

Developing a Sturdy Faith

Part 3 - Who is God?

Opening

- Our studies are based around “Secret Church” – David Platt

Do you know Him?

 **Psalm 46:10**

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

The Message so Far

The dangers of not knowing who God is.

Can we know God?

How do we know God?

God is very into His name.

Having a High / Low view of God

We need to have a high view of God – to see Him as He really is.

 **Isaiah 55 (NKJV)**

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

In order to understand God, we tend to have a low view of God – and this is when we force Him into what we can understand, or consider reasonable, or palatable. That’s when He begins to look like and think like us.

When we know God

- Routine religion is no longer tolerable
- Casual Worship is No Longer Possible
- Total Surrender is No Longer Optional
- Global Mission is No Longer Negotiable

Here’s the plan

We’re going to track like this:

1.  The names of God
2. The attributes of God: His greatness & His goodness;
3. The mysteries of God: The Trinity & Question of God and Evil

The Commandments

1. Command 1 - put God first

 ***You shall have no other gods before Me.***

2. Command 2 - do not diminish God by diminishing our view of him

 ***You shall not make for yourself a carved image***

3. Command 3 - we must not use God's name for unholy purposes

 ***You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.***

The Hebrew Mind

The Essence of Blaspheming God's Name

God is Very into His name!

The Various Names of God

You have lots of names listed for God in the Bible –

-  proper names
- personal names
- descriptive names
- titles

Ancient of Days | Alpha & Omega | Beginning & the End | Blessed Hope | Consuming Fire | Father

The Proper Names of God

Elohim

Elohim means: “God” - it is the plural of “El” which means “God”

In Scripture represented as “God”

- most widely used name for God - used over 2,700 times
- emphasises His **power** as **creator** over all things
- Genesis 1 uses Elohim 32 times (“In the beginning God created ...”)
- we see this name used over and over again in scripture

Elohim means:

- creator of all things (when He speaks things happen; what He says will happen)
- He has power as creator of all things

- Elohim emphasises God's **sufficiency** as **sustainer** of all things

Consider where this name had meaning to you:

- wandering through the wilderness - Elohim means “God's deliverance”
- when you're facing trials and struggles - Elohim means “God's sufficiency”

Consider Psalm 68 - Elohim is mentioned 26 different times and gives us the picture of God's sufficiency. “**Let God arise His enemies be scattered...**” – everywhere you see the word God – replace with Elohim.

- it's a picture of His power as **creator**, and sufficiency as **sustainer**

Elohim is one of the most popular names for God but **Yahweh** or **Jehovah**, is probably the most common name for God.

Yahweh / Jehovah

Yahweh means: “He is the Lord” (YHWH)
In Scripture represented as “LORD”

Yahweh is the main name that God uses to reveal Himself in Scripture.

Exodus 3:14-15

God said to Moses, ‘I AM who I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: “I AM has sent me to you.” ’

God also said to Moses, ‘Say to the Israelites, “The Lord (Yahweh), 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, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation’

God is revealing Himself as Yahweh (Jehovah is the word YHWH with vowels added).

Exodus 6:2-8 is a very important passage. This is God speaking to Moses about delivering them out of Egypt:

Exodus 6:2-8

God (E) also said to Moses, ‘I am the Lord (Y). I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord (Y) I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they lived as aliens. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant. Therefore, say to the Israelites: “I am the Lord (Y), and I will bring you

out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God (E). Then you will know that I am the LORD (Y) your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord (Y).'

Look at how important the name of the Lord is in these words:

- it starts and ends with the personal name, and runs all through
- God is identifying Himself in a very personal way
- It's instilling confidence about the covenant as described here – it's one party revealing himself to the other party – saying, look “This is me...this is who I am ... this is my name.”
- God is revealing Himself as the LORD - "You will know that I am the LORD."
- “Yahweh” is the most common name for God - used over 6,800 times in the Bible.

All throughout Scripture we see God revealing Himself - saying, "***I do what I do, that you might know that I am the Lord.***"

Why take the Jews through the Red Sea?



Exodus 14:4

"The Egyptians will see my power and they will know that I am the LORD (Y)."

Fast forward to Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Jesus says in John 8:58, "*I tell you the truth,*" Jesus answered, “.. before Abraham was born I AM."

- Jesus is identifying Himself with Yahweh in the Old Testament
- the Jews tried to stone Him - because they think He's blaspheming.
- he's claiming to be God

Remember the encounter in the garden of Gethsemane when the soldiers fell backwards?

Consider the "I am" statements in John

-  John 6:35 - "*I am the bread of life*"
- John 8:12 - "*I am the light of the world*"
- John 10:11 - "*I am the good shepherd*"
- John 10:9 - "*I am the gate*"
- John 11:25 - "*I am the resurrection and the life*"
- John 14:6 - "*I am the way, the truth, and the life*"

- John 15:1 - *"I am the true vine"*

When Jesus says, "I am" it is intentional – and it's everywhere. "I AM" equates Jesus with God.

Acts 2:36

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Consider the Shema (Jewish statement of faith):

Shema Yisrael. Adonai Elo hei nu. Adonai E-Chad.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."

You get to New Testament faith, and New Testament faith says "Confess Christ as Lord."

Romans 10

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"

Knowing God means knowing Him as Lord – his personality, His power & His Presence.

Deuteronomy 4:7

"What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD (Y) our God is near us whenever we pray to Him?"

 **ADONAI**

Adonai means "Lord, Master, Owner" - it's like a title (e.g. "President" Trump)

In Scripture represented as "Lord"

Over all things God has:

- ownership
- lordship

Adonai emphasises complete sovereignty in God (supreme power and authority).

Isaiah 6

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord (A), high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple..

EL ELYON

“El Elyon” means that He is **God Most High** (emphasises God's power).

Genesis 14:18

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High.

EL SHADDAI

“El Shaddai” means that He is **God Almighty**, or the **LORD Almighty**.

Genesis 17:1

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty (El Shaddai); walk before me faithfully and be blameless.

Jehovah JIREH

“Jehovah-Jireh” means the **LORD will Provide**.

Story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22

Genesis 22:14

So Abraham called that place The LORD (Jehovah-Jireh) Will Provide.

Jehovah SABAOTH

“Jehovah-Sabaoth” means **The Lord of Hosts** or **The Lord of Armies**

“Hosts” literally means—armies, or multitudes. It is sometimes used to refer to angelic armies, and sometimes used to refer to earthly armies.

1 Samuel 1:3

Jehovah ROPHE

“Jehovah-Rophe” - He is the **LORD who heals**.

This is the picture in Exodus 15 when God sweetens the bitter water and promises Israel that if they follow His laws, then He will protect them from the diseases that He brings on the Egyptians.

Jehovah NISSI

“Jehovah-Nissi” - The **LORD is my Banner**.

Exodus 17 is the story of when the Amalekites are in the way of the people of God, and Moses tells Joshua to go down and fight them. You find this name of God in the text.

Jehovah MEKADESH

“Jehovah-Mekadesh” - the **LORD who makes you Holy**.

Now, this is a term that we see used all throughout the Old Testament, especially in Leviticus, that will talk about how God sanctifies things, making them holy.

Leviticus 20:8,

"I am the LORD who makes you holy."

Jehovah SHALOM

“Jehovah Shalom” - **The LORD is Peace**.

Found in the story of Gideon in Judges 6:20-24.

Jehovah TSIDKENU

“Jehovah Tsidkenu” - **The LORD Our Righteousness**.

Righteousness literally means to be just, or upright; to be stiff; to be straight; to be right. We find God in the text all through Leviticus.

Jehovah SHAMMAH

“Jehovah Shammah” - The LORD Is There

This is a great picture from book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel has a lot going on so it's good to know that “God is there!”

Jehovah ROHI

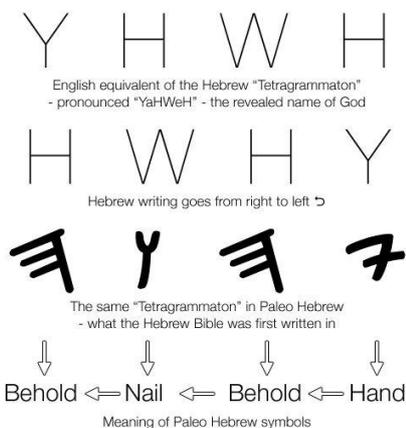
“Jehovah Rohi” - the LORD is my Shepherd

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd (JR), I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD (Y) forever.

YHWH

Tetragrammaton found in the Hebrew text as God's name. The characters actually have meaning. The meaning for YHWH is “Behold Hand Behold Nail”. Do your own homework and see what you think of this.



Let's pray.