

## ALL IN THE FAMILY (OF GOD)

### #5: Children of the Father

Dr. James Baucom, Sr. ♦ February 10-12

“In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. . . . And God said, “Let there be light” and there was light. . . . “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear . . . . Let the land produce vegetation. . . . Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky. . . . Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals each according to its kind.” . . . Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our own image, in our likeness. . . . So God created human beings in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1: 1-27, Selected Verses)

Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the **Lord God** had not sent rain on the on thee earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. So the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. . . . Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” (Genesis 2: 5-7, 18)

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the **Lord** appeared to him and said, “I am God almighty (*El Shaddai*); walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” (Genesis 17: 1-2)

The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with human beings and have overcome.” Jacob said, “**Please tell me your name.**” But he replied, “Why do you ask me my name?” Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place *Peniel*, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face and yet my life was spared.” (Genesis 32: 27-30)

“(Like) **As a father** has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we were formed, he remembers that we are dust.” (Psalm 103: 13-18)

Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another? (Malachi 2:10)

Philip said, “**Lord, show us the Father** and that will be enough for us.” Jesus answered, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, “Show us the father? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the father is in me?” (John 14: 8-10)

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our **Father in heaven**, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6: 9-10)

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray: . . . Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that is possible the hour might pass from him.

**Abba, Father,**” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” (Mark 14: 32, 35-36)

“Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “**Abba, Father.**” (Romans 8: 14-15)

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “**Abba, Father.**” So you are no longer slaves, but God’s children, and since you are his children, he has made you also heirs.” (Galatians 4: 3-8)

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**Introduction:** Have you ever thought about the true importance, the true impact of a name? A study of the scriptures will lead us through the understanding of God, which has varied through time.

1. The book of Genesis depicts God in a number of ways.
  - A. The creation narratives reflect God in two ways.
    1. All powerful: God speaks creation into being (“God,” Elohim) – Genesis 1
    2. Personal: God shapes with God’s hands. (“Lord God” YHWH) – Genesis 2
  - B. In God’s encounter with Abram, God is established as a God of Covenant and quite personal.
  - C. As Jacob wrestles with God, Jacob asks God, “What’s your name?” But the answer is not given, only a blessing.
2. Temple worship reflected a God who is transcendent, judgmental.
3. In the later absence of the temple, the law became more and more central to religion. Note the emphasis on the law for the Pharisees.
4. A few references to God as Father in OT, but Jesus personalized that nature of God.
  - A. Term, Father, is relational. Loving, expecting from us yet forgiving, gives freedom to choose, but holds us accountable
  - B. “When you pray: ‘Our Father who art in heaven.’”
  - C. Only three times in New Testament do we see “Abba, father,” only once in Jesus (Gethsemane), twice in Paul’s letters.