

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for Your name's sake." – **Psalm 79:9** 

In the ancient world knowing one's name was considered a privilege. Even today we have people namedropping. Our name reveals much of who we are and what we do, and so it is with God. In the Bible, the name of God is first used to refer to His Person. Secondly, the name of God distinguishes Himself as unique from all other gods, which are no gods. Thirdly, the name of God refers to God revealing Himself to us. Lastly, there is a final use of the name of God that brings together His Person, His uniqueness, and His revelation to a

climax, and that is – the name of God is used for His reputation.

When we read in the Bible about the LORD God's "name's sake" it has to do with His reputation, His preeminence, His fame, His notoriety, and His glory. The reputation that the LORD made for Himself is that He is a God who saves. From the very beginning, after the first man and woman ate of the forbidden fruit, the LORD God Jehovah made a legendary name for Himself as Savior when He clothed Adam and Eve in coats of skin. We also read of God saving Noah in the flood, God saving Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God saving Israel out of Egyptian bondage, God saving David from the hand of king Saul, and God saving the Jews out of

# It's all for His name's sake!

Babylonian captivity just to name a few. The point is that the LORD God Jehovah made a name for Himself. He got the reputation and fame of being the Savior. All through the Bible we read of historical episodes where God would go the extra mile to save the depraved and the defiled. With that understanding, it is no accident that we have God's Son, Jesus Christ, known as the Savior of the world (John 4:42). In fact the name Jesus means, "Jehovah saves."

The purpose of Jesus saving is greater than just our salvation. The dear old saints of the Christian faith understood that Jesus Christ did not first and foremost die only to save sinners. This is something that modern Christianity has forgotten or ignored. The first and foremost reason that the Son of God died on the cross was to honor God His Father's reputation as having the sovereign power to be the One and Only Savior. Involved in that, is Jesus' willingness to love the unlovely and to save His enemies (Romans 5:10). If you read John chapter 17 you will see that our salvation comes in behind the love of the Father's glory and after the love of the Son's glory. It is about God's glorious reputation. The apostle John makes this clear when he wrote, "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake" (1 John 2:12).

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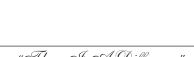
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