

## **Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 2/22/10**

*The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson*



### **Thought of the Week:**

God's Glory is Declared in His Name, Yahweh, "Our Redeemer the Self-Existent One"

### **Verse of the Week:**

Before Me no god was formed, nor will there be one after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from Me there is no savior. Isaiah 43:10-11

Reserve guard Ron Morse hit a running, off-balance shot that rolled around the rim and dropped in as time ran out in overtime, giving his father's Fort Hays State team an 82-80 victory and the 1985 NAIA National Championship! "It's a thrill for me to see what he did," stated an obviously proud father/coach Bill Morse after the game. Son Ron had certainly redeemed the game and won the national title for his father and for his team!

The Son of God has made redemption possible for sinful man, to the glory of His Father! The name Yahweh reveals much about His redemptive role.

Yahweh, God's personal name, is the most frequently used name of God in the Old Testament (6,823 times). Yahweh is the expression of who God is. This name illustrates the fact that the names of God often overlap each other in their meaning. Derived from the Hebrew verb havah, which means "being," the name Yahweh is also associated with the deliverance of God's People. Yahweh is the self-existent One who in Himself possesses permanent life. He is the great I AM who stands alone in existence and depends upon no other. Yahweh is also associated with His deliverance (redemption) of His people from sin and the consequences of sin. Therefore, the other primary meaning of the name is "our Redeemer." Any time we find the name GOD or LORD printed in all capital letters in our English translations of God's Word, the original name in Hebrew was written Yahweh. This name was so sacred to the Jews that they scrupulously avoided even pronouncing it! Often they would simply refer to it as The Name. The death penalty was imposed for blasphemy of The Name (Leviticus 24:16). For these reasons, the actual pronunciation of the name God gave Himself has been lost! Today, we aren't exactly sure how to speak that wonderful name!

When the name Yahweh is first used in Scripture (Genesis 2 and 3), the name Elohim is added, except where the woman and the serpent speak. The adding of Elohim acknowledged His power and authority, but left out the fact that He is righteous and must judge sin! Not until after the redemption of Israel from Egypt was the full significance of the name Yahweh revealed to them. In Exodus 6:2, God said to Moses, "I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty [El Shaddai], but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them." The Hebrew word for Lord sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew word for I AM. In verses 6-8, the Lord [Redeemer] promised to use Moses to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt. It was here they learned about His redeeming character, a lesson they never forgot! In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses writes, "Hear O Israel: The Lord [Yahweh] our God [Elohim], the Lord is one." God's covenant people (Israel) were commanded to love the Lord (their Redeemer) their God (Elohim, One who had all power and authority) with all their heart, soul, and strength. What a wonderful description of an awesome God! He is a redeemer [Yahweh] who is powerful [Elohim]. How tragic if He were a redeemer who had no power to deliver on His promises! That wouldn't be good news at all. But He does have the power to fulfill His promises to redeemed mankind! We can fully trust our self-existent Redeemer.

Time Out:

- (1) From what has Yahweh (our Redeemer) delivered you?
- (2) How are God's people to love the Lord their God?
- (3) Consider what our lives would be like if our Redeemer had no power to save and keep us. Or if He had the power but not the desire to save and keep us. Praise God that He has both the power and the desire!