

## **WHO is YHWH?**

It is said that every time Alexander the Great besieged an enemy city that he would place a burning torch in the ground before the gate of the city. This meant that everyone who came out as long as the torch was burning obtained mercy and lived. But when the torch went out, everyone who remained in the city when it was attacked would be killed with the sword.

This illustrates a window of grace before judgment comes. This is typically how God works as seen in the case of Pharaoh.

### **Exodus 5:1–2 (NKJV)**

**1** Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, “Thus **says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let My people go**, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.”

**2** And Pharaoh said, “**Who is the Lord**, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? **I do not know the Lord**, nor will I let Israel go.”

This is the first time that God is spoken of as the “LORD God of Israel” and it comes on the heels of the revelation of combining His Name YHWH with “I AM” as seen in Exodus 3 (cf. Ex. 3:14-15) and on the revelation that Israel was His firstborn son as seen in Exodus 4 (cf. 4:22-23). God, from the start of this confrontation with Pharaoh is clearly and intimately identifying Himself with Israel.

From here on out in Biblical history we note this connection. God reveals Himself to the world via His people Israel. This is God’s chosen method of revelation. If you want to know about the true God, He will be found in relation to Israel; and then by extension today, through the Church. But everything builds on the foundation of Israel.

Exodus 5:2 presents the crux of the issue, as seen in the remainder of the book; yea, and throughout the rest of the entire Bible. This is the classic question: “**Who is the LORD?**” Literally, “Who is YHWH?” Who is this God that has so identified Himself with Israel?

Ironically, this challenging question of, “Who is the LORD?” would be answered in the plagues found in chapters 7 through 12 (cf. Exodus 7:5, 17, 8:10, 22, 9:14, 29, 10:2, 11:7, 12:31-32).

This whole confrontation is essentially about the issue of God’s LORDSHIP. Exodus is a book about LORDSHIP. The issue of WHO THE LORD IS still the major issue before the world today.

From Exodus 5 through 7:13, Pharaoh is challenged without plagues. God gave him space and opportunity to respond positively. When Pharaoh rejects this gracious approach, the plagues come hard in chapters 7:14-12:36.

This is God's pattern. He speaks and gives people space to respond. If they persistently reject, harsh judgment follows.

Right now, the door of GRACE is open, but one day, JUDGMENT will come to a Christ-rejecting world.

**2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (NKJV)**

**1** We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

**2** For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

**Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)**

**30** Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

**31** because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."