

Peepholes into God
(Context: Psalm 22:1–31.)

*I will proclaim Your name to my brothers;
In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.* (Psalm 22:22. See also Hebrews 2:12.)

One rainy day during a childhood family vacation, we visited a museum that featured a doll's house. My sister was enthralled. I pretended boyish boredom. But that doll's house stamped my memory. It was gigantic. A craftsman had made it for a young girl who lived in a British stately home that is probably the setting for historical dramas now. The doll's house would fill the average living room—a palatial toy for a duchess' daughter.

Hundreds of windows spring to mind. They were two inches high by an inch wide, with dozens on each side of the five-storey house. Peering through each opening, one could see the details of a room: tiny chairs, tables, four-poster beds, pictures on the walls, little rugs, miniature cats, bowls, cups, lamps made from flashlight bulbs—everything a young (and horribly spoiled) madam would need. The windows revealed the luxurious dream world of a lavish childhood.

The names of God are like those windows—peepholes into the character and activities of God. A wall of names expresses His greatness, might, power, and supremacy; another tells of His love for humankind manifested in His desire to deliver and redeem. Several names speak of His creativity and His sustenance of His creation. Many names provide insight into His eternal nature. He is a defender and protector who reveals His wrath against ungodliness and injustice. The basement foundations of His nature are visible through His names—His holiness and righteousness and His universal position as Lord and King. But He is not a God behind high walls, with security bars blocking all access. He is the God who delights in relationships with people and allows Himself to be called the God of individuals and groups.

Jesus came and fulfilled Psalm 22. He showed us in the flesh the Character behind the names. Now we can understand the names of God as windows flung open, inviting everyone to know Him. And God's names do not open onto a lifeless dream; “names are verbal handles—handles for relationships.”¹ They invite us into a relationship with a Living God.

Does your life have peepholes for people to see aspects of the nature of God?

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¹ John Avery, *The Name Quest—explore the names of God to grow in faith and get to know Him better*, (Morgan James Publishing, 2015), 9. Used with permission. This piece first appeared on www.NamesForGod.net.