

I AM: A Memorial

Jason A. Graham

God's Memorial: His Name

God says his name "I AM" is a memorial to all generations.

Exodus 3:13-15 (NIV) ¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered [**My memorial**] from generation to generation.

Who is I AM?

So, what is the name of I AM? What is the name above every name? **JESUS**.

How do we know this for sure? Jesus himself claimed to be I AM, and the Pharisees tried to stone him for it since they considered it blasphemy.

John 8:58-59 (NIV) ⁵⁸ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Why His Name?

Why does he say His Name is a memorial to all generations?

Isn't the cross a memorial to him? Or the nativity scene? Surely, the crucifix is a memorial to him, right?

There is nothing wrong with these objects. They can remind us of Him and display symbols of what he has done to the world. However, they are not what he has given us to establish a Memorial for Him from generation to generation.

Why?

- His name is different than the name of any other religious or spiritual leader that has ever lived.
 - There is only one NAME under heaven by which man can be saved.
Acts 4:12 (NIV) *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*
 - His name has the power to save.
 - His name has the power to heal.

- His name has the power to deliver.
Mark 16:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."
- His name is above every name, and will draw the reverence of every man.
Philippians 2:9-10 (NIV) ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- The truth, spoken in the name of Jesus, brings BOTH great transformation, and also great persecution. But we are told to rejoice and be glad in it—because it brings us the Kingdom of Heaven.
[Christianity today—in our society—tends to be the only religion that is both pro-humanity and rejected for having the audacity to believe what it believes. It is my observation that any other religions that withstand opposition generally receive that opposition due to having a nature that is staunchly evil and brings harm to people in a way that is recognized as such by the general public. Besides these, no other religion is persecuted on the basis of their actual beliefs—they are rather accepted on merit of their beliefs.]

John 15:18 (NIV) "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV) In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV) ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the memorial God has established before all Generations: **His Name—His Great Salvation.**

Our Responsibility

Now we have a responsibility to this memorial that God has established.

- We are to ascribe to the Lord the honor and strength, the glory due his name.
1 Chronicles 16:28-29 (NIV) ²⁸ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength, ²⁹ ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.
- His name is Hallowed. This is a verb, not an adjective. Jesus isn't telling us how we are to think about His name. He is telling us what we should actively do with His name. Hallowed means "to be honored as holy." He is saying, "Your name is to be honored as holy."
Matthew 6:9 (NIV) "This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

- The Ten Commandments tells us not to use His name in vain
Exodus 20:7 (NIV) "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

How Do We Uphold this Responsibility?

- We sing.
- We proclaim.
- We worship.
- We preach.
- We remember.
- We cherish.
- We use it for prayer.
- We prophecy.
- We testify.
- We are witnesses to its power.
- We heal the sick.
- We raise the dead.
- We cast out demons.
- We praise him.
- We live our lives for him.
- We give the Lord our affections.
- We resemble Him and show His Love when we interact with others.
- We declare His faithfulness.
- We believe.

His name is powerful. He is Love and He is a fire. Those of us who bear his name (Christians) should look like him, act like him, speak like him, LOVE like him.

When we do this, we truly do not take his name in vain. His name will be hallowed, and we will ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name!

Psalms 145:1-21 (NIV) ¹I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. ²Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. ³Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. ⁴One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. ⁵They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. ⁸The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. ¹⁰All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will extol you. ¹¹They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, ¹²so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³Your kingdom is an

everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. ¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. ¹⁷The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. ¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. ¹⁹He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. ²⁰The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. ²¹My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

The Result

- His name will not be profaned—or made common.
Leviticus 22:32 (NIV) Do not profane my holy name. I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites. I am the Lord, who makes you holy
- He will be remembered. In other words, his memorial would have served its purpose.
Psalms 145:4 (NIV) One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.
- We can eat the fruit of our lips and have life and good things.
Hebrews 13:15 (NIV) Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Proverbs 13:2 (NIV) From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence.

Proverbs 18:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. ²¹The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- What a thought, that confessing his name produces fruit that we can eat and have life. Jesus truly brings life.
- Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance!
Romans 10:13-17 (NIV) ¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ¹⁶But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" ¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.