

Names of God from the Bible

30 – Lover

All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still Lover for us today.

Reading: Song of Solomon 5:10-19

When we read the book called the Song of Solomon it is natural for us to wonder why it is included in the Scriptures. There are obvious sexual references that we may feel are out of place in the Bible. We may even feel embarrassed that the book is included and therefore avoid reading it or thinking about its content or context.

Some Bible translations even include headings that describe one set of verses as spoken by the 'Lover'. The term 'lover', over recent history, has received suspicious overtones. It has often been used for a mistress, a prostitute or other inappropriate sexual partners. Moreover, it has attracted a description of illicit excitement. Consequently, to have a 'lover' is commonly regarded as far more exciting than having a spouse. By inference, a spouse is boring and a 'lover' stimulating.

However, there is absolutely no connection between these descriptions and the subject before us today. As we consider the Song of Solomon, we see that it can relate to an intimate relationship between a man and a woman. They are, quite obviously, deeply and emotionally in love, and express the extent of their love for each other in some detail.

Nevertheless, there also appears to be a strong sense of an allegory of something far more significant. If God is love, as we shall examine later, then surely He is a lover. God created human beings to have an intimate relationship with Himself. A relationship based upon unconditional love, acceptance and trust.

The term 'lover' suggests an initiator. In human relationships, it is usually the man who initiates the relationships, whether it is a 'hook', as we say, or an invitation. It is the same with God. God is the great Initiator, not only in all creation, but particularly in relationships. By nature we are independent creatures. We want to do our own thing and rarely consider God. So God has to initiate the contact. And God did that when He came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ.

The term 'lover' also suggests passion. The love that God has for us is not a fleeting phase or an emotional rush of blood to the head. Our God is passionately in love with us. When our 'Lover', our God, says that He loves us so deeply that He would die for us, He means it. Yes, His love is as strong as death, and He proved it by going to the Cross at Calvary.

Our 'Lover', our God, is infatuated with us. Our God loves everything about you and me. Of course, He doesn't like the things we do that displease, hurt or miss-represent Him. Nevertheless, He loves us. He loves you. He made you and knew all about you before you were born. Nothing you do, say or think will take Him by surprise, and yet He loves you just the same.

There is nothing you can do that will make God love you more and there is nothing you can do that will make Him love you less.

When God looks down from Heaven at you, there is a smile on His face. There is joy in His heart. His arms are opened wide, as an invitation and welcome for you to come into His presence. Yes, He is so besotted with us that He knows how many hairs there are on our heads.

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There is nothing more God can do to show His eternal love for us than what He has already done.

He paid the price to set us free from the penalty of our sinfulness and open up the way for an intimate relationship with Him that will last for all eternity.

Yes, God is our eternal Lover. He longs for you and me to respond to His love.

What does that name mean for us today

God doesn't just know all about us; He is actually 'obsessed' with us. We are the focus of His attention and His love. He is waiting for the culmination of His plans, when we will be with Him forever.

Prayer

Father, I am overwhelmed when I consider that You love me as a Lover. Yes, I know You love me, and yet the concept that You desperately long for me to be with You for eternity to enjoy my company is mind-blowing. Please help me to respond appropriately to that awesome love. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Jeremiah 31:1-4
- Hosea 2:14-3:1

Questions

1. How do you respond to the idea that God is your lover?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?