

# **THE NATIVE NAMES FOR GOD**

By Reverend Tom Claus

Native name giving is a respected and joyful occasion. Usually an elder is given the honor to select a name for a newborn child. Some families have a dedication service with prayers and a feast to honor their child. A new name is sometimes given to soldiers to honor them for their courage and valor. Visiting dignitaries are often given a name in recognition of their talent and position. There are a few elders who may receive as many as three or four names in celebration of their outstanding leadership and dedicated service to their people.

In the Bible we see where the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Beloved Son, has been given more than 300 names and titles. He has been highly honored not only by God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, angels, His disciples and believers, but by our Native People today. Here are just a few of the beautiful Indian names ascribed to our Blessed Lord.

## SEMINOLE TRIBE

The Seminole Indians live in the Everglades of Florida. The name for God in the Seminole language is “Feshahkeek-omeehche” which literally means “Breath Giver.” This name truly describes what God did in the Garden of Eden. We read in Genesis 2:7, “And God created man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being.”

Here in the Gospel of John 1:2-3, we read where the Lord Jesus Christ from the very beginning was involved with the Father in the creation of the world, man, woman, animals, birds, fish and the entire universe. He was the “Breath Giver” in creation and then became the “Eternal Life Giver” when He died on the cross and rose up from the grave. In John 10:10 Jesus said, “I came that they might have life, and a great full life.”

## NAVAJO TRIBE

The Navajo tribe is the largest of the 558 tribes in the United States. They live on a reservation that covers an area in three states: Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Their language is still widely spoken by their tribesmen.

The name for God in the Navajo language is “Di-yin” which literally means “Holy One.” This name clearly describes the perfect, sinless, holy Son of God. In Isaiah 6:3 it is written that the angels in heaven call out to one another praising God and saying, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of all, The whole earth is full of His shining-greatness!”

God’s holy, sinless nature demanded a perfect sacrifice for sin, but there was no human being on the face of the earth who could qualify for that perfect sacrifice. In II Cor.5:21, we read where Christ came into this world to be that perfect sacrifice, “Christ never sinned but God put our sin on Him. Then we are made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.” Then again in John 3:16, we read, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Whoever puts his trust in God’s Son will not be lost but will have life that lasts forever.” Jesus was the “Holy One” who paid the price for the sins of every tribe and language and people and nation. (Rev. 5:9)

## CHEYENNE TRIBE

There are two bands of Cheyenne Indians, the Southern Cheyennes in Oklahoma and the

Northern Cheyennes in Montana. The name for God in the Cheyenne language is “Ma’ Heo’ o” which literally means “Sacred Power.” This name vividly describes the greatness of God. The Bible tells us that He is all powerful, all knowing, and He is present in all places at all times throughout the universe. His sacred power, knowledge and presence is unlimited. (Matt. 28:18, John 16:30, Matt. 18:20)

When Job spoke to God about His power in Job 42:2, he said to God, “I know that You can do all things. Nothing can put a stop to your plans.” Then in Acts 9, when Saul saw the great power of God on the road to Damascus his life was completely transformed from Saul the persecutor to Paul the preacher. Paul gave his testimony in Romans 1:16 when he said, “I am not ashamed of the Good News. It is the power of God. It is the way He saves men from the punishment of their sins if they put their trust in Him.”

Then in Ephesians 1:19-21, we see where Paul prays for all the believers when he said, “I pray that you will know how great His power is for those who have put their trust in Him. It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. This same power put Christ at God’s right hand in

heaven. This place was given to Christ. It is much greater than any king or leader can have. No one else can have this place of honor and power. No one in this world or in the world to come can have such honor and power.” Christ’s sacred power is available to everyone today.

## MOHAWK TRIBE

The Mohawk Nation is a member of the Six Nations and the Iroquois Confederacy in New York State and Canada. The oldest church in Canada is the Mohawk Chapel built near Brantford, Ontario and was given as a gift to the Mohawks by Queen Victoria of England.

The name for God in Mohawk is “Rawenni:io” which literally means, “He speaks truth.” This name beautifully describes our Blessed Lord. First, in John 1:1 He is called, “The Word.” He speaks truth because He is God’s living Word. Then in John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one can go to the Father except by Me.” He not only speaks truth, but He is Truth. In Hebrews 6:18, it says, “God cannot lie.” Listen to Jesus when He says; He is the Only Way to the Father, He is the Truth that will set you free, and He is the Life that is eternal. In John 1:12, we read, “He gave the right and the



power to become children of God to those who receive Him. He gave this to those who put their trust in Him.” Open your heart and trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior today.

Pray this prayer with all your heart: “Dear Lord Jesus, I know You are God’s eternal Life Giver. I know You are God’s Holy One. I know You are God’s Sacred Power. I know You are God’s Truth. I know you died for me. Please forgive me of all my sins. I accept you now as my Lord and Savior. Amen.”

If you prayed this prayer, contact CHIEF and they will pray for you and send you a list of discipleship Bible studies that will help you grow in your new life in Christ. Write to: