NEW LIFE CLASS

BRIDGING THE GAP

BETWEEN BIBLICAL LEARNING AND RADICAL LIVING



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I Am Who I Am • Part 2

Lesson 4

What's in a Name?

Exodus 3:3:11-17; 6:1-8

1. The Tension Between EXPLAINING and EXPERIENCING the I AM God.

➤ Hebrew was written with no vowels so we are left with: יהוה = **YHWH**

➤ Jewish people out of respect for God's holy Name substituted other names: **Adonai** = "My **LORD**"

➤ This Jewish practice of combining consonants + vowels resulted in ***yehovah*** = **YAHWEH**

➤ Christians carried over this idea into some of the earliest English Bible translations: **JEHOVAH** or **LORD** (small caps).

➤ Most modern English translations of the Bible use **LORD** (small caps) or **GOD** (small caps) for Yahweh, the "I AM" God.

Exodus 3:15 *"I am the **LORD**"*

Exodus 23:17 *Three times a year all your males shall appear before the **Lord GOD**.*

Exodus 34:6 *Then the **LORD** passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The **LORD**, the **LORD God**, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;*

➤ The name of "Yahweh" is sometimes explained as...

"I am who I am" OR ***"I will be who I will be"*** OR ***"I am who I will be"***

➤ Perhaps the best explanation of God's name combines **BEING** and **DOING**.

*In revealing His name as **"I AM who I AM"** God reminds us of **WHO** He is and **WHAT** He does!*

There Is a Tension Between Explaining and Experiencing the I AM God

"You will experience WHO *I am by means of* WHAT *I do to rescue you by My grace!"*

"I will BE *what you need Me to* BE *because I AM who I AM and I will* DO *what you need Me to* DO *because I AM who I AM!"*
"And ALL *that* I AM *and* ALL *that* I DO *is for the* FAME *of* MY NAME *not yours or anyone else!"*

➤ Ultimately, you will never ***understand*** who God is until you **ENTER** into a dynamic relationship with Him and His people with a faith that obeys! (3:12)

2. The Tension Between KNOWING and NOT KNOWING the I AM God.

Exodus 6:2-8

➤ God has progressively revealed His NAME in the Bible to His people.

"Elohim" reveals God as the **MAJESTIC MAKER** of everything!
"God" *the* ***Creator*** *is the focus of Genesis 1-11.*



"El-Shaddai" reveals God as the **MOUNTAIN MOVER** who is able to do anything!
"God Almighty" *as the* ***Sustainer*** *is the focus of Genesis 12-50.*



"Yahweh" reveals God as the **MERCY SHOWER** who is always ready, willing, and able to redeem His people!
"I Am Who I Am" *as the* ***Redeemer*** *is the focus of Exodus–Revelation.*



➤ God is not saying He was never **KNOWN** by the Name "Yahweh" before the Exodus, but that He was not **SHOWN** to be Yahweh by His gracious act of delivering a people out of bondage for Himself.

See *Genesis 2:4; 3:8; 4:26; 7:1, 16* and many more!

➤ "I AM who I AM" means Yahweh is the ultimate promise **KEEPER** and ever-present **REDEEMER**.

"I am the Creator-Redeemer who is the ultimate Promise Keeper and Mercy Shower to those who put their trust in Me and call on My Name!"
"I am who I am and I will be what I will be when you need Me, so trust Me and call on My Name!"

➤ "I AM who I AM" means there's always a tension between knowing God but not knowing Him **FULLY**.
1Corinthians 13:12; Philippians 3:7-16; Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 2:4-7

3. The Tension Between the HOLINESS and the LOVE of the I AM God.

➤ I am **LARGE AND IN CHARGE** (Holy) but I am also **CLOSE AND CARING** (Love).
Exodus 3:4-6; 34:5-8

➤ I am the God who is powerfully present to fulfill my gracious purposes for the fame of My NAME among all peoples!

My Gracious Purposes Are…
1) To reveal ***My GLORY*** in both ***SALVATION*** and ***JUDGMENT***.
2) To reveal ***My GREATNESS*** in ***WHO*** I am.
3) To reveal ***My GOODNESS*** in ***WHAT*** I do.

➤ The I Am God invites you to draw near with a holy fear!

Do You Know the I AM God and Are You Making Him Known?

➤ The ***repetition*** of "I AM" reminds us that this is the one true God and there is no other.
"I am who I am…I am has sent me to you…The LORD…" (3:14-15) ***Do you know Him by Name?***

➤ The ***relationship*** of "I AM" with the patriarchs reminds us that He is the ultimate Promise Keeper.
"The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob has sent me to you" (3:15) ***Do you trust in His Name?***

➤ The ***redemption*** of "I AM" on behalf of those who are in bondage reminds us that He is the Ever-present Redeemer.
"The LORD…has sent me to you." (3:15) ***Are you being set free by His Name?***

➤ The ***revelation*** of "I AM" as His Eternal Name reminds us that this is the Sovereign Savior for all peoples.
"The LORD…This is My name forever" (3:15) ***Do you make Him Name known to others?***

➤ The ***remembrance*** of "I AM" reminds us that this is the Name we are to praise and proclaim to all generations.
"The LORD…this is My memorial name to all generations! (3:15) ***Do you worship His Name?***