

# Descriptive Titles of God's People

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**Thesis:** To create a better knowledge of the characteristics, importance and purposes of the church by looking at the descriptive titles given in the Scriptures.

## ***Introduction:***

Names in the days of the Scriptures were, more so than today meaningful and descriptive in nature. Personal names (and even place names) were formed from words that had their own meaning. Thus, the people of the Bible were very conscious of the meaning of names. There was firm belief that there was an indispensable connection between a person's name and their character. (Illustrated Dictionary of the Bible)

### I. Examples:

1. Abram (exalted father) was renamed Abraham (father of a multitude) (**Gen 17:5**)
2. Isaac (laughter) was named to reflect the laughter of his mother at birth (**Gen 21:6**)
3. Esau (hairy) was so named because of his physical appearance (**Gen 25:25**)
4. Jacob (supplanter) was so named because he grasped his brother's heel (**Gen 25:26**)
5. Jacob was later renamed Israel (God Strives) because he strove with God and man and had prevailed (**Gen 32:28**)
6. Simon was named Peter – boulder off of the massive rock formation of Christ (**Matt 16:18**)
7. God revealed Himself Jehovah (I AM WHO I AM) to Moses

### II. Names are clearly used as a description of the person rather than just a designation or label.

### III. This fact is also true about the aggregate of God's people

1. The Scriptures have given us many different names and descriptive titles.
2. These titles tell us much:
  1. Characteristics of God's people
  2. Importance of God's people and our association with this group
  3. Purpose of God's people

## ***Church***

### I. The Called of God

1. (**I Corinthians 1:2**) “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours”
2. (**Acts 20:28**) “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

### II. Ekklesia – From “ek” - “out of from” “Kalo” - “Call” = “Call out”

1. More meaning than a mere assembly
2. Assembly is not a good translation of ekklesia.
3. This calling out has a greater importance than an assembly
  1. Used in reference to the State officials

2. Used in reference to a “gathering” in honor of a god.
  3. Perfect rendering of ekklesia is the English word “Church”.
- III. Descriptive of Divine Authority to our calling
1. Right to serve God – Credentials
  2. ( **I Corinthians 1:9**) “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ”
- IV. Description portrayed on God's People
1. Characteristics
    1. Called out
      1. Divine Authority
  2. Importance
    1. Bought by the blood of Christ
      1. This descriptive title shows God's desire for us to be His special people
  3. Purpose
    1. To do God's Business
    2. Ought to have the attitude of Jesus
      1. ( **Luke 2:49**) “And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? ”

## *Kingdom of God*

- I. ( **Col 1:13**) “ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”
- II. Government Description – Monarchy
  1. ( **Hebrews 12:28**) “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”
  2. ( **Luke 22:29-30**) “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
  3. ( **Matthew 16:18-19**) “<sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ”
- III. This Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom
  1. ( **Luke 17:20-21**) “<sup>20</sup> And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: <sup>21</sup> Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. ”
- IV. Description portrayed on God's People
  1. Characteristic
    1. Government – Monarchy
    2. Monarchy - “undivided rule or absolute sovereignty by a single person”
    3. Christ is King – not democracy
      1. ( **Matthew 28:18-19**) “<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. ”

2. Importance

1. Kingdom above kingdoms

2. ( **I Timothy 6:14-15**) “<sup>14</sup> That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>15</sup> Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”

3. ( **Isaiah 2:2-4**) “<sup>2</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. <sup>3</sup> And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

3. Purpose

1. We are His Subjects – under His authority

2. Need to have the attitude of Paul

1. ( **Acts 9:6**) “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”

## ***Temple of God***

I. ( **Ephesians 2:20-22**) “<sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; <sup>21</sup> In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: <sup>22</sup> In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. ”

II. Temple – Habitation of God

1. ( **I Corinthians 3:16-17**) “<sup>16</sup> Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? <sup>17</sup> If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

III. Temple – Worship to God

1. ( **John 4:23-24**) “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. ”

IV. Description portrayed on God's people

1. Characteristic

1. Habitation of God

2. Importance

1. God can only dwell in that which is holy

3. Purpose

1. Render Acceptable Worship to God

## ***Body of Christ***

- I. (**Ephesians 5:23**) “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
- II. Descriptive of the organization of God's people
  1. (**I Corinthians 12:20**) “But now are they many members, yet but one body. ”
- III. Importance
  1. A Divinely Created Organization
    1. (**Ephesians 3:9-11**) “<sup>9</sup> And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: <sup>10</sup> To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, <sup>11</sup> According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord”
- IV. Purpose
  1. Perfect Fellowship
    1. (**I John 1:7**) “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ”

## ***House of God***

- I. (**I Timothy 3:15**) “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. ”
- II. Description the family characteristics of God's people
  1. (**Ephesians 3:14-15**) “<sup>14</sup> For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named”
- III. Importance seen in the Seed – God does not have illegitimate children!
  1. (**John 3:3**) “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ”
  2. (**John 3:5**) “ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ”
  3. Must be born again before we can be in this family
  4. God has given us this ability
    1. (**John 1:12-13**) “<sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup> Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ”