

Exodus: No Longer Slaves – Part 4

Review:

Chapter 1 describes Israel's bondage in Egypt.

Chapter 2 details the birth, rescue, and training of Moses.

Chapter 3 gives us the call of Moses and the revelation of God's name.

“I Am Who I Am” - There is Power in His Name

*Exodus 3:1–15 - 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. v.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. v.3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” v.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.” v.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.” v.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. v.7 Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, v.8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. v.9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. v.10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” v.11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” v.12 He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” v.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?” v.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.’” v.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.*

Why did Moses ask God for His Name?

1) The Egyptians had specific and proper names for the many gods they worshiped.

a) Examples:

- i) **Ra** - was the sun god. He was the most important god of the ancient Egyptians. The ancient Egyptians believed that Ra was swallowed every night by the sky goddess Nut, and was reborn every morning.

Image: A man with a hawk head and the headdress of a sun

BTW, Ra is said to have had another name, a secret name that only his goddess daughter knew. Guess what her name was? **ISIS**.

Isis – Image: Woman with headdress in the shape of a throne.

- ii) **Bastet** - was usually seen as a gentle protective goddess with the head of a cat. However, she sometimes appeared with the head of a lioness to protect the king in battle.

Image: A woman with the head of a cat or a lion, depending on her mood

- iii) **Tawaret** - was a goddess who protected women during pregnancy and childbirth.

Image: Head of a hippopotamus with the arms and legs of a lion, the back and tail of a crocodile, and the stomach of a pregnant woman

Demonic powers attach themselves to things that are used for worship. They seek worship and seek to enslave their worshipers.

- b) Names were very important to the Egyptians and to the Israelites and to God.

In Scripture, a person's name often signifies his character or ability or mission—especially when the name is given by God.

- God changed Abram's name to Abraham. God changed Jacob's name to Israel.
- And when the Son of God came into the world, His name was not left to chance: **"You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."**

- c) When God names people, powerful things happen because God has the right and the power to cause anyone He names to become what the name implies.

Jesus gave Simon the name, Peter.

John 1:40-42 - One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. v.41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). v.42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas (Aramaic name for Rock; Peter - Greek)."

- d) **And when God names Himself**, He does not choose His name at random. He chooses names for the sake of revealing things about Himself that will enlarge our awareness of Him, strengthen our faith in Him, and deepen our love for Him.

Psalm 9:10 - And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.

2) **The Most Important Name for God in the OT**

- a) The most common and the most important name for God in the Old Testament is a name that in our English versions never even gets translated. Whenever you see the word *LORD* in all capital letters, you know that this name is behind it is the name Yahweh!

- i) In the Hebrew language, it was spelled with only four letters—YHWH.

- ii) The Jews came would never voice it. The scribes left out the vowels because they did not want anyone to even chance taking the Lord's name in vain.

In fact, whenever they came to this name in their reading, they pronounced the word "Adonai" which means "my lord." The English versions have basically followed the same pattern. They translate the proper name *Yahweh* with the word *LORD* in all caps.

- b) *Yahweh* is God's proper name in Hebrew.

Yahweh occurs 6,828 times in the Old Testament. That's more than three times as often as the simple word for "God" (*Elohim*—2,600).

- c) What about the word *Jehovah*?

- i) It is believed that the word *Jehovah* originated from an attempt to pronounce the consonants YHWH with the vowels from the word *Adonai*.
- ii) In the oldest Hebrew texts, there are no vowels. So it is easy to see how this would happen since whenever YHWH occurred in the text, the word *Adonai* was pronounced by the reverent Jew.

Seven Revelations of the "I AM" God

- 1) God exists and He is present.

- a) God exists.

Maybe to some it is not so obvious that God exists. But they are without an excuse:

Romans 1:18-20 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. v.19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. v.20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

- b) God exists and God is present.

Contained in the name *Yahweh* is the first and most important truth about God: He exists and is here. For those who will stop pursuing their own glory and their own private pleasure long enough to consider the fact that God is alive and He is here, they will find the explosive inner change that is necessary to be what they were created to be.

- 2) God exists and He has always been.

- a) God says, "I had no beginning."

There is no reality outside Myself, so there is no force or influence, no power to shape My character; there is no authority except what comes from Me and is controlled by Me. I am utterly absolute. Behind Me there is no reality.

b) Why is God the way He is?

God IS: He is self determined! He is everlasting! He is absolute reality! He is above all; before all He is the beginning and the end of all things that exist.

There is coming a day when everyone will stand face to face with His absolute reality and realize that He simply is who He IS...and knees will bow!

3) God exists and He does not change.

a) A third implication of the name I AM WHO I AM is that God does not change. In **Malachi 3:6**, God says, **“For I the LORD (Yahweh) I change not...”**

b) Within the name Yahweh is the affirmation I AM WHO I AM. If who God is, is not determined by any forces outside Him, then He is not subject to changes... WE are.

c) He is who He is, and therefore, as James says, **“With him there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).**

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His absolute name is the granite foundation of our confidence in His ongoing faithfulness.

If a change is called for in this nation... we will have to change because God changes NOT! If God changes NOT, then GOD's Word changes NOT.

4) God exists and He is an inexhaustible source of energy.

a) **Isaiah 40:28-31 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary... v.29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. v.30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; v.31 but they who wait for Yahweh shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**

b) If He is the Creator of everything, then all energy—all motion and combustion — originates in Him. Not only does it all start with Him, it remains in Him because God never loses His power!

And, He is a sharing God: **Acts 1:8 - you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon... (new verse)**

5) God exists and objectivity is vital.

a) The fifth implication of the name I AM WHO I AM is that objectivity is crucial.

What I mean is that it is very important that we believe in objective truth which is more

than our own subjective feelings or desires.

John Piper says: *We may desire God to be a certain way. We may feel that He simply can't be the way some people say he is. But what we feel or what we desire does not make God what He is.*

b) When God says I AM WHO I AM, He calls us to humble objectivity.

6) God exists and we must conform to God.

God simply is who He is and not who we make Him out to be, then it is WE who must conform to God and not HE to us.

7) God exists and He has drawn near to Us in Jesus, the Christ.

a) In **John 8:56–59**, Jesus is answering the criticism of the Jewish leaders. He says, **“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” v.57 So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” v.58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” v.59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.**

Make no mistake; Jesus was claiming to be Yahweh... the I AM God.

b) When Jesus said, **“before Abraham was, I AM,”** He laid claim to all the majestic truth of the glorious name Yahweh and He wrapped it in the humility of servanthood, offered Himself as a loving atonement for all our rebellion, and made a way for us to see and know glory of God without fear.

c) This awesome God still delivers slaves from the dominations and control of the demonized gods of this age! He does it through the I AM God.

The I AM WHO I AM God:

- 1) Is Present
- 2) Is Everlasting
- 3) Is Unchanging
- 4) Is All Powerful
- 5) Is Available
- 6) Is Jesus, our living, loving, redeeming and life-giving Christ!

Contributions:

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