

“Our” God, our Father, our Kingdom, our City

A more intimate connection

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Summary: We usually just say “God” or “Christ” or “Jesus” when speaking about the Creator or Savior. This sermon explains the importance of having a closer identification with our God and Savior. People who don’t know Yahweh often say “Oh my G--” when making an exclamation, breaking the 3rd commandment. But we of His people should be speaking of our Father and our God as “OUR” God and “OUR” – or MY- Father, my God, my Savior. The prophets and apostles did. Yeshua did. Making this one little change in the way you speak of Him will affect your relationship more than you might realize right now. This teaching explains why.

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(Note: I use the tetragrammaton YHVH or “Yahweh”, instead of “the LORD” throughout this teaching today. You may wish to hear my 2 part teachings on “What is Our Creator’s Name?” for a full explanation why.)

My son recently started a new job he enjoys immensely. I’m happy for him. Especially in the first weeks after starting his new job, he shared with us what they were doing and how exciting new projects were over there. He was beginning to feel a part of their dream and their goals.

As I listened to him speak of “their” direction, I mentioned something that bears on this message today. I said “you and I will both know you’re *really* a part of your new job when I hear you talking in terms of ‘we’ and ‘our’ and ‘us’ rather than ‘they, their, them’. I’ll know you’ve really *integrated* into the new job when I see and hear that you’re a part of the dream; that it’s your dream, your goals, it’s your company as well – and not just theirs. Then I’ll know you’re finally ‘one’ with those folks, and they consider you a part of them.”

Greetings again brothers and sisters in Messiah. This is Philip Shields with another shared message about *our* Father, *our* Savior – and yes, *our* kingdom to come. My focus on my website www.LightontheRock.org has always been “that I may know him” and coming to a more intimate walk with our Maker. This message is definitely with that in mind: developing much more intimacy with our Abba and with our Husband-to-be.

Like my son and his new job, we have also been called into a new relationship with Abba, our heavenly father. Most of you probably think you already do identify with Him and His kingdom and realize it is also your kingdom. But hear me out, for I believe this can be a life-changing message for some of you.

Today I’m going to explain how and why it is so important that we start using the terms and actually speaking in terms of “our” or “my” when speaking of Yahweh, our God – and His Kingdom as “our” kingdom and His holy city as our city. Most of us simply speak of “God” or “Christ”, or God the Father – but rarely if ever would we ever speak of “my God”. I’m saying that scriptural example is that we should at least some of the time refer to the things of God in terms of “our”.

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WHY bother with this message?

- **Until we fully identify properly with the things of Yahweh as being ours, we will hold back. We won't be giving it our all. Identification with our calling will help you grow.**

Most of us realize there is more accountability and responsibility taken when ownership is realized. Most people will take better care of their own home – than a rental home. Most of us will care more for our own children, than for children in general. And I am saying we will be more accountable to the kingdom of God and to Yahweh himself, when we understand them as ours.

Even when we were organizing a recent college reunion, I insisted that as we wrote and talked to alumni about the reunion, that we refer to it as “*your* reunion” and not “*the* reunion”. I wanted people to “own” the reunion.

- **Doing the things I mention in this message will also over time draw you closer to your God and Father.** There's just something almost supernatural that happens over time as we speak of Yahweh as “my God”. Life is all about having a closer walk with Yahweh, an intimacy. It's about coming to really know Him, as Paul says in Gal. 3:9-10, as being our God, our Savior.
- **One more reason why: we have been called to PROCLAIM Him and His name and identify ourselves with Him (see 1 Peter 2:9). When we say “my God”, we are also identifying clearly the Being we mean – as contrasted with the many other false “gods” out there.** You will see as we go along how Abraham, Moses, the prophets, the apostles used “my” and “our God” when speaking of Him.

The greatest commandment is to have a deep love for Him. That's our vertical relationship – up and down to and from Him to us. His 2nd greatest command, to love people, *will not and cannot happen properly until the first commandment, the vertical one – is in place.* The 2nd command, to love people is a horizontal command – loving those around us. First we have the vertical one – from father to us – and then we can go horizontally out to people and love them. We are not to be ashamed of our God nor hide our relationship with Him. When we just say “God” – it's not as strong an identification as saying “my God” or “our God”. In the succeeding minutes I will let you hear what so many of the prophets and apostles did and said in relationship to what I've just said.

Did you realize Yahweh wants us to think and speak of Him in terms of “*our* God” and not just “God”? Most just say “God” or “Christ”. That's not wrong, and certainly that is said and done scripturally hundreds of times as well. But I'm just focusing on how our forefathers in the faith ALSO said put the identifying “my” and “our” in their discussions about God and the coming kingdom. *This is not just a matter of semantics.* It will – over time – have a profound effect in how you view your relationship with our Father.

So let's get started.

Our God, My God, My Yahweh

Let's start with the Elohim (God) of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and Peter, Paul and John.

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Some years ago I started noticing how the patriarchs didn't just speak of "God" – but they so often used the terminology "*my* God (Elohim)" or "*our* God". I want you to listen to yourself from this point forward. I know you'll catch yourself rarely saying "our God" or "my God"—but often just saying "God".

When we say "my God" – we're isolating the One of whom we speak. When we just say "God" – well, anything can be a god. Yahweh himself often referred to destroying the elohim (gods) of Egypt, for example (Exodus 12:12 and others). So you may have noticed how in my messages over the past year, I often put a descriptive to the word "God". I'll say "the everlasting God", or "the Living God", or "my God" – all examples from scripture.

Yahweh Himself repeatedly states He wants us to be His people and wants us to accept Him as "our God". (Repeat)

Exodus 6:7

"I will take YOU as MY people, and I will be YOUR God (Elohim). Then you shall know that I am Yahweh your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."

This theme is repeated over and over by Yahweh. He so often says, "You will be my people, and I will be your Elohim (God)" -- "Take the time to read a few of these out of your own Bible: **Jeremiah 7:23; 11:4; 30:22; Leviticus 26:10; Lev. 23:33; Numbers 15:41, etc. etc.**) So yes, He wants us to know we are His, but He also wants us to know *He is ours*.

So Yahweh wants to be "my God", my Elohim. He says so, over and over and over.

My children are *my* children. My grandchildren are *my* grandchildren. But I am also *their* father and grandfather – or *their* Poppy. They are mine, and I am also theirs. I want that, I like that. So does *our* Abba. He wants a deep, deep consciousness of this mutual possession. *I am His, and He is mine.*

One Thing I'm NOT saying here

I'm not saying you "own" our God in the sense that He is to do your bidding like some kind of genie in a bottle – any more than my children owned me and could make me do their bidding, though they tried at times. And we also try that with Him at times! We constantly give our God lists of things to do, don't we? How about asking Him to give us a list of things we can do for Him?

So in fact, when we become His, and He becomes our God, there's a change of ownership. I am now His and should be seeking what HE wants in my life. My life should now reflect more and more the life of Yeshua in me. His Spirit should be evident as fruit in our lives more this year than last year and more than 10 years ago.

So when I speak of the Almighty being "my God" or "our God" – please understand: that's what HE says He wants. He wants us to think of Him as our God. But that doesn't mean we can dismiss Him as easily as we so often do.

So let's get back to the concept of "our God" and "my Master".

A great example of this comes out of John 20, as Mary Magdalene is beside herself trying to find the body of her Messiah. Do you and I ever speak of Yeshua or Jesus as being "*my* Master" or "*my*

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Lord” as we talk with people? Many of you do that much already. Some of you don’t. And fewer of you say “my God” as you speak in conversation of Yahweh.

Now let’s pick up Mary’s tenderness and her identification with Yeshua in her words. That’s my point in reading this passage. I find it very touching.

John 20:11-13

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away *my Lord*, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Jesus was *her* Master, not just “*the* Lord”. Would you, do you, speak of Yeshua as “my Lord” or “my Master”? Again, it’s perfectly OK to say “the Lord” or “The Master” – but let’s just add the word “our” once in a while.

Do you speak of Yahweh – God our Father – as “my God”? Have you ever prayed to Him and in your praying used the words “my God”?

Later in the same chapter, Yeshua continues this notion of ownership and identification by telling Mary that he had to ascend – not just to God – but He’s more specific: “to *my* God and *your* God, *my* Father and *your* father.” Do you hear the ownership?

John 20:17

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to *My Father* and *your Father*, and to *My God* and *your God*.'"

In verse 18, she goes and tells the disciples whom she had seen. Yeshua is doing several things here. He is calling His disciples “my brothers”. We are also His disciples. We are His brothers, His family members. He’s not ashamed to be identified with you and me. And he wants us to call him and our Father “our God”.

I’ll say again: My children are my children. But I am also their father. They are mine, and I am theirs. It’s the same with Yahweh. You know this, I know you know this. But I am not hearing people say “my God” and “my father” when speaking of Yahweh.

Yeshua’s own example is that He often used the phrase “the Father” – that’s true. ***But over 50 times our own Savior refers to Yahweh most High as “my Father”. Over fifty times.*** Do your own concordance search and see. That was His example, and we are to follow Him.

Yeshua also called Yahweh Most High-- “Abba” – very similar word to our “Daddy”, or “my dear Father” (Mark 14:36). Again, that was recorded for our example, and so now we too can call him Abba, and I often do.

He is also of course our Abba, our dear Father, not just a formal father, but an Abba, kinda like saying “Daddy”. Not only could Yeshua call Him Abba, but we can too (Romans 8:15; Gal. 4:6). It’s not just semantics. It’s a heartfelt deep-down realization I’m expressing here. The King of the

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Universe is my – and *your* – Abba!! We need to turn our hearts to Him and give Him our hearts as we realize the importance of this -- and not just go through rote worship. He's not *just* God THE Father – He is my Abba.

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Galatians 4:6-7

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, **crying out, "Abba, Father!"** 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, **then an heir of God through Christ.**

So the King of the Universe is also my Abba and your Abba.

Now back for a moment to using the phrase “my God” when we speak of Yahweh to others – or even when praying to Him directly. Look up “my God” in a concordance and study the examples. ***There are over 150 scriptures that use the words “my God”! And I think over 250 examples where “our God” is used.***

- Jacob, after his dream of the stairway to heaven, said basically if Yahweh will guard and take care of Him, then he would tithe to Yahweh and “Yahweh shall be *my God*” (Gen. 28:20-22).
- **Moses**, in his victory song after crossing the Red Sea, said, this:
Exodus 15:2 MOSES – after victory of the Red Sea
2 Yahweh is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation;
He is my God (El), and I will praise Him;
My father's God, and I will exalt Him.
- **Moses** so often spoke of “my God” – see Deut 4:5 for an example. “I taught you the statutes and judgments just as *Yahweh my God* commanded me...”

Let's be honest with ourselves. Most of us would have just said, “...just as God commanded me.”

- **Joshua**, in recounting how the 12 spies returned from the land and 10 of them brought back a bad report, “but I wholly followed Yahweh my God (Elohim).” (Joshua 14:8).

Again, what would we have said? Probably, “but I completely followed God”. But to Joshua it was more personal and intimate than that. He said “I followed Yahweh my God”.

- **Ruth**, in speaking to Naomi in Ruth 1:16, said “and your God shall be MY God”.
- **1 Kings 3:7-8 SOLOMON in prayer**

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Now, **O Yahweh my God**, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

Elijah did (1 Kings 17:19-22).

Isaiah often did – such as in Isa. 25:1 – “O Yahweh, you are my God...”

Have you and I EVER said that to Him in prayer?

Daniel in recounting how he survived the lions' den said “*My God* sent His angel...” He didn't just say “God sent his angel.” (Daniel 6:22). Also see Dan. 9:19-20. He's identifying it was done by His God Yahweh.

Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Micah, Habakkuk and Zechariah also used the phrase “my God” in speaking to our God or about my God.

The apostle **Thomas** called Yeshua “MY GOD” – John 20:28.

PAUL often said “My God” and not just “God”, though he did that too. See Rom 1:8; 1 Cor. 1:4; 14:8; 2 Cor. 12:21; Philippians 1:3; 4:19; Philemon 4. I urge you to read every one of those in your own Bible so it speaks to you directly and clearly.

1 Corinthians 1:4

“I thank *my God* always concerning you...”

I think we would have just said “I thank God always for you...” But Paul personalizes it again – “I thank *my God*...”

- David's use of “my God” is legion in his Psalms. Even 2 Samuel 22:7 – “in my distress I called upon Yahweh, and cried out *to my God* (Elohim)...”

Again, most of us would have simply said, “and cried out to God”, not “to my God”. Are you hearing it?

David, while praying to Yahweh, calls Him “My God”, as he talks *to* Yahweh. Have we ever, while speaking in prayer to our Father, used the words, “my Father, my God”? Start to! Start saying it. Over time you'll feel something deeper happening in your heart.

Ps. 3:7 – “Arise O Yahweh, save me, **O my God** (Elohim)!”

Ps 5:2 --Give heed to the voice of my cry, **My King and my God**, for to You I pray.

Ps. 30:2 -**O Yahweh my God**, I cried out to you and you healed me.

Ps. 43:4 “...on the harp I will praise you, O God **my God**”. (Read all 5 verses)

Have we ever prayed, in a prayer to Father, said the words, “O Yahweh my God” or “O my heavenly Father, my God...”? Let's start. You'll all feel something happen in your hearts. There are over 140 *more* examples I could use.

Take ownership. Our Abba will like that. Yahweh Most High will love the fact that you WANT Him to be your Father. He'll really like it that you say “Our Father” when you talk to Him. Sure,

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we are thrilled that HE accepted us. As any father knows, we dads are also thrilled when we see our kids like US as their father too.

Is he *your* Lord and Master? Do you ever refer to Yeshua as “*my* Lord and Master” in conversation – or would you say “*the* Lord” or maybe even simply “Christ” or “Messiah”?

Now let’s move into another area where Abba wants us to grasp another area that is really ours. It’s the kingdom of God. It’s His kingdom, but it must be more and more OUR kingdom too.

Kingdom of God, our kingdom, my Kingdom, your kingdom

True: Yeshua taught us to pray, “*Our* Father in heaven, holy and sacred is your name, may *your* kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven....”

Yes, we all know, it’s “the kingdom of God”! That’s all true.

(Very interesting: as I’m writing this I have background music playing instrumentally, right now, for the song “May your kingdom come, may your will be done...” I believe by the Maranatha singers. Of course it is a direct quote from the “Lord’s Prayer”. But let’s go on.

It’s also the Kingdom of Messiah, or the Christ

Abba wants His family to know this is also their kingdom. So the first thing Yahweh Most High does is to share His kingdom with His Son, the one we know as Yeshua (or Jesus the Christ). When was the last time you used the phrase “**the kingdom of Christ** or Messiah”?

Ephesians 5:5

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance ***in the kingdom of Christ and God.***

The book of Hebrews – I think chapter 3 – talks about Yeshua being master of the House. Yeshua spoke parables about a nobleman leaving to receive a kingdom and then return. He’s speaking of Himself receiving our Father’s kingdom.

Luke 19:12

Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to ***receive for himself a kingdom*** and to return.

Daniel 7:13-14

13 "I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

14 Then ***to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,***
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

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And it's also OUR kingdom too

Luke 22:28-29

28 "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. 29 *And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me...*

Matthew 25:34

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, **inherit** the kingdom **prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:

Luke 12:32

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure ***to give YOU*** the kingdom.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, ***since we are receiving a kingdom*** which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Daniel 7:25-27

25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law.
Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever.

27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

So whose kingdom is it? Father's! Who's HE giving it to? His children! So whose is it?

I don't own the USA – but it is MY country. I am American. In the same way, it is God's kingdom, but it is also *my* kingdom and your kingdom, I think even more so than America is my country. Has that really sunk in?

As we speak to one another, let's once in a while at excitedly speak of "*our* kingdom" – not just "*the*" kingdom. We're co-inheritors with Christ. Of course it's our kingdom as well.

Remember what I said about the conversation with my son, about speaking in terms of "us, our" when talking about his company – the place where he works? Well, that has to apply to us too.

Remember Joshua, as Moses was handing over the baton for Joshua to carry on? What did Yahweh inspire Moses to tell him? See it in Deut. 31:7, 23 and again directly from Yahweh in John 1:6-9: "Be strong, be of good courage – and enter the land boldly. Don't be afraid. Yahweh will be with you everywhere the sole of your feet step."

He's saying the same to us. This is your kingdom. Go in, possess it, identify with it, call it yours.

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JERUSALEM ABOVE – CITY OF GOD, but also CITY OF THE BRIDE.

Right now the kingdom of God is headquartered in heavenly Jerusalem. We think of it as the city of God. But Scripture actually calls the whole city “the Bride”. Why? Because that’s where the Bride of the Son of God will live. Yeshua went to prepare a place for us and then to return. Listen to my teaching titled “I Go Prepare a Place for You”. That’s all real clear in John 14:3.

We will reign *on the earth* with our husband Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of God, king of Kings. We will reign on the earth, but I also believe our home will be the Heavenly Jerusalem. We will be able to zip back and forth at the speed of making a decision, at the speed of thought. The new earth will have many cities on it, but the city of heavenly Jerusalem which comes down from heaven to the new earth (Rev. 21-22) will be the headquarters city where the Bride of the King of Kings will live.

Whose city is it? Its builder and maker is God. But who is He building it for?

Hebrews 11:8-10

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 *for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. *Therefore God is not ashamed to be called THEIR God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

Hebrews 13:14

For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

Do we think of Heavenly Jerusalem as “our” city? Do we?

So let’s wrap this up. Make a full commitment to be integrated into the kingdom of God as your own kingdom.

Hebrews 2:11-12

For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are all of one*, for which reason **He is not ashamed to call them brethren**, 12 saying:

"I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

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"I will dwell in them and walk among them.
I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

17 Therefore

"Come out from among them *and be separate*, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

***18 'I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.'***

Isn't that awesome? IS Yahweh your God? Do people know Yahweh is your God? Do you call Him your God?

My God, my Savior, my King – is also *my* brother.

My Creator, my Yahweh, *my* Elohim – is also *my* Father.

My Master, *my* Redeemer, my Maker, my God whom I worship – is also my friend. He is my all.

I am His. And He is mine.

And I am *my Father's* son, my Savior's brother. I am my Maker's child – and I am *His* friend.

Are you hearing the two sides of this "ownership". I am His child and I worship Him, -- and He is *my* God.

Just start saying "my" and "our" more often in terms of our kingdom, in terms of our Father, our heavenly city, our Life, our Savior – rather than just speaking of "THE" kingdom and "the" Father.

Yahweh is my Yahweh, He is my Elohim, and God *the* Father is God *my* Father. *And I am His.* Yeshua is the Messiah. True. But He is also my Yeshua, my husband-to-be (God willing), my Beloved, my King, my God, my master, my Savior and *my* Messiah.

I'd love to hear us speaking more and more of "our God" and "our kingdom" to one another. ***I think it will also have the effect of drawing the children of our Father – you and I - closer together*** to one another too when we realize, by the very choice of words we use, that we're in this together.

In the **Song of Songs 6:3**, I love the way it is stated:

"I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine..."

In a nutshell, isn't that what this whole message has been about?

Amen and amen. Hallelujah, praise Yah forever and ever.

Shabbat shalom. Have a peaceful Sabbath.