6. How have you experienced God answering your prayers for healing?

DAY 9 YAHWEH NISSI- (yah-WEH Nis-SEE) THE LORD MY BANNER

Read: EXODUS 17:8-16

Ancient armies carried standards or banners that served as marks of identification and as symbols that embodied the ideals of a people. A banner, like a flag, was something that could be seen from afar, serving as a rallying point for troops before a battle.

Because banners embodied the ideals and aspirations of whoever carried them, they aroused devotion to a nation, a cause, or a leader.

When Moses held up the staff of God in the battle with the Amalekites, he was holding it like a banner, appealing to God's power. By building an altar and naming it *Yahweh Nissi* (yah-WEH nis-SEE), "The LORD is my Banner", he created a memorial of God's protection and power during the Israelites' first battle after leaving Egypt.

When you are praying to *Yahweh Nissi*, you are praying to a God who is powerful enough to overcome any foe.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What are the spiritual enemies you are in battle with today?
2. How do we engage in Spiritual battles today? What difference would it make if you could say, like Moses, "The LORD is my Banner"?
3. Aaron and Hur helped Moses when he grew weary of holding up his hands. Has God ever sent others to help you in the midst of battle? Who and how?
4. What battles might you be trying to fight in your own strength?
5. How is Jesus God's banner of victory for us? How might lifting high the cross of Christ help you overcome?

**DAY 10 ESH OKLAH (AISH o-KLAH), EL KANNA (EL kan-NAH)
- CONSUMING FIRE, JEALOUS GOD**

**Read: EXODUS 34:10-14; DEUTERONOMY 4:23-24
DEUTERONOMY 6:13-19**

When Bible pictures God as a consuming fire *Esh Oklah*, it is in connection with his expressions of divine anger against the sins of human beings and nations.

Though his jealousy is not same as human jealousy, Bible compares it to what a husband feels when his wife has been unfaithful.

The Lord is a Jealous God *El Kanna*, who cannot endure unfaithfulness.

Jesus expressed this in the same way when he said "*I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* (John 14:6).

The Lord is a consuming Fire which will destroy whatever is opposed to his holiness. He is a Jealous God, who loves us completely and who, therefore, demands our wholehearted response.

If we Love him our own zeal will make us jealous for God's glory and honor. Pray that God gives you and your Family a deeper understanding of his holiness and a greater desire to honor and exalt his name.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What promises does God make in the Exodus passage?
2. What commands does God give in all three passages?
3. What warnings does he issue?
4. Why do you think God said his name is "Jealous"?
5. How does this name of God relate to your own life?

**DAY 11 YAHWEH SHALOM (yah-WEH sha-LOME)
THE LORD IS PEACE**

Read: JUDGES 6

The meaning of *Shalom* goes beyond peace. It means “wholeness”, “completeness”, “perfection”, “safety” or “wellness”. *Shalom* comes from living in harmony with God. The fruit of the harmony is harmony with others, prosperity, health, satisfaction, soundness, wholeness, and well being.

Shalom is a common term for greeting (similar to Salaam) or farewell in Israel. It expresses the hope that the person you are greeting may be well in every sense - fulfilled, satisfied, prosperous, healthy and in harmony with themselves and others. *Shalom* is an expression of God's faithful relationship with his people.

When you are praying to *Yahweh Shalom*, you are praying to the source of all peace. And his son is called the Prince of Peace.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What does this passage reveal about the way God deals with his people's unfaithfulness?
2. Why do you think the angel called Gideon a “mighty warrior”?
3. Why did Gideon believe he was ill equipped to be a leader and a warrior?
4. What comes to your mind when you hear the word *peace*?
5. What might be stealing your peace? What are your anxieties? Have you become too busy to seek the Lord? Have you made compromises that have eroded your faith?

DAY 12 YAHWEH TSEBAOTH (yah-WEH tse-ba-OATH) THE LORD OF HOSTS

Read: 1 SAMUEL 17:38-47

Yahweh Tsebaoth is a title of great power.

The Lord of Hosts is a title that emphasizes God's rule over every other power in the material and spiritual universe.

At times the Bible speaks of the Lord of Hosts leading a great army of -Cherubim and seraphim; sun and moon; stars and sky; rivers and mountains; hail and snow; men and women; animals, wild and tame—all these worship the Lord and are at times called to fight on his behalf.

When you pray to *Yahweh Tsebaoth*, you are praying to a God so magnificent that all creation serves his purpose.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Why do you think the story emphasizes David's inability to do battle in the king's armour?
2. Contrast David's attitude toward the battle with Goliath's.
3. What gave David such confidence and Righteous zeal?
4. What one thing could you do today that would help you face future battles with greater faith?

**DAY 13 YAHWEH TSURI (yah-WEH tsu-REE)
THE LORD IS MY ROCK**

Read: PSALM 144:1-2, 7-10

Rocks provide shade, shelter, and safety in the wilderness and were used to construct altars, temples, houses, and city walls. It is a perfect symbol of his enduring faithfulness.

To worship *Yahweh Tsur* is to echo Hannah's great prayer of praise: "There is no Rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2)

When you pray to the Lord your Rock, you are praying to the God who can always be counted on. His purposes and plans remain firm throughout history. The NT identifies Jesus as the spiritual rock that accompanied the Israelites during the long journey through the desert.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. David expressed his sense of vulnerability with vivid images
Describe a time in your life when you felt particularly vulnerable and what did you do?
2. How has God heard your cries for help?
3. Knowing that God is your rescuer and deliverer, how might this affect your temptation to defend yourself or retaliate against those who are against you?
4. How will your life be different if you believe the truth as David did that God is your Rock?

DAY 14

YAHWEH ROI (yah-WEH row-EE) THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Read: PSALM 23

To sustain their livelihood, it was vital for shepherds to keep their animals from straying, to protect them from thieves and wild animals, and to provide them with plentiful pastures.

In Israel, “shepherd” eventually became a metaphor for kings. Most of Israel's Patriarchs were Shepherds - Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David.

Though Israel's leaders were also referred to as shepherds, they were often chided for their failure to watch over and care for the flock of God.

Both then and now *Yahweh Roi* is the one true Shepherd of his people. NT talks of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

When you pray to the Lord your Shepherd, you are praying to the One who watches over you day and night, feeding you and leading you safely on the path of righteousness.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Read Psalm 23 again, and then close your eyes. Imagine that you are the sheep. What do you see? What do you feel?
2. What does it mean to “restore my soul”? Describe a time when you felt the need of such a restoration.
3. How has the Good Shepherd's rod and staff protected, comforted, guided or corrected you?
4. What does the image of table in the Psalm help you visualize and hope for?
5. How will your daily life change if you really believed that goodness and kindness would follow all the days of your life?

DAY 15 *HASHEM* (ha-SHAME) - THE NAME

Read: 1 Kings 8:22- 9:3

Shem is the Hebrew word for “name”. Solomon begged that God's name would dwell in the temple in Jerusalem- the place where his people could pray and be heard.

To call on God's name is to call on his presence. To act in his name is to act with his authority.

Though God's name is holy and powerful, it cannot be invoked as a magic formula. It becomes powerful whenever it is uttered by men and women who are exercising their faith in God.

In **Matt 6:9** Jesus taught us to pray by saying “Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be the *name*...”

Jesus promised to whatever we ask in his name. **Philippians 2:9-10** affirms that God has exalted Jesus and given him “the name that is above every name”.

When we pray to *Hashem*, we are praying to the holy God who lives in our midst, hearing and answering our prayers.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What does it mean to confess God's name?
2. How can Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem inform your prayers today?
3. What does God mean when he says he will put his “Name” in the temple?
4. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). *Hashem* resides within you. What needs would you like to bring to him?

DAY 16

MELEK (ME-lek)-KING

Read: PSALM 72:1-8, 11-15

Israelites believed that *Yahweh* was *Melek* (King) ---not just over Israel but over every nation on earth. The New Testament presents Jesus as the King of kings.

Compared to the surrounding nations *Yahweh* was King to the Israelites. Once they started having Kings they understood that the king was responsible to rule them according to God's laws. David was such a King.

But most of the kings fell short of this ideal. God's people longed for a Messiah, a descendant of David who would rule them like God would.

When you pray to *Yahweh Melek*, you are praying to the God who watches over the whole earth and who will one day come in glory to usher in an eternal kingdom of peace and righteousness.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Psalm 72 though it does not directly refer to God as the King, it does reflect the values of our heavenly King. What are these values?
2. How would the World be today if rulers and leaders reflect the values expressed in Psalm 72?
3. How did Jesus fulfill these values?
4. Take a moment to list few places where oppression and violence reigns. Pray for God's Kingdom to come and his will be done in those places specifically.
5. In what ways are you ushering in the Kingdom of God in this world?

DAY 17

EL CHAY (EL CHAY) - LIVING GOD

READ: 2 Kings 19:9-19, 35-37

Unlike idols made by human hands, *El Chay* –Living God is himself the Maker of heaven and earth. He alone is the source of our life.

Bible warns us against the worship of false gods.

Anything that takes the place of our Living God will cause jealousy in *El Chay*.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. How does Hezekiah's prayer in 2 Kings 19 reflect his understanding of the "Living God"?
2. How can his prayer be a model for our prayer focused on honoring God?
3. What are some false gods that you have to flee from today to worship *El Chay*?

DAY 18 *MAON*(ma-OHN)-DWELLING PLACE, *MACHSEH*(mach-SHE)-REFUGE ,*MAGEN*(ma-GAIN)-SHIELD ,*METSUDA*(me-tsu-DAH)- FORTRESS, *MIGDAL-OZ*(mig-dal OHZ)-STRONG TOWER

Read: PSALM 91:1-16

These descriptive names for God often appear in clusters in the psalms as well as in other parts of the Bible.

The OT reveals a God who dwells with his people. The NT reveals God not only dwelling with us but within us. Occasionally this imagery is reversed by picturing God as our dwelling place-*Maon*. God as *Machseh*-Refuge is the one to whom we can run for safety and security.

God as *Magen*-Shield exposes his protective care.

God is compared to *Metsuda*-fortress and *Migdal-Oz*-Strong Tower elsewhere signifies his protection and he being our stronghold.

When you pray to God your Refuge, Shield, Fortress, Dwelling Place, and Strong Tower, you are invoking the God who has promised to watch over you and keep you safe.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What is the characteristic of a person who experiences God as his or her Refuge?
2. How would your life be different if you were able to take shelter under the “wings of God”?
3. What do you think it means to rest in God? How have you experienced this rest?
4. What are the dangers cited in Psalm 91? What are the promises in Psalm 91?
5. What are the things you fear the most? How can you apply God's promises to your fears?

DAY 19 EL ELYON (EL el-YOHN) - GOD MOST HIGH

Read: DANIEL 4:19, 24-34

God is the highest in every realm of life. All who belong to Christ are revealed as sons and daughters of the Most High by imitating Him.

El Elyon is first used in relation to Melchizedek the king of Salem, who is also called the “*the priest of God Most High*” and who blessed Abraham in the name of “*God Most High*” (Gen 14:18-20). The passage in Daniel regarding interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream illustrates what happens when human beings who forget who is highest in heaven and on earth.

When you praise *El Elyon*- God most high you are worshipping the One whose power, mercy, and sovereignty cannot be matched.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What was the source of Nebuchadnezzar's prosperity and greatness?
2. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar's boasting led to his insanity?
3. What does this story reveal about the link between sanity and humility?
4. How have you been tempted to take credit for God's blessings- your successes, your family, your possessions?
5. What can you do to acknowledge God's greatness? Do something specific TODAY.

DAY 20 YAHWEH SHAMMAH (yah-WEH SHAM-mah)- THE LORD IS THERE

Read: EZEKIEL 37:21-28; 48:35

Yahweh Shammah is name of a city rather than name of God. But it is so closely associated with God's presence and power that it has often been equated with a name for God.

In Genesis there is an easy intimacy between God and man and woman. As soon as sin enters the intimacy is destroyed. Adam and Eve tried to hide. God finds them and casts them away. God starts reestablishing his relationship with man. He chooses Israel, delivers them from slavery and then dwells with them in pillar of cloud and fire, in the tabernacle and then in the Jerusalem temple.

But still God's people sin. Ezekiel witnesses the glory of God departing from the temple because of continued unfaithfulness. God is no longer there. The book of Ezekiel ends on a note of tremendous hope of restoration when *“the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.*

“The Lord is There” reminds us that we were created both to enjoy and to manifest God's presence.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What are the marks of God's presence?
2. What is the connection between keeping God's laws and living in his presence?
3. What are the evidences of God's presence in you, your family and your family group?
4. Spend a few minutes imagining even one day without God in it. Make a list of all blessings that will be withdrawn as a result?

DAY 21 AB (AB), ABBA (AB-ba), PATER (pa-TAIR)-FATHER

Read: LUKE 15:1-2; 11-32

Jesus invited persecution by calling God his Father. He taught his disciples to address God as Father.

Because of Jesus we can boldly call upon God as our Father.

Jesus depicted God as a tender compassionate Father, who extends grace to both the sinner and the self-righteous.

The first recorded words of Jesus in **Luke 2:49** when he spoke to his earthly parents *“Didn’t you know I had to be in my **Father’s** house?”*

The expression *“Abba, Pater”* is found three times in the NT, all in prayer.

Jesus used it in his anguished cry in Gethsemane-*“Abba Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”* -**Mark 14:36**.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Who is Jesus addressing this parable to? Who might he be addressing this parable to today?
2. Describe the grace God has extended to you as the Father showed the prodigal son.
3. With which son do you identify in this story? Why?
4. Jesus doesn’t tell us how the older son responded to his Father’s explanation. Why is the story left incomplete at the end?

DAY 22

IMMANUEL (im-ma-nu-AIL), EMMANOUEL (em-man-ou-AIL)-GOD WITH US

Read: Matt 1:18-23

Immanuel translates –“with us is God”. When our sins made it impossible for us to come to him, God took the outrageous step of coming to us, of making himself susceptible to sorrow, temptation and sin.

Matthew's gospel recalls God's prophecy in **Isaiah 7:14**. This sign was given many years early to an apostate King.

The Bible is story of God's persistent desire to dwell with his people. Jesus is the *Immanuel*-God with us. He came to rescue, redeem, and to restore our relationship with him.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What does this title of Jesus reveal about his nature?
2. How have you experienced *Immanuel*-God being in your life thus far?
3. When have you struggled to believe that God is truly with you?
4. Matthew begins and ends with the promise that God is with us (Matthew 28:20). How would your life be different if you began and ended each day with the firm belief that God is with you?

DAY 23

SAR SHALOM (SAR sha-LOME) PRINCE OF PEACE

Read: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 1:67, 76-79

The Hebrew word for peace means more than the absence of conflict or the end of trouble. *Shalom* conveys wholeness and completion.

To enjoy *Shalom* is to enjoy health, satisfaction, success, safety, well-being, and prosperity.

Paul assured the Ephesians Christians in Eph 2:14- "*He himself is our peace*".

Peace with God produces peace with others and peace within us. When Christ's kingdom is established, all strife will cease, and those who belong to him will forever enjoy the fullness of peace—health, wholeness, well-being, tranquility, satisfaction, safety, prosperity, and perfect contentment.

When you pray to *Sar Shalom*, you are praying to Christ himself. To live in peace is to live in his presence.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What does the word "peace" mean to you? How does it differ from the biblical idea of *Shalom*?
2. What was the ultimate work of peace by Jesus? How has Jesus become our peace?
3. Are you experiencing *Shalom* in your life?
4. Are there relationships in your life that cause conflict and strife? How might you bring *Shalom* into these relationships?

DAY 24

CHRISTOS (KRIS-tos)-Christ, MASHIACH (ma-SHEE-ach)-Messiah

Read: Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36-38

Messiah and Christ mean the “Anointed One”-someone who has been set apart for a special mission.

As Israel's Messiah he was the greatest of all kings. His mission was to end all our troubles with regard to sin and death.

Jesus publicly avoided the title of Messiah throughout his life. Finally shortly before his death he answered the High priest's question: “Are you the Christ, the Son of Blessed One?” with the confession: “I am”.

We pray to the *Messiah* who is calling the world back to God through his power of love to save them and us.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. What does it mean to say that Jesus was anointed, or set a part for God's service?
2. How are we anointed when we get baptized?
3. To what purpose has God anointed us?

DAY 25

LOGOS-(LO-gos)-WORD

Read : JOHN 1:1-3;10-14

John's gospel begins by calling Jesus as the *Logos*- "Word". Unlike other prophets before him who only spoke God's word, Jesus was and is God's Word.

Jesus and God are one. Because of that Jesus is uniquely able to communicate God's heart and mind. As *Logos* Jesus speaks to us of God.

Our destiny depends on how well we listen.

Will we believe, or will we turn a deaf ear to *Logos*?

We have to respond to Jesus –*Logos* with faith and humility, reproducing Christ's life so that the Word may become flesh in us.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Compare Genesis 1:1-5 with John 1:1-5. Why do you think John began his gospel this way?
2. What does it mean to "believe in his name"?
3. How hungry are you for the Word of God as spoken in the Bible? How do you express its value to you?

DAY 26

**IESOUS SOTER (yay-SOUS so-TAIR)
JESUS THE SAVIOR**

Read: Matt 1:18-25

Jesus was the name given by the angel of God to Joseph his father on earth. *Jesus* is the equivalent of Hebrew “*Yeshua*”. *Yeshua* is a contraction of “*Yehoshua*”, translated as “*Joshua*” in English Bibles. Both *Jesus* and *Joshua* mean “*Yahweh is Help*” or “*Yahweh is Salvation*”.

Soteri is Greek for Saviour.

Jesus is *Yahweh* come to Earth. *Jesus* is God bending towards us, God becoming one of us, God reaching out in mercy, God humbling himself, God rising up from the grave to show us the way home.

*“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved” **Acts 4:12***

Jesus name above all names, beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Why do you think *Jesus* name is linked to the covenant name of God-*Yahweh*?
2. Describe what *Salvation* means to you?

DAY 27

KYRIOS (KU-ree-os)-LORD

Read: Philippians 2:5-11

Kyrios is used in NT to refer to an owner, emperor, king, husband, or master. It can also translate three Hebrew titles of God- *Elohim*, *Yahweh* and *Adonai*.

Early in his ministry he was referred to as Lord meaning Teacher or Rabbi or Sir. But after his death and resurrection the title “Lord” was used in a more specialized sense as a confession of Faith. Remember doubting Thomas saying “*My Lord and my God*” (**John 20:28**).

Christianity's earliest confession of faith was short but powerful-
Jesus is Lord!

Both those who love him and those who oppose him will one day call Jesus “Lord”.

As you pray to the Sovereign Lord, remember that you are placing your life—the worst of your disappointments, your struggles, your dreams in His hands.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. How did God respond to Jesus' willing obedience, even to death on a cross?
2. What does it mean when it is said that every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord?
3. How does God's definition of greatness differ from the usual popular definition?
4. How have you experienced the Lordship of Jesus in your life?

DAY 28 ALPHA KAI OMEGA (AL-fah kai oh-MAY-gah)
ALPHA AND OMEGA

Read: Isaiah 48:12; Revelations 21:5-6; Revelations 22:12-13
Alpha and Omega are the first and last Greek alphabets.

Rev 22:13 can be paraphrased: "*I am the A and the Z, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*"

Present at the world's beginning; Jesus will also be present at its end, when he and his work are finally and fully revealed.

When you pray to Christ as the Alpha and the Omega you are praying to the one who was, who is and who is to come. He is our all sufficient Lord, who will not fail to complete the good work he has begun in us.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Can a Human being claim to be the A to Z? Why or why not?
2. What would it mean to say Jesus is first and last in your own life?
3. Instead of looking at your life as *your story*, what if you viewed your life as part of *God's story*? What implications does this have for the way you live and the goals you have?
4. *In him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)*. What does this mean to you?

DAY 29***POIMEN KALOS-(poi-MAIN ka-LOS)*****Good Shepherd****Read: John 10:1-18**

Shepherd provided food, protection and guidance to the flock of sheep.

God's people are a flock of sheep, scattered and foolish often falling prey to wild animals and thieves.

God promises to become their Shepherd. In Isaiah 40:11 God is the gentle shepherd and carries his sheep close to his heart.

Jesus describes in John 10 to what extent the Good Shepherd will go in order to protect his sheep. Jesus will never abandon his sheep; instead he will defend them with his life.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Why do you think Jesus describes his relationship with us as that of Shepherd and Sheep?
2. What are the frightening and comforting images from John 10? How do these images express spiritual realities?
3. Who in your life is like a lost sheep that God is seeking? What can you do to bring this person into his flock?

DAY 30

BASILEUS BASILEON (ba-si-LEuS ba-si-LE-own)-KING OF KINGS

Read: Matt 21:1-9 ; Revelations 19:11-16

Though Jesus entered the world as a helpless infant, Magi from the east still recognized him as the newborn King.

Today Christ's kingdom unfolds in hidden ways as believers acknowledge him as King and Lord. But one day, when Christ comes again, his kingdom will be revealed as the greatest of all kingdoms.

Rev 19 reveals Jesus as not riding a donkey (**Matt 21**) but on a magnificent white horse, as befits the greatest of all kings.

Throughout the Bible Jesus is referred to as “King”, “King of the ages”, “King of the Jews”, “King of Israel”, “King of kings”— which in Greek is *Basileus Basileon*. Even today some Christian church buildings are call “basilicas”—meaning “the Hall of the King”

When you pray to the King of kings, call to your mind his mastery not only over human beings but over nature, disease and death itself.

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. Write a list of qualities describing the perfect king. Now compare and contrast these with the lives of some of today's rulers.
2. What does it mean to have Jesus as your King? How have you experienced his reign in your life thus far?

DAY 31 **EGO EIMI (e-GO ay-MEE)-I AM-**

Read: Exodus 3:13-14; John 8:50-59

When Moses first encountered God in the wilderness the name God introduced himself with only added to the mystery of who God is- “*I AM*”. The name “**I AM**” closely related to the 4 Hebrew consonants that make up the name *Yahweh*- the covenant name of God in the OT.

God has always existed and is always present with his people. When Jesus was being attacked by the religious leaders he shocked them by identifying himself with *Yahweh* by saying: *Before Abraham was born, I am.*”

John's gospel has several descriptions of Jesus introduced by the expression *Ego Eimi- I am*—

- I am the bread of Life (John 6:35)*
- I am the light of the world (John 8:12)*
- Before Abraham was born, I am (John 8:58)*
- I am the gate for the sheep. (John 10:7)*
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)*
- I am the resurrection and the life. (John 11:25)*
- I am the way and the truth and the life. (John 14:6)*
- I am the true vine (John 15:1)*

All these images remind us that when you pray to *Ego Eimi* - you are praying to the great **I AM who is capable and sufficient, who is always present and who is all powerful.**

Questions to Ponder and Pray

1. How have you experienced the presence of “*EGO EIMI*”-*I AM* in your life?

2. How might the knowledge of Jesus presence in your life help you in the present circumstances of your life?