

## Revitalize: Meeting God by Name

I enjoy reading the “Who’s New” section of the newspaper—the new arrivals—babies. My daughters and I comment on the names given to these new little people. Sometimes we are complimentary and sometimes we groan as we think of a child saddled with such a moniker. Sometimes our groans are for the teachers that have to learn to pronounce or spell the names because some of the names you see are very unique.

It’s not just ethnic names that are challenging, but how many ways can you spell Caden, Kaden, Cadan, Kadan...? And is the child a boy or a girl? And in some names I think the parents are trying to use all vowels in the scrabble board. Aaliyah is the short version, of a vowel filled name. And I really think sometimes the parents draw the seven random letters from the scrabble box to make the name! Oh the poor teachers that need to learn to pronounce Abi, Abbie, Aby or Abby!

It’s not just ethnic names to we can point to as a way to tell the culture someone is born into, but in Colorado you can also guess about parents that are part of the cowboy culture (at least with boy names) Cash & Chase are good cowboy names! And popular sports hero and celebrity names show up at certain times too, more Demarcus’ & Peyton’s (boy & girl) showed up after the Superbowl! I’m waiting for Simone (or Boomer) to show up after the Olympics!

Classic names like Daniel or Ellen seem rare some weeks. We give bonus points when the baby has the same name as a grandparent.

It appears most children are named on a whim. Sure there are some children named after family members, but names don’t mean as much in this era as they have in the past. In the past, and I’m thinking of Bible times, names had great descriptive meaning. Many of us know that the name David means beloved. And King David loved God and God loved him.

But even more important than the names of biblical people are the names of God. Jehovah, God, the great I Am has many names. In my mind I believe it is important to know God by his different names. As I have studied the names of God I learned to appreciate and love Him in different ways. And I’ll share more of that in the following weeks.

Jehovah, is LORD in most Bibles. Have you noticed the caps locked word in the Old Testament? Jehovah is the aspect of God that shows His desire to be in relationship to us. Jehovah (written YHWH in Hebrew), Yahweh is the name God uses when you say, “What is your name?”. The first time God uses that name is in Genesis 2: 4, “This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD (Jehovah) God made the earth and heaven.” Introduce yourself to God, and let Him introduce himself to you as Jehovah.

Nancy