

YHWH – GOD’S SACRED COVENANT NAME

A. Background

Genesis: The Book of Beginnings

The Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Exodus: The Calling of Moses

B. God Defines Himself!

- Ex. 3:13: Moses asked: WHAT is God’s Name?
- Ex. 3:14: God’s Response: “I AM WHO I AM”.
 - a. **I AM** means “to be”. (Eternal, Self-existent, Self-sufficient, Unchanging, Unique, Sovereign)
 - 1) “I AM” is a Most Important Name
- Ex. 3:15: “YHWH” is God’s “forever” Name!
 - a. The Name “**YHWH**” also means “to be”.
 - 1) “I AM” and “YHWH” are used interchangeably in Ex. 3:14-15.

v. 14 – God says, “I AM WHO I AM.”

v. 14 – Moses is to communicate: “I AM has sent me to you.”

v. 15 – Moses is to communicate: “YHWH... has sent me to you... This is My name forever”.

* The self-existent – eternal I AM is YHWH. This is His eternal Name by which He is to be known through all generations.

- b. YHWH was considered to be God’s most sacred Name by the Jews (cf. Ex. 20:7).
- c. YHWH is God’s COVENANT Name, forever associated with the Abrahamic Covenant and His covenant relationship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - 1) YHWH is eternal and unchanging in CHARACTER/NATURE
 - 2) YHWH now has an eternal & unchanging relationship with Israel (cf. Mal. 3:6).

C. Conclusion: God’s eternal Name is “I AM/YHWH”, which is forever connected to Israel in covenant relationship. Thus, YHWH is His eternal covenant Name. It speaks of God’s unchanging faithfulness. To say that God is done with Israel is the height of blasphemy because it denies that He is ever the unchanging faithful covenant God He has revealed Himself to be.

- The DEEPER meaning of I AM/YHWH (cf. Ex. 6:3).

Exodus 6:3 (NKJV)

3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them.

1. He is the self-existent, eternal God.
2. He is in an eternal covenant relationship with Israel.
3. This is His eternal NAME, signifying eternal covenant faithfulness.
4. This is how God is to be remembered throughout time.
 - a. Exodus 6:6-8 presents a 7-fold “I will” emphasis, indicative of God’s covenant relationship with Israel, showing the significance of His Name YHWH.

Exodus 6:6–8 (NKJV)

6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am the LORD; **I will** bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, **I will** rescue you from their bondage, and **I will** redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

7 **I will** take you as My people, and **I will** be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

8 And **I will** bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and **I will** give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.’ ”

D. 7 “I AM” statements applied to Jesus in the gospel of John.

- 1) I am the Bread of Life – cf. 6:35; 2) I am the Light of the World – cf. 8:12; 3) I am the Door – cf. 10:7, 9; 4) I am the Good Shepherd – cf. 10:11, 14; 5) I am the Resurrection and the Life – cf. 11:25; 6) I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life – cf. 14:6; 7) I am the True Vine – cf. 15:1, 5.

John 8:24 (NKJV)

24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, [*He* is italicized showing it was added by the translators] you will die in your sins.”

John 8:58–59 (NKJV)

58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

- Jesus is the ETERNAL “I AM”, as revealed to Moses in Exodus 3. As such, He is the full and final revelation of God (cf. Heb. 1:1-2).

To truly believe in Jesus is to believe in Him as the eternal God. And it must be personal, as in “My Lord and my God!” (Jn. 20:28)