

# “I shall be their God, and they shall be my People”



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June 2017

[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

While referring to our Creator, we often just say “God”. But there are 150 scriptures that refer to “MY God” and many more that refer to “your God” or “our God” or “our Father”, “my Redeemer” and more. This sermon is about the power that happens as we take ownership of the relationship offered us by our Abba. We pray this message will cause you to think and reword how you refer to our awesome God.

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**(Those of you who just print out notes, I do recommend you hear the audio as well as have the notes handy.)**

Warm welcome everyone to Light on the Rock. First of all, I thank 4-5 of you who have taken the time in recent weeks to encourage me. It means a lot and helps me commit to continue providing spiritual food to you my friends and my spiritual family. Thank you.

What is one of the deepest, heart-felt desires of our Father, our God? What would you say? He has many, many heart-felt desires, to be sure. The one I’ll speak of is found in Exodus 6:2-7.

## **Exodus 6:2-8; especially verse 7.**

And God (Elohim) spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am YHVH. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name *YHVH* was I not known to them? 4 I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. 5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. 6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: '**I am YHVH**'; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 **I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.**

Our GOD, Yehovah – wants to have a people who identify with HIM and He with them. He really wants the sense of family, of being part of a loving and worshipful group of faithful people.

Notice the pronouns used.... “my people” – and “I will be your God”. Our God doesn’t just say “the people”. Nor does he just say “God”. *SO often, our Creator also refers to himself as “I am YHVH YOUR God”.*

**The point of this lesson is to encourage everyone to add the possessive pronouns “my, our, your, his, her” when speaking of our God. Don’t just say “God”, in other words. Start saying “our God” or “my God”.** It’s OK to just say “God” – but this is about adding the personal pronoun once in a while and the impact it will have on how you “see” your God.

When we speak of our God, we usually just say “God”. We usually just say things like “I hope God will do this or that” or “we’re praying that God will do such and such...” I’m saying there is power in personalizing it. Say “I’m praying our God will do such and such...”

**Why? Because when we take OWNERSHIP of something or of a relationship, it gets more real, more valuable.** When we purchase OUR own home, something happens. It’s more valuable to us than just a rental apartment. The house we just bought is now “our home”.

**And PLEASE: I’m not referring to the rampant reference to our God in vain** every time someone gets excited and exclaims “Oh MY G\*\*\*”. That is so, so wrong and I hope – child of our God -- you don’t involve yourself in that at all. If you do, stop such disrespect. And yes, it is a serious sin.

When we speak of “my wife” or “our Children” – something profound is happening – contrasted to just speaking of “the wife” or “the children.”

Please note this: I have a full fledged sermon on this very topic I gave back in Dec 5, 2011. I recommend, if this shorter lesson resonates with you, that you may want to go back and hear it. <http://www.lightontherock.org/index.php/message/our-god-our-father-our-kingdom-our-city>

Our God doesn’t just want us speaking of all the “truth of God’s word” that you think you see. He wants a close relationship with you. He wants you to really know him. That’s why the first commandment of 2 big ones, according to Yeshua, is to LOVE the Lord your God with your whole heart, mind and being! He wants to know we love him. ***He wants a very, very close relationship. He wants to be your God, YOUR father, Your Savior, your Abba!***

Our God wants our HEARTS. “GIVE ME YOUR HEART, my Son...” (**Proverbs 23:26**).

This is also why **Paul** tells us that the number one goal he had in his life was this: “***that I may know him*** and the power of His resurrection” (Phil 3:9-11).

When you REALLY, really know someone -- you can become more personal, more intimate.

Is your religion dry, theoretical head knowledge, but if you’re honest with yourself, not much in the way of feeling a deep bond with your Maker and Savior? If so, you really want to turn that around.

Your religion – if it’s of God – will result in you feeling and knowing and experiencing the JOY of His Salvation, the personal connection you have, and a LOVE that goes beyond any

ability to fully explain. And of course it will also result in you taking care of widows and orphans and keeping yourself unspotted from the world (**James 1:26-27**).

So I’ve been saying and feeling – “my God”, “our God”, and “My beloved Savior” more and more and it’s becoming habit now for me to say “our God” instead of just saying “God”. My relationship with Him is getting deeper the more I say that. I’m feeling it more and more.

This is largely what the whole new covenant is about: feeling the bond with our God. *Our God’s ways are put into our hearts by His spirit...* “and I shall be their God, and they shall be my people” –**Hebrews 8:10**; Jeremiah 31:31-33.

Are we feeling our God’s heart in this? He wants to have a people who see Him as their GOD. Period. It’s highly upsetting to him to hear us speak of all creation having just evolved. Or to have people bowing down to and praying to gods of stone and wood. He wants a people who know him, know him personally, and know and love his SON.

Remember the scripture in Ecclesiastes 6:2

**Song of Songs (Solomon) 2:16 – “My Beloved is mine, and I am his.”**

Do you ever speak of Christ and our Father that way? “Yeshua is My Beloved, whom I hope to marry – the Son of God, the King of Kings. He is mine. I am His.” Do you ever talk that way?

**Song of Songs 6:3a–“I am my Beloved’s, and my Beloved is mine....”**

When you take the other side of this equation – that we are also HIS -- something profound begins to happen in our hearts if you don’t just read over it all. I think you all kinda know this—but we still just speak of “God”, or of “THE Father” – instead of “our God” and “OUR Father.”

### **GOD OF ALL THE WORLD who respond**

Let me cover a side point for a few minutes, and then we’ll get back to “our” and “my”.

*In Old Covenant times, our God was known as “the God OF Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”. Later, he was known as the God of Israel (Jacob).*

But now, in the New Covenant, our God accepts people from ALL races, ethnic groups and nations who accept Yeshua as their Savior... and now he is the God of the “Israel of God.” The true God is no longer just the God of physical Israel.

There are still too many believers who put the emphasis on the nation of modern Israel, or the descendants of ancient Israel – instead of the spiritual “Israel of God”. So I say to all you Hispanics, all you Asians – Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Indians, Pakistanis and more – you are welcome to have the living true God be your GOD now as well. Go please to **Galatians 3:26**.

***YOU –no matter who you are – are seen as a child of God through the promises made to Abraham, whether you are Brazilian, Canadian, British or Egyptian – or whatever – the true living God can be your God.***  
*The book of Galatians was written to mostly Gentile – non-Israelite – believers.*

***Galatians 3:26-29***

***“For you are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”***

*I welcome you Gentile brothers and sisters. The whole book of Romans often covers how you non-Israel believers are just as solid with God as a Jewish believer. But in fact, Jews today do not have an automatic “in” with God – UNLESS they do what you do: believe in Yeshua as being the promised Messiah! I have a couple sermons that specifically give HOPE to all you Gentiles. Be sure to write in “Gentiles” in the search button (upper left on home page).*

***Romans 3:29-3***

*“Is He the God of the Jews only? Is he not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by FAITH and the uncircumcised (Gentiles) through faith...”*

***Romans 10:12-13 –***

*“There is NO distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon him. For ‘WHOEVER calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’”*

*See also Colossians 3:11 –we’re all ONE.*

*“For by ONE SPIRIT we were all baptized into one body –whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and have been made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Cor. 12:13). And Ephesians 3:6 says that you Gentiles are “FELLOW HEIRS, of the same body, AND partakers of his promise in Christ through the gospel...” (Ephesians 3:6).*

So quit trying to be more Jewish. It’s not necessary! Speak your language. Pray in your language. Worship in your language. You be what you are – just repent though and come to Jesus Christ as your Savior, and I call him Yeshua, as you know. And neither should you be circumcised in the flesh. Don’t! Read **Galatians 5:3** if you have any question on that, and also the end of Romans 2. Don’t do it for spiritual reasons. We are circumcised in heart now.

So let’s move on. We’re talking about why we need to refer to God as “OUR God” more and more. And so you Gentiles also can claim God Most High as YOUR daddy, YOUR God, YOUR Redeemer as well.

***YOUR STORY, YOUR SAVIOR***

Our Redeemer Yeshua (Jesus the Christ) taught us this when he taught us to say, when we pray – not just “God... God in heaven...” -- no, but he said to say, “**Our** FATHER in heaven, holy is your name.” Not just “Father” – but “OUR Father”.

Something happens when we start doing this. We begin to realize the stories of our God’s love – as told by our Savior Yeshua – are all MY stories, and your stories. The Father of the Prodigal Son is God our Father. The prodigal son is – me, is I? This is about when my God, when my Father, ran to me – His son, who wants back into the loving embrace of my Dad.

The story of the lost sheep and the Good Shepherd who came to find and save the lost sheep – is about my Savior, and is about ME – the lost sheep, who was found and has life therefore. And it's also about YOUR story. And your Shepherd.

We certainly don't OWN God or have him do our bidding. I'm not saying that. **But when Yeshua came, he revealed that Yehovah was also our Daddy.** Though the concept of God being a Father was rehearsed a few times in the Old Covenant times, most of the people would have feared to think of their God as “their Dad”. That would seem disrespectful and too familiar.

So what do we find Yeshua teaching? He says, “When you pray – say “OUR FATHER in heaven”. At Yeshua's resurrection (John 20:17), he **told Mary Magdalene** that he had first to go back to heaven to be accepted by God – and notice **his wording in John 20:17**. He doesn't just say, “Hey, Mary – tell the guys I'll be back but I have to go to God first”. No ... it's much more intimate than that. And before that, Mary was upset thinking someone had “taken away MY LORD” (v 10-13). “My Lord”. Did you catch that? Then as she recognizes him, Yeshua says:

**John 20:17**

Jesus said to her [Mary Magdalene], "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

Notice he even tells her to go “to my brothers”—and I don't think he means just his family brothers James and Jude, who weren't even part of the original apostles yet, but to “the brethren” – Peter, James, John, Matthew and the others. You see, though Peter had denied Him – just like you and I often have actually – but he's not ashamed of us! We're HIS people now. Go back and read **Hebrews 2:10-11** – it says Christ sanctifies us, “for which reason he's not ashamed to call them [us too] brethren...”

Yeshua calls us HIS brothers and Sisters. He calls you His brother and sister. He calls YOU his friend. He calls you His Beloved. He loves you. He is being personal and intimate in his relationship with YOU and wants you to be personal and intimate with HIM. **Accept that fact, and go with it now.**

The apostle Paul “got this” – and so in the **famous Gal 2:20 discourse**, speaking of how Christ's life is now his, he also says this after talking about being crucified with Christ and the life he now lives is by faith in the son of God, and then he says this: “**who loved ME and gave himself for ME**”.

Do you feel that same bond that Paul had? Do you hear how he personalizes that relationship? Do you ever speak of how Christ died for YOU?

If you did, you would also speak of your Savior, your Redeemer and your God, because he did all that for YOU!

King David got the picture for sure: He often spoke of his God as being HIS strength, HIS Rock, HIS fortress... and in **Psalms 19:14** he ends the verse with “O YHWH, my strength and MY Redeemer”. There are SO many verses where King David in the Psalms speaks

also of “O LORD MY God” or “You are my God”... so many. He wanted to be sure everyone identified him with HIS God.

Do YOU ever speak of God or Christ being YOUR God, or YOUR Redeemer, MY Redeemer?

**JOB certainly did too. Job 19:25** – “For I KNOW that my Redeemer lives...”

Our spiritual life has to become much more tied in, personal, real, joyful, connected – to a Being we can call “my God”.

**There are 150 scriptures that speak of “MY God”. Point made?** Do you pray, “O YHVH MY God...?”

- Jacob said after the dream of the Ladder to heaven – if Elohim would bless him then “YHVH shall be MY God” – Gen 28:21
- Go back and read the Song of Moses in Exodus 15 after the victory through the Red Sea. In there you will read over and over about how PERSONAL Moses felt about this great Elohim/Go.  
Ex 15:2 – “The LORD is my strength and my song, He has become MY salvation; He is MY God, and I will praise him; my fathers’ God, and I will exalt him.”
- Moses told Israel he taught them the judgments “just as YHVH MY God commanded me...” Deut 4:5
- Joshua spoke of “THE LORD MY GOD” – Joshua 14:8-9
- And the **Moabiteess RUTH**, when converting to the one true religion and following Naomi back, said this to Naomi: “Your people shall be MY people, **your God shall be MY God.**” Wow, she got it! (Ruth 1:16) She didn’t just say, “I’ll worship God like you do”. No, she personalized the relationship.
- **Ezra** relished speaking of the divine intervention of the “Lord my God” (**Ezra 7:28; 9:5-6**), as did also **Nehemiah** and how “the good hand of my God” helped him (**Neh. 2:8, 12, 18; 5:19 and all through Neh 13:14, 22**).
- I don’t have time to list all of **David’s** references to “my God” – but they’re all through the Psalms. As did **Daniel** (Dan 4:8; 6:22; 9:4, 19-20). You see, for David and Daniel and Nehemiah and Ezra – they wanted everyone to know that their help came from **THEIR** GOD – NOT JUST “God”, who could have been anyone’s God.
- And certainly **Paul** did – 1 Cor. 1:4 – I thank MY God (we would probably just say, “I thank God that...” – and that’s my point).
- And certainly Yeshua – **Jesus Christ** – **did**. While being crucified, he said loudly, “MY GOD, MY God...why have you forsaken me”. And also in Revelation 3:12 – how we’ll be given the name of “My God” and the name of the city of “My God”.

So I hope you’ll start to speak of things from scripture in a personal way. Your God. Your city. Your Redeemer. Your heavenly Mt. Zion.

**Hebrews 11:13-17**

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called THEIR God,** for He has **prepared a city for them.**”

So even heavenly Mt Zion will be THEIR city, OUR city. It’s the city of God, but it’s now also OUR city. Our Kingdom (Hebrews 12:28). Our God.

I started by saying our God wants to be the God of His People. Let’s see how it ends at the end of the Book.

**Revelation 21:1-4**

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and **they shall be His people.** **God Himself will be with them and be their God.**”

So don’t just call him “God”. Call him – “MY God”, or “Our God” or “OUR Father” or “My father.” That is such a gift to be able to call the very highest Being in the entire Universe – your very own Abba, your very own Daddy, your very own God. And you be one of HIS people.

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*Be sure to let others know about this website if it is blessing you. And let me hear from some of you. I too, can use words of encouragement.*