

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

What is His Name?
(Exodus 3:13-15)

The Name of God

What is in a Name?

- in Hebrew names were common nouns and verbs (e.g. "Isaac")
- names reveal meaning, character, essence, personality

The most important name in the Bible:
God's Name!

The Name of God

Context:

➤ God's response to His people's cry

- He *heard, remembered, saw, knew*
- He "came down"
- He promised: "I will be with you"

Reveals God's "relatedness" to His people

The Name of God

Moses' Question:

- 1) He was asking about the essence of God's character and nature
- 2) While God has many descriptive titles, He has but one name
- 3) This name was used prior to Moses, but its meaning is now being revealed

The Name of God

God's Answer:

1. 'EHYEH

- "I AM who I AM";
- "I AM has sent me to you"

2. YAHWEH

- "The LORD...has sent me to you"

The Name of God

1. Hebrew Root Word:

ה' ה (HaYaH) = "to be"

2. 1st Person Impf. Sing. of *hayah*

ה' ה א ('eHYeH) = "I am/will be"

3. 3rd Person Impf. Sing. of *hayah*

ה ו ה' (YaHWeH) = "He is/will be"

The Name of God

“Yahweh” (YHWH) is God’s Name

- meaning = “He is” or “He will be”

“Jehovah” (a hybrid word)

- same Hebrew letters: YHWH (JHVH)
- vowels for “adonai”
- not a Hebrew word

The Name of God

The Significance:

1. God’s absolute existence

- self-existent – not determined or caused by anything outside Himself
- eternal – no beginning or end (“the One who always is”)

Everything derives its being and meaning from Him!

The Name of God

The Significance:

2. God’s active existence

- “I will be” – points to His relatedness to His own people
- His eternal existence is related to His covenant faithfulness for our good

Yahweh is God’s covenant/memorial name

The Name of God

Forward-Directed: Jesus

1. Jesus (Yeshua) – “Yahweh saves”

- Jesus is the fullest expression of the meaning of Yahweh
- He is the coming down of God to provide ultimate deliverance for His people

The Name of God

Forward-Directed: Jesus

2. Jesus’ Own Claim

“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM.” (John 8:58)