

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God Part 1 – Jehovah: I Am Who I Am Exodus 3:14

1. Read and consider Exodus 3:11 – 15.
Pay particular attention to the last part of verse 15.
2. Discuss the relative importance of names, and where do most of our names that we are given at birth come from?

3. In the Bible 'names' are not just tags given to identify people, but often explain the experience of the one named.
Read and consider: Genesis 1:1; Genesis 15:2; Genesis 17:1 - 2

4. Then there are some compound names based on Jehovah.
To help you remember them:

1. Jehovah-J _ _ _ _ _
2. Jehovah-R _ _ _ _ _
3. Jehovah-N _ _ _ _ _
4. Jehovah-S _ _ _ _ _
5. Jehovah-R _ _ _ _
6. Jehovah-T _ _ _ _ _
7. Jehovah-S _ _ _ _ _

5. Read and consider a few more verse concerning God's name.
Samuel 22:50; 1 Kings 8:43; Psalm 9:10; John 12:28; Matthew 6:9
6. Today we will just look at the name 'Jehovah'
7. The Hebrews already knew God as 'Elohim' which spoke of God as being omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable and eternal, but why was that not enough for them?

8. What new name did God give the Hebrews by which they should refer to Him?
Genesis 3:14

9. What is the significance of this new name?

Final Thoughts

We live under the umbrella of what Paul calls in Ephesians 3:8
“the unsearchable riches of Christ”
– He will ALWAYS be enough.
I AM WHO I AM – ALWAYS.

How does this apply to you?

Is your God only Elohim; big, mighty, creator, but distant?
He is the God [Elohim] of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph.
Yes, it is the same God,
but that name bears witness to us of His power, love and purpose;
it testifies to His acts in history.

But now He is saying, ‘I am also JEHOVAH
– eternally present, sufficient and active.’

What God DOES in our situation is His business.
The issue is, **do we trust Him?**

This is about God working in human experience – **today.**

This is JEHOVAH.
Do you know Him by His name experientially?

I AM WHO I AM

ALWAYS!

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God Part 2 – Jehovah Jirah – The Lord Will Provide Genesis 22:1 - 14

1. Read and consider Genesis 22:1 - 14
2. What is the first of these compound names, and what does that name means?

3. These names are not revealed 'propositionally', but rather 'experientially'.
Can you explain what that means?

4. Today we will look at the progression from **testing** to finding **Jehovah-Jireh**.
Read and consider Genesis 22:1. Where does 'testing' come from?

5. The fact that God tests us may challenge some of our assumptions about God.
We prefer to think of Him as a benevolent figure whose main concern is to give us a
good and trouble-free life [often that is what our prayers and expectations are all
about].

So what do you think about this idea that God may actually initiate testing in your
life? And what do you think our reaction should be to such testing?
Read and consider James 1:2 – 4

6. What is the difference between:
 Temptation from the Devil.
 Testing from God.

7. So, when does God test us? Read and consider Genesis 22:2
Can you identify 3 issues that this command from God raised?

8. Finally; why does God test us? Read and consider Genesis 15:5 – 6

Final Thoughts

Our faith in God is matured through a process of stressful testing. It matures more fully in the furnace of affliction than in the warm shallow waters of ease and prosperity that we prefer.

So remember: Testing is **Constructive** not Destructive.

Our unbelief stumbles over the contradictions of what God has said/promised, and what He seems to send into our lives.

When God tests us it is not against those things that are our personal preferences, but we are tested against what God has promised. It is the testing of our living in the will of God.

God will often test believers to the limits of our physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual beings – against what He has promised. But this will **only serve to expand our capacity to know God in an utterly trustworthy way.**

On the other side of the test is new knowledge of God. Abraham discovered through his severe test that **JEHOVAH JIREH – The Lord will provide.**

Is God testing you against His promises, against His word?

The battle in our hearts is between UNBELIEF and FAITH.

Unbelief – may balk at the prospect before us.
It may look for a quick solution and an easy way out [producing an Ishmael instead of an Isaac].
It may become resentful and angry.

But **Faith** - will keep its trust in God, and stay focused on Him.
If God has to do a miracle He will. Why?
Because He is JEHOVAH JIREH – The Lord will provide.

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God

Part 3 – Jehovah Rapha – I Am the Lord who heals you.

Exodus 15:22 - 27

1. Please read and consider Exodus 15:22 - 27
2. Some churches choose to make a lot concerning healing, while other churches put a lesser emphasis on it.

Name some cases of specific physical healing in the Old Testament.

3. Now can you name some healings by Jesus in the New Testament of specific medical conditions?

4. Now look at these verses. What is common to all of them?
Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16; 9:35; 12:25; 14:14; 14:35-36; 5:30; 19:2 and 21:14

5. Staying in the New Testament, what 3 people are named as being involved in healing?
Read Acts 5:15; Acts 8:13; Acts 19:11-12

6. Read and consider also 1 Corinthians 12 and James 5:14

7. Now read the following scripture and consider what you learn from them.

i. John 5:3

ii. 1 Timothy 5:23

iii. Philippians 2:25-27

iv. 2 Timothy 4:20

v. Galatians 4:13-15

vi. Galatians 6:11

vii. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

8. What two mistakes then can we make about 'healing'?

Final Thoughts

The two mistakes about healing are to say either
that we WILL be healed
or that we will NOT be healed.

The answer is:
we MAY be healed as God determines;
and we should not question what He determines.
His will and plans are sovereign over our desires.

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God Part 4 – Jehovah Nissi: The Lord our Banner Exodus 17:15 - 16

1. Read and consider Exodus 17:15-16
Can you remember what we have said in previous studies in this series about why there all these different names for God?

2. So what exactly does **Jehovah Nissi** mean?

3. Read and consider Exodus 17:9

4. What is a 'banner'? and what is it's purpose?

5. How does God tell Joshua and Moses to fight the battle here in Exodus 17?

6. Let's take a closer look at this staff of Moses that became the Staff of God.
Read and consider the following verses: Exodus 17:5-6; 14:16; 10:13; 9:23;
8:16; 8:5; 7:19

7. Where did Moses get this staff? Read Exodus 4:2-5

8. So, before God could work powerfully through Moses, he [Moses] had to lay down the simple tool of his trade – his staff. What is it that the Lord may be asking you to lay down before He can fully work through you?

Final Thoughts

The implied principle of the story of Moses holding up the Staff of the Lord is this:

**Victory over the enemies of God is not won!
It is received and appropriated by obedience and trust!**

It is important to note that what happened on the mountain top directly affected what happened in the valley.

The efforts of Joshua and the army in the valley would have counted for nothing were it not for the efforts of Moses on the mountain top. And that is the same in our personal lives and in the life of our churches.

All of our programs and efforts will come to nothing unless they are consistently and continually supported by prayer.

And remember too, what Moses held in his hand was the Staff of God. But wait a minute! Was that not the same staff that Moses had carried around with him for many years? Yes, but now that staff is consecrated into the Lord's service, so it was no longer just the staff of Moses, now it was 'the Staff of God'.

When we surrender to God and allow Him to work through us, we are physically the same person, but God begins to work through us to accomplish amazing things in His Name.

Throw down YOUR staff to God – your life – and then begin to see God working in and through YOU.

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God Part 5 – Jehovah Shalom: The Lord Our Peace Judges 6:1 - 35

1. Read and consider Judges 6:1-35
2. Generally speaking we would say that we live in a peaceful country [compared to many others], and yet in our hearts, minds, relationships and circumstances we are often in turmoil.

Let us take a closer look at these verses about this story of Gideon.
Read and consider Judges 6:1 – 6. What has been happening here?

3. Read and consider Judges 6:7-10
4. There are 4 points that we need to consider.
We need to make a **Proper Diagnosis** of our situation. Judges 6:10
5. When we, in our personal lives, and even on a national level, turn away from Jesus we become susceptible to being seduced by the attractions of the world.
List some of those 'attractions'.

6. Look again closely at Judges 6:11-16 – **Know Your Resources**
7. When we get to Judges 6:25 we are told that we need to
Engage In True Repentance.
8. Now read again and consider Judges 6:33 – 35
We need to look for **confident RESULTS.**
9. Now read and consider Judges 7:9. What do you learn from this?

Final Thoughts

Many of us do not realize we have a problem **within** ourselves until we start to be defeated by things **outside** of us.

- i. Suddenly we find ourselves powerless.
- ii. Things that we thought we controlled arise and take control of us.
- iii We find ourselves living defeated lives.

We need to clearly understand that God has never promised that He will give us strength!

Listen carefully here: **God IS our strength!**

We never become strong: it is God's power manifested THROUGH us, but it is always God's power, never our own.

Before we can experience any victory against our **external enemies**, we have to deal with our **internal enemies** and issues. There has to be 'true repentance' evidenced by our turning away from our former life, and a turning to God.

In the story of Gideon, the power of the enemy outside was broken on the outside only when the enemy within had been broken.

This is a contemporary message for us all.

People of God so often fall into the same trap.

If we are not living in the **Power of Jesus Christ** we may display symptoms such as:

- i. Lack of spiritual **life** – our Christian life is a burden.
- ii. Lack of spiritual **power** – no resources outside of ourselves.
- iii. Lack of spiritual **fruit** – not much to show in God blessing us.
- iv. Lack of spiritual **contentment** – we are not at peace.

If we are going to build an altar in our life called **Jehovah Shalom – The Lord is Peace** some of us need to examine our own hearts.

1. What idol and false God is dominating you?
2. What idols do you need to tear down?
3. Where do you need to totally trust God?

We share this with you in the hope that it will challenge you to turn back to God and enjoy all that He has for you; but there can be no compromise.

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God Part 6 – Jehovah Raah: The Lord My Shepherd Psalm 23:1 - 6

1. Read and consider Psalm 23:1 - 6
2. Consider for a few moments the characteristics of sheep.

3. We often call Psalm 23 'The Shepherd Psalm', but actually it is the sheep talking; sheep who have a very good Shepherd. So can you identify the 3 things that the sheep are saying about themselves?

4. There is **Adequate Provision**
 - i. What provision do you see in verse 2a? _____
 - ii. What provision do you see in verse 2b? _____
 - iii. What provision do you see in verse 3a? _____
 - iv. What provision do you see in verse 3b? _____
5. **Adequate Protection** Verse 4
What are the 3 things that we fear according to this verse?

6. **Adequate Prospects** Verse 6
What are the 2 kinds of prospects that we should be concerned with?

Final Thoughts

'Not wanting' [being content] - is a choice

Of course we all have needs,
but God addresses here 4 major areas of need,
those being Material, Emotional, Spiritual and Moral,
but it is we who make the choice so that we can say:

1. I have no need to fulfill everyone's expectations of me.
2. I have no need to accumulate all the things that society says I am supposed to have.
3. **I am content to be just me: a humble Sheep living under a Good Shepherd.**

And notice this: 'He **makes me** lie down in green pastures!'

So, it is not a question of good or lucky circumstances: it is a question of **OBEDIENCE!**

We are only equipped to live when we are equipped to die;
and through these scriptures we learn
that the 2 most important things that we need to learn are:

How to live and how to die!

**If we have learned these things we can then live in
contentment and confidence
In knowing personally
JEHOVAH RAAH – The Lord My Shepherd.**

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God

Part 7 – Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness

Jeremiah 23:1 - 6

1. Read and consider Jeremiah 23:1-6
2. When you think of the word 'righteousness' what do you immediately think of?

3. But what does 'righteousness' mean in the Bible?

4. How is this 'moral image' displayed?

5. So how does this work? How does God display His righteousness through us?

6. Read and consider Romans 3:10 and Isaiah 64:6
Do these verses create a problem for us?

7. Read Genesis 6:6-7 What does this tell us?

8. So now that we have messed everything up, what is God's plan now?

9. Read and consider Deuteronomy 6:24-25 and Deuteronomy 9:7-8
10. Before you get too depressed by all this, read and consider:
Romans 1:17, Romans 3:21, 2 Corinthians 5:21
11. Read and consider 1 John 4:17

12. Now read and consider Romans 5:10 and 8:29

Final Thoughts

If we have been created to portray the truth about God,
then if someone was to ask 'What is God like?'
we should be able to say,
'Watch me for a week, and then you will see!'

But would you dare do that? I think not;
and any attempt to rectify this by self-improvement would be doomed to failure.

The demands of God on His people clearly exceed our capability
– until Christ stepped on to the pages of human history!

Christ changed His standing before God
so that our standing before God could be changed.

As we look to Him, He produces His fruit of righteousness through us.

Read Philipians 1:9 - 11

Message Guide & Questions

The Names of God Part 8 – Jehovah Shammah: The Lord Is There Ezekiel 48:35

1. Read and consider Ezekiel 48:35
2. Ezekiel prophesied during the exile of Judah to Babylon.
Do you know what the crux of his message was?

3. The people of Israel had reduced God to being a 'tribal' God – the God of Israel;
But what did Ezekiel discover?

4. The people of Israel also needed to know about the **Imminence of God**.
What is meant by that?

5. The situation was – God had left the temple, so let's focus our attention on what
would cause God to leave the temple?
What would cause God to distance Himself from us?
Read and consider Ezekiel 8:3-6

6. List some of our common idols.

7. Read Ezekiel 14:3. What does that tell us?

8. Now read Ezekiel 8:12.
This reveals another thing that could cause God to distance Himself from us.

9. However, despite everything, God did return. Why?
Read Ezekiel 43:6-7
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10. The Victory of the Lord Jesus Christ results in our lives becoming Occupied Territory. Read 1 Corinthians 15:27

Final Thoughts

The message of Ezekiel was not to get the people back to God,
but to get God back to the people.

God did not belong just to the people of Israel and reside only in Jerusalem or the Temple.
The Transcendent presence of God is everywhere.
God can be found anywhere. Yes – ANYWHERE.

Just read Psalm 139:7-8

We need to understand that there are some things that can cause God to distance Himself from us:

IDOLATRY – Those things that eventually dominate us.
They start as our servants, but become our masters.

Concerning 'counterfeit Gods':
We know it is a God when we **must have it**, and we are **driven to break the rules we once honored**, to harm others and even ourselves, to get it.

John Calvin wrote "The human mind is a perpetual factory for idols."

SECRECY. Idols flourish in the dark.
Unacknowledged sin intensifies in its demand.
Sin grows in power when it lurks secretly below the surface.

This has been a complex study to attempt, but let us not forget that even when the Lord seems to be far away, He is always as close as our turning to Him in prayer. We need to give everything we are and have to God.

**This is the place of His throne. Will you give Him that throne?
If you give everything to Him, He will replace it with His Presence.**

Message Guide

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Names of God Part 1 – Jehovah: I Am Who I Am Exodus 3:14

1. This last part of verse 15 gives us the focus for today's study.
2.
 - a. Some names come from our culture.
 - b. Some names are 'family names' handed down from generation to generation.
 - c. We are often named after other family members or close friends.
 - d. It is common today to name a child after a current celebrity from the field of movies, sports, music or a TV personality.
3.

Genesis 1:1	Elohim -	basically 'Creator God Almighty'
Genesis 15:2	Adonai -	Sovereign Lord
Genesis 17:1 – 2	El-Shaddai -	Covenant God. Expressed in terms of His character as God of righteousness, holiness, love and redemption.
4. To help you remember them:
 1. Jehovah-Jirah
 2. Jehovah-Rapha
 3. Jehovah-Nissi
 4. Jehovah-Shalom
 5. Jehovah-Raah
 6. Jehovah-Tsidkenu
 7. Jehovah-ShammahGod's names tell His story.
5. God's names represent His activities in us.
Our experience of Him is encapsulated in His names.
6. This name first appears in Genesis 2, and is repeated over 6,800 times in the Bible.
7. The Hebrews had lived under slavery for many generations, and the name 'Elohim' was from their history, from the past, associated with people long dead.
God was leading the Hebrews into something new, so the Lord gave them a new name by which they should refer to him.
8. The new name was strangely: I AM WHO I AM
9. This new name represents a God of **present tense** action.

It was not 'I Was' – as at the burning bush.
It was not 'I Will be' – as at Canaan.

But it is **I AM** – at any time, in any situation, any crisis ...
..... I am always totally sufficient,

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Names of God

Part 2 – Jehovah Jirah – The Lord Will Provide

Genesis 22:1 - 14

1. We will now begin to look in-depth at these compound names of God, all of which start with 'Jehovah'; and in doing so we need to accept the fact that these names have not translated into English very well.
2. Jehovah-Jirah – The Lord will supply.
3. We will not know God by simply knowing facts **about** Him; rather we should know God by our personal experience **of** Him. Anyone can learn the facts.
But we only come to know Him by our experience of Him testing us deeply.
4. Testing [& Trials] sometimes comes from the **Devil**.
Testing sometimes comes from **Circumstances**.
Testing sometimes comes from **God**.
5. James does not say merely 'consider it joy' when we are tested, but rather he says 'consider it **pure** joy'.
The word 'pure' means 'free from any blemishes'; unadulterated, uncontaminated, untainted, unstained, undefiled, untarnished, immaculate, unpolluted, uncorrupted.
It should not be any kind of 'reluctant joy' that says "I suppose I had better be joyful because God says I must." No, when we are being tested we should consider it **pure joy**.
6. Temptation from the Devil is destructive – the purpose is to destroy.
Testing from God is constructive – the purpose is to help us to mature.
7. God will test us at **critical times** and for Abraham the 3 issues raised here were:
 1. All the promises that God had made to Abraham were wrapped up in the well-being of Isaac. How could he now be asked to kill him?
 2. Abraham's love for Isaac was very deep. He was the child of his old age, the promise of 25 years.
 3. Although Abraham had two sons – Ishmael and Isaac – now he only had the one son, Isaac. Read and consider Genesis 21:10 - 11
8. God tested Abraham because he had a lesson to learn that he had failed to learn earlier.
What God had promised did not seem to be working out, so Abraham and Sarah decided to fulfill for themselves what God had promised to do for them.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Names of God

Part 3 – Jehovah Rapha – I Am the Lord who heals you. Exodus 15:22 - 27

1. As we look at this third of the compound names of God – Jehovah-Rapha: I am the Lord who heals you, we are going to look at two things in this study.
 1. [Briefly] Healing Generally in the Bible
 2. Healing Particularly in this Passage.
 2. Leprosy, infertility [barrenness several times]; and the ultimate healing of raising the dead [3 instances with Elijah or Elisha]
 3. Blindness, deafness, the lame, leprosy, fevers; and on 3 occasions the dead were raised.
 4. These are 9 occasions when Jesus healed ALL the sick that were present.
 5. Peter, Philip and Paul
 6. In these New Testament passages it talks about 'gifts of healing' and gives instruction to the church as to what to do if anyone becomes sick.
 7.
 - i. John 5:3: The Lord healed one man at the Pool of Bethesda, but apparently ignored the others
 - ii. 1 Timothy 5:23: There is no reprimand here; just a suggestion to take medication.
 - iii. 2 Timothy 4:20: Trophimus was evidently very sick, but apparently not healed.
 - iv. Galatians 4:13-15: Paul's sickness was not healed.
 - iv. Galatians 6:11: It would appear that Paul was almost blind when he wrote this epistle, so he was obviously not healed.
 - vi. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: Paul's 'Thorn in the Flesh' is well documented and evidence to us that the Lord does not heal in every situation, because HIS power is made perfect in weakness.
- There is sufficient evidence of non-healing in the New Testament, so we can conclude that sometimes healing was present, and sometimes healing was absent.
8. The two mistakes about healing are:
 - a. You WILL be healed.
 - b. You will NOT be healed.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Names of God

Part 4 – Jehovah Nissi: The Lord our Banner

Exodus 17:15 - 16

1. God never revealed one of His names as a piece of information. The names were [are] an explanation of His presence and working in their experience.
2. 'Jehovah Nissi' means 'The Lord My Banner' - which means
The Lord our **FIGHTER** – Our **VICTORY**
3. It was a strange way to fight a war; but remember, what Moses had in his hands was not the staff of Moses, but the Staff of God.
4. A 'banner' is a flag that is lifted high to represent all that the people are.

Before a battle - It is a rallying point for the troops.
After a battle - It announces a victory.
5. Joshua - get the army together, and go into the valley to fight.
Moses - go to the mountain top with the staff of God in his hand, and hold it in the air,
6. What a marvelous tool this staff was?
7. When Moses obeyed the Lord and threw down his staff, the Lord change that which had been a harmless shepherds tool, and changed it into a powerful tool of God. It was no longer 'Moses' staff'; it was now 'the Staff of God'.

It may have looked the same; it may have felt the same; but it was now totally different. And that is exactly the same for us when we totally surrender to His will in our lives.
8.
 - i. **Could it be your job?**
It may well be that you have worked hard to get where you are, but is it 'your' job or is it God's job?
 - ii. **Maybe your qualifications?**
Many years of hard studying and financial sacrifice may have gone in to you gaining the qualifications that you now have, but what are you going to do with those qualifications. Use them for your own personal reward, or give them back to God for Him to use for the benefit of His Kingdom.
 - iii. **What about your money?**
The root of the problem is in the question.
When you understand that whatever money is in your possession is not **yours** no matter how you came by it, then, when you give it back to Him, God can use it for His Glory, and He will give back to you accordingly.
 - iv. **What about your future?**

Again, whose future are we talking about?

When you give back to the Lord all your future plans, dreams, ambitions and goals, only then will you begin to experience God working in and through you.

v. **The same with your family.**

After the years during which you are entrusted to bring them up, you have to eventually let them go.

vi. **Boyfriend/Girlfriend?**

Matters of the heart are always difficult, but you have to let them go; trusting that if the other person is God's choice for you, they will come back.

vii **And finally, what about my Christian Service?**

For some people the question might indeed be, 'what about it?' because it might be virtually non-existent; but other people may have the opposite problem in that they are holding on to 'MY ministry'

A true servant does not 'possess' anything. We serve at the pleasure of our Master

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Names of God

Part 5 – Jehovah Shalom: The Lord Our Peace

Judges 6:1 - 35

1. As we have been looking at the Names of God in the Old Testament we come to the fifth one, that being Jehovah Shalom – The Lord our Peace.
2. The people of Israel have been enduring 7 long years of opposition by the Mideonites who have invaded incessantly, destroying crops, and stealing animals to the extent that the land has become impoverished.
Having escaped by running away and hiding in the mountains and caves they cry out to God for help.
3. The root of the problem is identified in that God had brought the people of Israel out of Egypt to Canaan for HIS purpose, but the people have only pursued THEIR OWN interests.
4. **Make a Proper Diagnosis**
The people of Israel thought their problem was external – the invading Mideonites – but in fact their real problem lay in the internal life of the nation.
The external defeat was only symptomatic of their internal disobedience.
5. Money, Materialism, Power, Work, Ambition, Pride, Reputation, body image, pornography, gambling with countless millions being spent on lottery tickets alone each week.
6. In this passage Gideon talks about his weakness, whereas God talks about His strength. Yes we are weak, but God is strong!
Our resource is always God. It is never a strengthened version of ourselves.
We can become weak, but God is ALWAYS strong.
7. We cannot just add Christ to our existing life. When Christ comes in He has to sweep the board clean of all else.
8. God gave Gideon a sign that He would save Israel, but first He had to reduce his men. Read and consider Judges 7:2
9. Very briefly we learn that:
God's responsibility was to **give** them the victory.
Their responsibility was to **receive** it - they have to **Just Trust!**

iii. *We fear Dissension.*

There will be conflicts and enemies but read Matthew 10:28-31

6. ***Temporal Prospects***

We need to remember that God's work in our lives here on earth is always good. He is, after all, a "good" shepherd.

And it is like we have 2 sheep dogs who help us navigate through life in the form of 'Goodness and love' [mercy in the KJV] that 'will follow us all the days of our lives'

We need His love and mercy. We need to constantly know that He is a God who treats us in mercy.

These are the prospects for this life – **in the temporal.**

Eternal Prospects

Verse 6b reminds us that we will **pass through** the valley of death, and on the other side is **life everlasting** in the presence of the Lord.

Read and be encouraged by Psalm 79:13

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Names of God

Part 7 – Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness Jeremiah 23:1 - 6

1. The word 'Tsidkenu' does not actually appear in the Bible, but Jehovah-Tsidkenu means 'The Lord our Righteousness', and 'righteousness' is a word that we **are** familiar with.
2. Probably some of us, if not many of us, will think of 'self-righteousness' which conjures up images of arrogant self-satisfaction and a 'judgmental attitude'.
3. Righteousness is the **image** in which humanity was created. It is the **moral character of God**. This is not a physical image, but rather a **moral image**.
4. It is not a question of our imitating God, but rather God displaying Himself **through** us.
5. We display the moral character of God through the way we act and react to situations we face in life. At all times [not just when we are in the spotlight– but at ALL times] we need to show His Love, Justice, Mercy, Kindness, Gentleness and Faithfulness.
6. If we human beings are created to be a physical and visible expression of the moral character of God then we have failed miserably. **We need help!**
7. These verses tell us that, although after He had created everything He said it was all 'good', we humans very quickly messed it all up, to the point that God even wished that He had not made us.
8. This is where the Gospel comes in. In order that the righteousness of God can be properly seen in the world, God needed to get human beings back to what we were created to be.
9. It is very clear what was required of human beings, but it became obvious that we could never achieve it. Read and consider Romans 7:15-24.
10. Christ changed His standing before God, so that WE might become the righteousness of God.
11. The Lord's Righteousness was IMPUTED to us. We did not deserve it, but it was 'credited' to us.
12. His righteousness has been IMPARTED to us. If we are in Christ we are predestined to Christ-likeness.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

The Names of God

Part 8 – Jehovah Shammah: The Lord Is There Ezekiel 48:35

1. This verse introduces us to the last of the compound names of God that we have been looking at: **Jehovah-Shammah – The Lord is There**
2. It is true that the people had turned from God, but also **the Lord had turned from the people.**
So the message of Ezekiel was not to get the people back to God, but to get God back to the people.
3. As God's people were now in Babylon, Ezekiel discovered that God is, in fact, a **Transcendent God**. He is everywhere. He did not live just in a temple, in Jerusalem or Judah.
4. The **Immanence of God** means that He is not just 'up there somewhere', an Almighty God, out of our reach; but He is here, present, involved and accessible.
5. **IDOLATRY** – Those things that eventually dominate us.
6. Money, Materialism, Sex, Power, Image, Work, Ambition, Reputation, Food, Pride. Counterfeit Gods
7. Idols are much more than statues and icons and carvings.
8. **SECRECY.** Read also John 3:19-21 and Ezekiel 8:12
Hidden things becomes destructive, and need to come out into the light.
Unacknowledged sin becomes addictive.
9. Despite the action of the people of Israel, this was the place of His throne. It was a picture of **Occupied Territory**. Read Deuteronomy 11:24 and 1 Kings 5:3.