

“From Promise to Practice”

....What is meant by God’s ‘Name’?

Ex. 3:13; 33:17; 34:6-7

God declares His great Name through His people **Gen. 22:18; Ex. 19:5-6;**

Deut. 28:1-2

Israel’s continual disobedience caused God’s name to be profaned among the nations

Ezekiel 36:23

God Must Vindicate His Great Name

The issue is God’s integrity. Israel’s disobedience made God seem what He was not.

Numbers 23:19

God’s promise still stands - Ezekiel 36:22-23

How God Vindicates His Great Name

God’s plan of reversal

Ezekiel 36:24-27

But this will come at the highest price. **Romans 3:20-26**

God's promised blessings, the proof that His Name is great, come through the death and resurrection of Jesus. **Galatians 3:14**

The Day of God's Vindication

Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8

Acts 2:14-21 - The day prophesied by Joel

1 Peter 2:9; Eph. 1:3

The Acts of God's Vindication by the Spirit

In the church, God "makes His promises work" by the Spirit

Phil. 2:13

On the Day of Pentecost, 3000 people are given a NEW HEART by the Spirit.

Acts 2:37, 42

How was God's Name to be blessed through the church?

1. God is blessed through the life of the church:

Acts: 2:44-47

The church's **devotion** to God's Word, to **Godly leadership**, to **personal sacrifice** of giving and sharing, to **ministering** in the community showed the world **WHAT ISRAEL COULD NOT**; that God is **GREAT**.

2. God's Name is shown to be great through healings:

Acts 3:1-8

Notice the effect on the nations: **verse 9**

3. God's holiness is displayed:

Acts 5:1-6

Note: **verse 11**

Notice God's accusation against Israel: **Is. 52:5**

4. Obedience to God's will elicited praise to God.

Acts 4:19-26

This was in stark contrast to Israel's obedience: **Acts 7:39**

5. The scattering of the church through persecution spreads the God's blessings to the rest of the world.

Acts 8:1

Notice that the church's scattering brings God's blessings to the nations while Israel's scattering allowed the nations to mock God's Name.

6. The church experiences the blessing of powerful praying:

Acts 12:4-6

7. The blessings of the Gospel go into all the world.

Acts 13:1-21:14

Truly in us the Holy Spirit is clearly and compellingly showing the greatness of God's Name for all to see.

...that at the Name of Jesus, every knee will bow of things in heaven, on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

God has saved us so that we should bless His great Name forever