

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.



*Burt's Farm, Dawsonville, Georgia
Suzanne Williams Photography*

The Wonderful Names of God

If I told you who I was, that I'm a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a niece, a sister, and a wife, it would be a challenge to you to remember the intricacies of the various relationships. If I told you about my family tree, who's who, who lives where, and who does what, you couldn't possibly capture it all the first time you heard it. I know you would eventually remember, but it might take several rehearsals. And we have a very simple family. We haven't had too many unusual things happen over the years.

We could talk about many of my relatives. There are so many details. Where was my father born? What was my mother's maiden name? Where did my grandmother live? When did my grandfather arrive in Florida from Delaware? What is my sister's occupation? Do my children live in Lakeland? What ages are the grandchildren? There's a lot to know. People who have known me for a long time don't remember all these details. They have heard them; but when they attempt to relate to my conversation about family members, they must be reminded because it's complicated.

I have different relationships with all these people, and I have different names. I am called Aunt Becky, introduced as "my wife, Becky", and referred to as "my sister, Becky" or "my daughter, Becky". On occasion, senior family members will even use my childhood name, Becky Sue. Each name that I am called expresses some aspect of who I am.

Our God calls Himself by many different names. Did you know that? Each name expresses some aspect of His nature, who He is and what He can do. Abraham knew God as El Shaddai. ¹ He also knew God as Jehovah Jireh. ² Gideon knew God as Jehovah Shalom, ³ but Joshua knew God as Jehovah Nissi. ⁴ And, God has many, many more names. Progressively, through these various names, God explains what He can do and wants to do.

The more scripture you study, the further you read in the Bible, the more you know about the nature of our great-big God, the more knowledge you have of the many different aspects of His personality. In the Word of God, He shares those with us one at a time, one name at a time. It reminds me of blowing up a balloon. Just as the balloon gets bigger and bigger and bigger, through study our knowledge of God grows greater and greater. And it is similar to putting together a puzzle. You have many pieces, a piece here and a piece there. These pieces must be joined together to make a whole. So it is in the scripture. You study our God, El Shaddai. You join that to your understanding of Jehovah Jireh. You add your knowledge of Jehovah



Jireh to the Word of God on Jehovah Nissi. As all the multiple names of God come together, you begin to see the grandeur of our mighty God. How big He is! How great is His power!

When I study the names of God, my heart rejoices. It shouts triumphantly because every name of God belongs to me. Every name belongs to God's children who believe in Him. Jesus confirmed this great truth, declaring peace to every Christian from our God, Jehovah Shalom. He said, "Peace I leave with YOU."⁵ The writings of Paul open our understanding to the wonders of Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provides. Clearly, this name works in our life for the Holy Spirit has said, "My God shall supply all YOUR need."⁶ In Hebrews 13:5, we become acquainted with Jehovah Shammah,⁷ the Lord who is Present in our lives, through the wonderful words "I will never leave YOU." The healing power of God is revealed as God's will for us through the name Jehovah Rapha,⁸ the Lord our physician. The Word of God boldly declares, "By whose stripes YOU were healed."⁹ Yes, yes, yes! The names of God work for US. WE are healed. We have peace. WE enjoy God's presence. God provides for each of US.

There isn't any greater confirmation of this truth than Psalm 23. Many years ago, as I was reading this

Psalm, I noticed all the personal pronouns. In this short Psalm, the words "I", "my", and "me" are recorded sixteen times. After all these years, it still thrills my heart. Think about it. "The Lord is **MY** Shepherd; **I** shall not want. He makes **ME** to lie down...he leads **ME** beside the still waters. He restores **MY** soul: He leads **ME** in the paths of righteousness..."¹⁰ If **I** walk through the valley, **I** will not fear. He walks with **ME**, comforts **ME**, prepares a table for **ME**, anoints **MY** head and causes **MY** cup to overflow. He follows **ME** with goodness and mercy all **MY** life, and **I** will dwell in His house forever. Indeed, God is for us.

In this season of thanksgiving, let's lift our voices in gratitude. Let's worship Him, raising holy hands without wrath or doubt.¹¹ Let's enter His gates with thanksgiving because "His merciful kindness is great towards us."¹² Let's "give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*"¹³

¹ Genesis 17:1

² Genesis 22:14

³ Judges 6:24

⁴ Exodus 17:15

⁵ John 14:27

⁶ Philippians 4:9

⁷ Ezekiel 48:35; Matt. 28:20

⁸ Exodus 15:26

⁹ 1 Peter 2:24

¹⁰ NKJV

¹¹ 1 Timothy 2:8

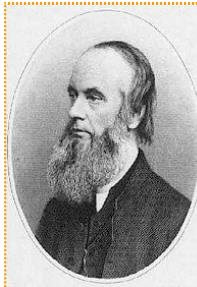
¹² Psalm 117:2

¹³ Psalm 106:1

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



Come, ye thankful people, come,
 raise the song of harvest home;
 All is safely gathered in,
 ere the winter storms begin.
 God our Maker doth provide
 for our wants to be supplied;
 Come to God's own temple, come,
 raise the song of harvest home.



This hymn is but one of many written by Henry Alford (1810-1871), Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, England. At age 16, Henry Alford wrote these words in his Bible: "I do this day, in the presence of God and my own soul, renew my covenant with God, and solemnly determine henceforth to become His, and to do His work as far as in me lies." Henry Alford was a well-known Greek scholar and is most noted for his four-volume edition of the Greek Testament, which took him 20 years to complete.

This hymn was first printed in 1844 with the scripture, Psalm 126:6, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." This first stanza, one of four, gives thanks to God for His "heavenly care and provision of our earthly needs." It has been said that every evening Dean Alford would stand and give thanks to God for each day's blessings.

* 101 More Hymn Stories, by Kenneth W. Osbeck, © 1985, Kregel Publications