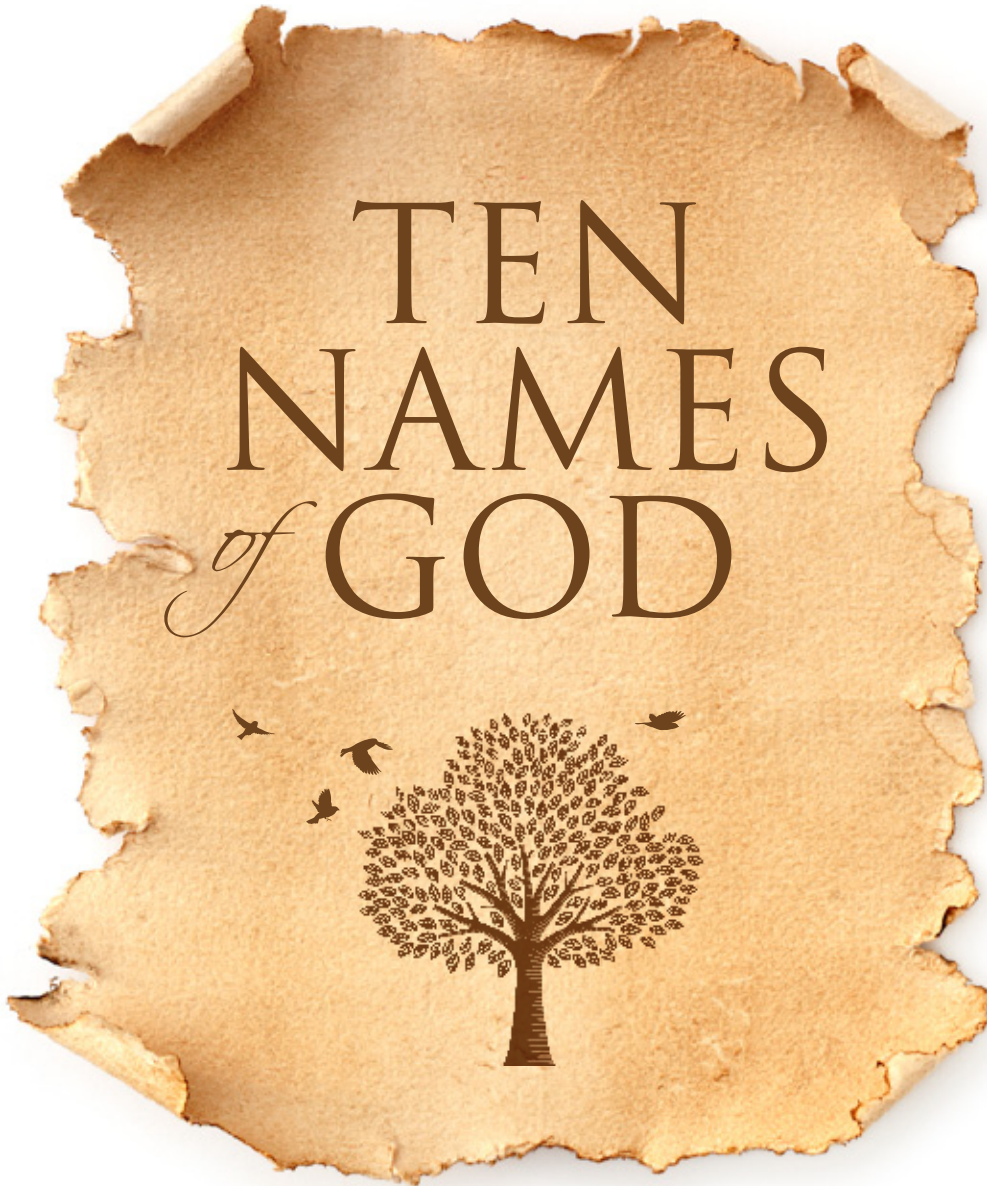


TEN
NAMES
of GOD



Ann Spangler



ELOHIM

God, Mighty Creator
(e-lo-HEEM)

THE NAME

Elohim is the Hebrew word for God that appears in the very first sentence of the Bible. When we pray to Elohim, we remember that he is the one who began it all, creating the heavens and the earth and separating light from darkness, water from dry land, night from day. This ancient name for God contains the idea of God’s creative power as well as his authority and sovereignty. Jesus used a form of the name in his agonized prayer from the cross. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH ELOHIM

A promise is only as good as the person who makes it. Sometimes young children make promises they cannot keep, like the one about eating all their vegetables if only you will please give them a candy bar right now. Lovers promise to stay together in sickness and in health until death parts them. Yet sometimes they stray. Salespeople promise the moon just to close a deal. But when it comes to making a promise and keeping it, God is not like any of his flawed creatures. He is absolutely reliable,

1 TEN NAMES *of* GOD ELOHIM

completely trustworthy, entirely able to follow through on his word. As the Creator he has infinite resources to accomplish his purposes. Remember that when you think about the following promises from his word in Scripture.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

Do you not know?

Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

ISAIAH 40:28-29

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

ISAIAH 41:10

I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

GENESIS 28:15



YAHWEH YIREH

The Lord Will Provide

(yah-WEH yir-EH)

THE NAME

The Hebrew word raah (RA-ah, from which yireh is derived) means “to see.” In this case, it is translated as “provide.” Since God sees the future as well as the past and the present, he is able to anticipate and provide for what is needed. Interestingly the English word “provision” is made up of two Latin words that mean “to see beforehand.” When you pray to Yahweh Yireh, you are praying to the God who sees the situation beforehand and is able to provide for your needs.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

(Genesis 22:13–14)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH YAHWEH YIREH

Scripture is full of the promises of God, and when we respond to him faithfully, nothing can prevent their fulfillment. That holds true regardless of circumstances. Think for a moment about Abraham’s circumstances. God had promised his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the

seashore. But how could that promise be fulfilled if the first star, the first grain of sand—if Isaac himself—were destroyed? Ironically, the promise was fulfilled precisely because Abraham was willing to act in a way that seemed contrary to its fulfillment. Had Abraham refused to obey God, he might well have forfeited the incredible blessings that followed.

True, the specific promises God made to Abraham do not apply to us in exactly the way they did to him. But the principle is the same. When it comes to the things God has promised us—wisdom, strength for our trials, a way out of temptation, and fullness of life—our obedience is key. No matter what the circumstances, we need to realize there is no limit to God’s power to do what he says—if we believe and obey.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

For in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.

DEUTERONOMY 15:4–5

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12–13



YAHWEH SHALOM

The Lord Is Peace
(yah-WEH sha-LOME)

THE NAME

Shalom is a Hebrew word, so much richer in its range of meanings than the English word “peace,” which usually refers to the absence of outward conflict or to a state of inner calm. The concept of shalom includes these ideas but goes beyond them, meaning “wholeness,” “completeness,” “finished word,” “perfection,” “safety,” or “wellness.” Shalom comes from living in harmony with God. The fruit of that harmony is harmony with others, prosperity, health, satisfaction, soundness, wholeness, and well-being. When you pray to Yahweh Shalom, you are praying to the source of all peace. No wonder his Son is called the Prince of Peace.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it
The LORD is Peace.
(Judges 6:24)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH YAHWEH SHALOM

To live in the presence of God through the power of the Holy Spirit is to be at peace—at peace with God, with others, with ourselves. He is the source of true shalom, of prosperity, harmony, safety, health, and fulfillment. No matter how turbulent our world becomes, we can be at peace, showing forth his presence regardless of circumstances.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

GALATIANS 5:22

Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding.... Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.

PROVERBS 3:13, 17 NRSV

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

ISAIAH 26:3

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the LORD.

JEREMIAH 29:11-14



YAHWEH ROI

The Lord Is My Shepherd

(yah-WEH raw-ee)

THE NAME

For at least part of their history, the Hebrews were a nomadic people who wandered from place to place seeking pasture for their herds of sheep, goats, and cattle. To sustain their livelihood, it was vital for shepherds to keep their animals from straying, protect them from thieves and wild animals, and provide them with plentiful pastures. In the ancient Near East and in Israel itself, “shepherd” eventually became a metaphor for kings. The Hebrew Scriptures speak of God as the Shepherd of his people and apply this image to religious leaders as well. The New Testament presents Jesus as the Good Shepherd, who protects the lives of his sheep by forfeiting his own life. When you pray to the Lord your Shepherd, you are praying to the One who watches over you day and night, feeding you and leading you safely on the path of righteousness.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness

for his name’s sake.

(Psalm 23:1–3)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH YAHWEH ROI

When a herd grows to a hundred or more sheep in the Middle East, its owner can often afford to hire a shepherd to watch over them. God himself had appointed shepherds to guide his people, but many of them acted like hirelings, abandoning the sheep at the first sign of danger or even leading them astray for their own selfish motives. The same is true today whenever church leaders abandon the gospel in favor of money, power, or the pursuit of pleasure. Not only does God promise to judge such false and faithless shepherds, but he promises to shepherd his people himself. That promise is fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus, the one who is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

EZEKIEL 34:15–16

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

JOHN 10:14–18



AB, ABBA

Father

(AB, AB-ba)

THE NAME

Though the Old Testament provides many rich names and titles for God, the New Testament reveals him most fully. Jesus, in fact, shocked and offended the religious leaders of his day by claiming that he had a Father/Son relationship with the God whose name they feared even to pronounce. Furthermore, by inviting his followers to call God “Father,” he made this the primary name by which God is to be known to his followers. That’s why we can boldly pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, “Our Father who art in heaven....”

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH AB, ABBA

What a stunning revelation—that God is not only Lord and Master, the Ancient of Days, the Mighty Creator, the Holy One of Israel, but also Abba. And we are his children, not by virtue of our humanity but by adoption into his family. Because of Jesus our Brother, we dare to call God Father, to count on his compassion, to depend on his provision, to lean on his love.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families,
he leads forth the prisoners with singing.

PSALM 68:5-6

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.

PSALM 103:13-14

See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

MATTHEW 6:28-32

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

LUKE 12:32

I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:18



ARNION, AMNOS TOU THEOU

Lamb, Lamb of God

(ar-NEE-on, am-NOS tou the-OU)

THE NAME

Most of us picture lambs as downy white animals frolicking in rolling green meadows or carried tenderly in the arms of their shepherd. Lambs represent gentleness, purity, and innocence. Though it is one of the most tender images of Christ in the New Testament, the phrase “Lamb of God” would have conjured far more disturbing pictures to those who heard John the Baptist hail Jesus with these words. Hadn’t many of them, at one time or another, carried one of their own lambs to the altar to be slaughtered as a sacrifice for their sins, a lamb that they had fed and bathed, the best animal in their small flock? Hadn’t the bloody sacrifice of an innocent animal provided a vivid image of the consequences of transgressing the Mosaic law? Surely, John must have shocked his listeners by applying the phrase “Lamb of God” to a living man. When we pray to Jesus as the Lamb of God, we are praying to the One who voluntarily laid down his life to take in his own body the punishment for our sins and for the sins of the entire world.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

(John 1:29)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH ARNION, AMNOS TOU THEOU

“Handwriting without Tears”[®] is an innovative program that promises to make learning to write an easy and fun experience for children and those who teach them. Great as it is, I wish someone would develop a program entitled “Childhood without Tears.” But how could they since every childhood inevitably holds its share of tears? And how could it be otherwise for imperfect people growing up on an imperfect planet?

One of my favorite lines in Scripture is the promise God makes near the end of the Bible. To those who have suffered because of their faith, he points to the day when “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes”

REVELATION 7:17.

Like a parent encouraging a child, he tells us that in the end all will be well. When the Lamb is on the throne, when every power in the universe is completely subject to him, God’s own fingers will wipe away the last of our tears. Our life in this world is nothing but a long growing up, a time of testing that stretches and shapes us toward maturity so that we can become more Christlike. If we let him, God will use our suffering to etch his character in us. And in the end, no matter how deep our sorrow, it will be obliterated by the joy of seeing the Lamb face to face.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

Never again will they hunger;
 never again will they thirst.
 The sun will not beat upon them,
 nor any scorching heat.
 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;
 he will lead them to springs of living water.
 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

REVELATION 7:16–17

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:
 “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah.

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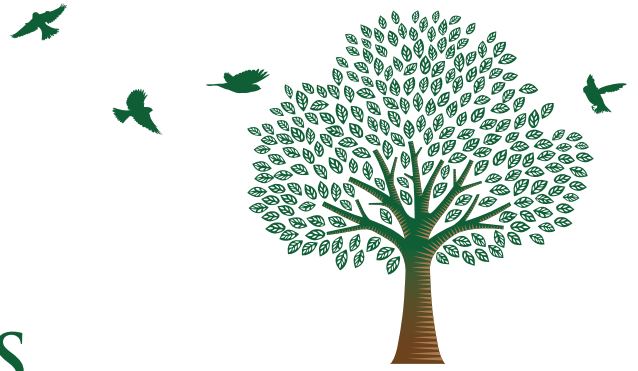
TEN NAMES *of* GOD

ARNION, AMNOS TOU THEOU

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
they did not love their lives so much
as to shrink from death.”

REVELATION 12:10–11



LOGOS

Word
(LO-gos)

THE NAME

Though God has always revealed himself in some way, the incarnation is the clearest, most compelling revelation of who God is — of his holiness, love, and power. Because Jesus is one with the Father, he is uniquely able to communicate God’s heart and mind. As Logos, or “the Word,” everything about Jesus — his teaching, miracles, suffering, death, and resurrection — speaks to us of God. Our destiny depends on how well we listen. Will we believe, or will we turn a deaf ear to the message of God’s love? When you pray to Jesus as the Word, you are praying to the One whose voice calls us from death to life and from darkness to light.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH LOGOS

Imagine a family in which the people are incapable of communicating at any level — not a touch, a glance, or a word ever passes between them. Wouldn’t they cease to be a family? How would the parents care for their children or for each other? How would the children know they were loved? Each child would be left alone to figure

out how to live in this world.

We can be thankful that God has not left us orphans but that he has brought us into his own family, communicating his love in the most eloquent and powerful way possible through Jesus, the Word made flesh. Through his actions and his words, Jesus is the perfect expression of the Father's love. As members of God's family, we need to hear his Word and obey it just as children in a human family need to listen to and obey their parents. Without obedience, we become like fools who look in a mirror and then forget what they look like, don't remember whom they belong to. Obedience shapes us into the likeness of Jesus, the Word, so that we can experience the full blessing of being part of God's family.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

LUKE 11:27–28

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Those who listen to the word but do not do what it says are like people who look at their faces in a mirror and, after looking at themselves, go away and immediately forget what they look like. But those who look intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continue in it —not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

JAMES 1:22–25



ASTER LAMPROS PROINOS

Bright Morning Star
(as-TAIR lam-PROS pro-i-NOS)

THE NAME

In the last chapter of the book of Revelation, Jesus calls himself the “bright Morning Star.” In ancient times, the morning star was thought of as a herald of the new day, signaling the dawn of hope and joy. The brightest object in the sky aside from the sun and moon, it is a fitting type for Christ, who ushers in a new day for the entire world. When you call on Jesus, the Bright Morning Star, you are calling on the One from whom all darkness flees.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

“I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” (Revelation 22:16)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH ASTER LAMPROS PROINOS

Some things never change. Imagine what bedtime must have been like a few thousand years ago. The children are snugly tucked into their corner of the cave. “Dad,” a terrified voice cries out, “something’s crawling up my leg!” “This bearskin is scratchy!” “Mom, she’s hitting me. Make her stop!” And then the inevitable: “I’m thirsty. Can I have another drink of glog . . . pleeease!” The chorus continues until their weary-to-the-bone cave parents finally assert their authority and everything is quiet but for the

rustle of a few bat wings.

Little people always seem to resist the ending of the day. Come to think of it, I sometimes stay up way past my bedtime. Maybe the problem is a primeval fear of the darkness — we resist closing our eyes lest we will never open them again. I wonder, did human beings panic when they saw the sun go down for the very first time? Were they heartened by a brilliant white light hanging low in the western sky? If so, they were probably gazing at the evening star, which just so happens to be the second planet from the sun. Yes, Venus is both the morning and the evening star, a steady brightness that reminds us of the One who lights up our darkness and chases away our gloom.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,”
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

PSALM 139:11 – 12

In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind will see.

Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy
One of Israel.

ISAIAH 29:18 – 19



YESHUA, IESOUS SOTER

Jesus the Savior
(yay-SOUS so-TAIR)

THE NAME

Just as Yahweh is God's personal name revealed in the Old Testament, Jesus is the personal name of the One we call Redeemer, Lord, and Christ. His name is intimately linked to the God of the Hebrew Scriptures because it means "Yahweh is salvation." Indeed, Jesus is Yahweh come to earth. If you have ever pictured God as a distant, wrathful Being, you will have to reconsider that portrait in light of Jesus Christ, who is God bending toward us, God becoming one of us, God reaching out in mercy, God humbling himself, God nailed to a cross, God rising up from the grave to show us the way home. Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord!

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
(Matthew 1:20—21)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH YESHUA, IESOUS SOTER

The hurricane that devastated New Orleans in the fall of 2005 left us with images we will never forget. Day after day, we saw people perched on rooftops, desperately waiting for someone to rescue them. Many of them must have wondered if their world was about to end. Everywhere they looked — death, destruction, danger. The scenes were pitiful, heartrending, frightening.

This is a powerful picture of what life would be like were it not for Jesus, who is himself the greatest of all the promises in the Bible. Even his name is a promise — Yahweh is salvation. He is rescue, help, deliverance. Remember this in your times of trial. Call on his name. Trust in his name. Live in his name. Let the name “Jesus” be the first prayer you pray in the morning and the last prayer you say at night. Jesus, the only name in which there is salvation.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the LORD our God will call.”

ACTS 2:38–39

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

JOHN 20:30–31



POIMEN KALOS

Good Shepherd
(poi-MAIN ka-LOS)

THE NAME

One of the most tender images of Jesus is one he supplied when referring to himself as the Good Shepherd. This name reminds us both of our own vulnerability and Jesus' watchful, protecting care. It evokes a sense of belonging, intimacy, and trust, revealing the Good Shepherd as the One who lays down his life for his sheep. When you pray to the Good Shepherd, you are admitting your need for his care and your confidence in his ability to watch over and protect you.

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
(John 10:11)

PROMISES ASSOCIATED WITH POIMEN KALOS

I have a friend whose young daughter is a gifted sleeper, a trait that makes it difficult for her to stay dry at night. My friend has tried all the obvious things, including pajama alarms that shriek in the middle of the night, waking everyone but her daughter. Finally, my friend decided to try a different tactic. "What fabulous reward," she asked, "would help you stay dry for thirty nights in a row?" "Baby Annabell!" was her daughter's quick reply. She wanted the doll who can burp, yawn, and make little baby snoring noises. But best of all, she told her mother, "Baby Annabell knows how to cry real tears." Unlike my friend's daughter, I find myself

10 TEN NAMES *of* GOD POIMEN KALOS

motivated by the thought of an opposite reward — a promise to end all tears. It's the promise Jesus makes to his harassed and helpless sheep — to you and to me. He tells us that a day will come when weeping will end. When sorrow will vanish. When fear will disappear. Even now, while we live in this wounded world, we can be comforted by the knowledge that the Lord himself has promised to gather the lambs in his arms and carry them close to his heart.

PROMISES IN SCRIPTURE

See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him.
See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

ISAIAH 40:10 – 11

I will make a covenant of peace with them and rid the land of wild beasts so that they may live in the desert and sleep in the forests in safety. I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing. The trees of the field will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land. They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them. They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them. They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid. I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations. Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD. You my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, are people, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.

EZEKIEL 34:25 – 31

For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
he will lead them to springs of living water.
And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

REVELATION 7:17

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