

JEHOVAH: THE SELF EXISTENT ONE

HEALER



God's names are revelations of His character and so to know them is to come to know Him more. "Of all the names of God, Jehovah is the name most frequently used in the Old Testament. This name is derived from the verb *"havah"* - meaning to be, to become. Thus when we read the name Jehovah or LORD in capital letters, in our Bible, we think in terms of "being" or "existence and life"... the One who Himself possesses essential life, permanent existence." Kay Arthur, *Lord I Want To Know You* p55. Let's explore this name and through it come to understand the heart of God.

Exodus 3:1-6,13-15

¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

"I AM", "the LORD", "Jehovah", are all based on the verb "to be" and refer to God as the eternal self-existent One. He is always all that He is - fully present and not changed or diminished by time.

Read Exodus 3:1-6. Mark the LORD with a  and mark Moses (incl. pronouns) with a 

V1-3 Where was Moses and what did he see?

V4-6 Who does Moses encounter in the bush?
How does God describe Himself?

How does Moses respond to this encounter?

God tells Moses that He has heard the cry of His people and He is sending him to lead them out of slavery. Moses has some reservations!

Read Exodus 3:13-15. Mark God with a 

V13 How does Moses refer to God here? Where was his focus with regards to time?

V14 What name does God give Moses to use to introduce Him to the Israelites? How does this name shift the focus of time?

V15 How does God describe Himself?

How long will His name I AM last for?

What does this tell us about God, and how was this represented in the burning bush in v2 above?

Exodus 33:18-19a

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.'"

Exodus 34:5-9

⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. ⁹ And he said, "If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

Numbers 14 : 17-19

CONTEXT - 10 spies have returned from Canaan and brought a bad report. The people grumbled against the LORD in unbelief and God's anger against them has been kindled as He moves to judge them with pestilence. Moses intercedes.

¹⁷ And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying ¹⁸ 'The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.' ¹⁹ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

So what is Jehovah like? Moses is interceding for the people after they had sinned through worshipping the golden calf. (Ex.33:12-23) He makes a final request from God.

Read Exodus 33:18-19a. Mark pronouns that refer to God with a 

What is Moses request?

How is God going to show Moses His glory?

Moses goes up the Mountain and waits on God with the 10 commandments in his hand. This is the same mountain we read of in Ex. 3:1-6,12.

Read Exodus 34:5-9. Mark the LORD with a  and mark Moses with a 

V5 What 3 verbs are used of the LORD?

V6-7 As the LORD proclaims His name, how does He describe Himself? Note each detail and reflect on each one.

V8-9 As Moses stands before the LORD with the Law in his hand, how is his response appropriate to what God has revealed about His name?

Reflect on how God reveals Himself to Moses. This name - Jehovah - became a strong tower for many to run into in various times of trouble.

Read Numbers 14:17-19. Mark LORD with a 

On what basis does Moses intercede for the people he has been called to lead?

What can we learn from this about the name of the LORD being a strong tower that the righteous can run in to in times of repentance?

Numbers 14:20 tells us. "Then the LORD said, "I have pardoned according to your word.""
Further study read Joel 2:12-14, Jonah 4:1-4.

Lamentations 3:21-24

²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

John 8:56-59

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

John 6:16,18-21a

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea...
¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat,

John 18:4-6

CONTEXT - Jesus is in Gethsemane and guards have arrived to arrest Him.

⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵ They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Jeremiah writes a lament when Jerusalem was destroyed and God's people went into exile. In his grief what can bring him consolation?

Read Lamentations 3:21-24. Mark "I" with a ○ and mark LORD (plus pronouns) with a △
V21 In his distress, where does Jeremiah set his mind?

V22-24 What attributes of the LORD bring hope?

What can we learn for our times of distress?

The Jews had many debates with Jesus, challenging his claims and identity. One day they discussed him calling God "father". Listen to Jesus response.

Read John 8:56– 59 mark Jesus and pronouns that refer to Jesus with a □

V56-57 What is the issue they are discussing?

V58 What is Jesus claiming by His answer?

V59 What does the Jews response indicate?

Jesus claims to be I AM - the God who revealed Himself to Moses. In the next two incidents, the phrase "it is I" can better be translated from the Greek as simply "I AM".

Read John 6:16,18-21a and John 18:4-6.

Discuss each situation - what is going on?

How does Jesus reveal Himself and demonstrate who He is? Note the different responses? Why?

How do you think that knowing Jehovah - the never changing self existent God - can be a strong tower for you in different seasons of your life?

REFLECTION—Read Psalm 103 and mark the words "steadfast love". List what you learn. How do you think the Psalmist has been impacted by understanding the name Jehovah?

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

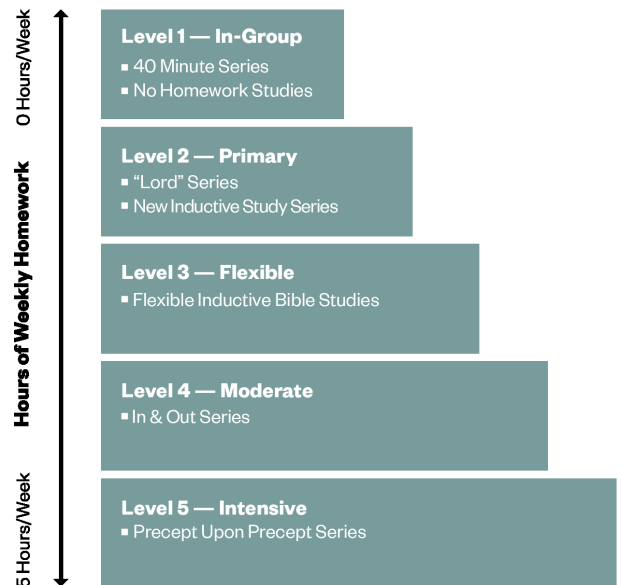
Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

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