

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

#4 – “Adonai: Lord”

February 20, 2005 – Columbia Church

[God said to David through His prophet, “. . .] ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

¹⁷Nathan reported to David all the words of this entire revelation. ¹⁸Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: “Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ¹⁹And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a human being! ²⁰“What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign LORD. ²¹For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant. ²²“How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. ²³And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? ²⁴You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, LORD, have become their God. ²⁵“And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, ²⁶so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established in your sight. ²⁷“LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, ‘I will build a house for you.’ So your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. ²⁸Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant. ²⁹Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.”

2 Samuel 7:16-29 TNIV

Introduction: While the first three names of God we have studied together—Elohim, El Shaddai, and Yahweh— reveal to us the nature of God, *Adonai* (Hebrew is the first God-name we will examine that speaks to his relationship with people or things. *Adonai* is the name ascribed to God in His Word, the Bible, that signifies his ownership of His people.

- I. What's in the Name Adonai?
 - A. Adonai occurs 300 times in the Bible.
 - B. In English, Adonai is rendered “Lord” or “Sovereign” and signifies ownership, as in “master of a slave.”
 - C. A form of the word, Adoni, is used to speak of ruling men 215 times in the Bible (translated “master”).
 - D. The plural possessive form is almost always used to refer only to God and convey His magnificence.
 - E. The first appearance of the name Adonai is found in

Genesis 15, where the “master,” Abram uses it to speak to Yahweh, the “Master.”

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give..?” vv.1-2a

- II. Our God is Our Master!
 - A. Adonai has purchased us with a price, so we are more than mere hired hands; we belong to Him.
 1. In the culture of the Old Testament, the hired servant was considered a stranger and prevented from dining at the master's table.
 2. But the purchased slave was a member of the family entitled to eat the Passover and be loved and protected by his owner.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover: “No foreigner is to eat of it. Any slave you have bought may eat of it after you have circumcised him, but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat of it.”
Exodus 12:43-45
 - B. Adonai owns us, and He expects total obedience.

“A son honors his father, and slaves honor their master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty.” *Malachi 1:6*
 - C. Our response to Adonai should be like that of David, who never rose to such status that Yahweh was not his Sovereign commander, but saw himself as blessed to be possessed.
 - III. Jesus is Lord!
 - A. Adonai is carried over into the New Testament, where it is applied to Jesus as *Kurios*, translated “Lord,” hundreds of times.
 - B. We are slaves purchased by Jesus' blood on the Cross. (1 Cor. 6:19-20, Rom. 12:1, 1 Pet. 1:18-19, 2 Pet. 2:1)
 - C. Christ the Lord is the One who protects and sustains His servants. (Acts 23:11, 2 Tim. 4:17-18, 1 Cor. 15:58)
 - D. Jesus is for us the ultimate example of the faith slave. (Phil. 2:7-8, Heb. 10:7, Jn. 8:29, 13:13-16, Rom. 15:3)
 - E. The entire picture is painted in Philippians 2:5-13, found on Page 831 in our pew Bibles.
- Conclusion: Adonai has purchased us with a price, and He is our sole owner, our Lord and Master. Though it may seem counter-intuitive at first, we are blessed to be possessed by Adonai!