

## **Names of God from the Bible**

### **25 – High and Lofty One**

*All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still High and Lofty One for us today.*

#### **Reading: Isaiah 57:1-21**

Both Isaiah and Ezekiel point to the fact that Satan was thrown out of heaven because of pride. Satan, it seems, was the angel who led the worship of God in heaven, that is, until he wanted all worship for himself. He wanted to be like “the Most High”. At that moment he was thrown out of heaven.

The Fall was as much about pride as it was about disobedience. Pride is the root cause of most sins, since it is pride that causes us to believe that we can live independently from God and thus do not need to surrender to His laws, commands or will.

Pride takes us from our true position of being a dependent, human creation, and transports us to the lofty position of being like and thinking like God. In reality, of course, all we have done is arrogantly made God in our image and made ourselves god in His place. We exalt instead of humbling ourselves.

Isaiah's message is as relevant to us and our world as it was when it was first given. As we read the preceding verses, we notice that the message the Lord gave through Isaiah is just as apposite for us.

Our society continues to operate both, in independence of and in opposition to God. We have forsaken the values and commandments of God and created our own morality, not realising that the mess we find ourselves in is a direct result of our turning away from God's righteousness and justice. Sadly, we just can't see it, can we?

We rejected God's standards and moral values that were based upon two commandments – love God wholeheartedly and love one another unselfishly – and we replaced them with an increasing volume of laws and regulations that stand in direct conflict with God's design and intention. And we call it progress, liberation and tolerance.

Consequently, we live in a world of locks, insurance, isolation, corruption, deceit, idolatry, fear, jealousy, injustice, escalating crime and excessive taxation, both local and national. And yet, we still regard the Bible as archaic, legalistic and irrelevant.

Just because God doesn't step in every time we rebel against Him and His ways, it doesn't mean that He doesn't see or is incapable of retribution. In a lot of ways, He doesn't need to step in because we reap the natural consequences of what we sow anyway, and we are surely reaping it now.

Being the High and Lofty One actually means that He is totally immune to our rebellious ways. We can abuse God, jeer at Him, mock Him and blaspheme against Him as much as we like – and in a lot of ways it has no effect on Him. No, it affects us. We are the ones who lose out. We are the ones who live in fear, discontent and shame – not the High and Lofty One.

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 2, *“The One enthroned in Heaven laughs!”*  
Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1: 20, *“Where are the wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is*

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*the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?"*

One of the problems with humanity is that we haven't increased in wisdom. We haven't learnt anything from history. In fact, we refuse to learn anything from history. We may have more so-called facts and statistics, but we still seem incapable of interpreting them wisely. We distort, exaggerate or manipulate them for our own purposes but the truth exposes the deceit.

God, the Creator of the Universe, is the High and Lofty One. He alone has true wisdom and insight. We would do well to listen to Him, follow His ways and put it all into daily practice.

Our plans, our priorities, our perspectives and our morals change with the most active or vocal pressure groups in society. Instead, we should submit ourselves to the High and Lofty One for, like His Name, His ways and His truth are both eternal and perfect.

### **What does that name mean for us today**

There is a source of absolute truth. The Creator of the Universe, the High and Lofty One, is the source of all wisdom and practical guidance for our daily lives. We should listen to and follow Him.

### **Prayer**

*Father, I thank You that I can turn to You, the High and Lofty One, who is eternal. I am so grateful that Your truth and righteousness are eternal and, consequently, as I follow You and Your ways, I find peace, contentment, love, joy and fulfilment. Amen*

### **Additional Readings**

- Isaiah 6:1-13
- Isaiah 52:13-15
- John 12:20-36

### **Questions**

- 1) Why did God say that He is the High and Lofty One?
- 2) How was Jesus lifted up?
- 3) How will Jesus be lifted up again?