

# What is God's Name?

## Set the Stage

- God has a name and surprisingly enough it's not God.
  - If God is not His name then what is His name?
- When we reference people we can refer to them in a few different ways:
  - Categories:
    - Human vs. animal
    - Real vs fake
    - Asian vs Hispanic
  - Titles:
    - Friend, student, T.A or R.A., Father, wife, doctor, pastor.
  - Names:
    - Kyle, Amanda, Eddie, or Sally.
- The Bible is God's revelation of Himself or His way of revealing Himself to us.
  - A revelation is a surprising unknown fact. It is a surprise about God. It is not what we thought or expected.
- God reveals Himself **progressively**.
  1. He begins with a title - God
  2. Then adds a description - God Almighty
  3. Then He reveals His personal name - Jehovah or Yahweh
  4. Then He reveals His character by adding descriptions to His personal name - Jehovah Jireh or Jehovah Rapha
  - How God reveals Himself to us makes all the difference in the world.

*-Why do you think God reveals Himself this way? What benefit is there?*

- Too often we study God backwards.
  - We start with His attributes or character - Love, mercy, all-knowing, and all-powerful.
  - Most theological books start this way.
- Think about coming to me and I introduce myself as:

Hi... I'm honest, ethical, introverted, easy going,  
-That would be odd. So lets study God in the order and way  
that He reveals Himself.

## Taking it Further

*As God reveals Himself, He begins with the title...*

### 1. God

#### **-Read Genesis 1:1**

- This is how the Bible starts with the revelation of God.
- It is the word “Elohim” in Hebrew.
  - It means an invisible but real spiritual creature.
  - It is used of the God of the Bible but it is also used of other false gods.

-God is not a name, it is more like a title for the various “gods.”

- The Bible makes a powerful claim in 2000 B.C. with all the false gods the nations had.
  - This God is the **one true God** who is the **Creator of everything**. All other gods are false.
  - God places Himself in the highest category possible.
    - He places Himself in a category all by Himself.
- This is who Adam and Eve and their descendants knew God to be.

*As God continues revealing Himself, we come to Abraham, and now He adds a description to His title...*

### 2. God Almighty

#### **-Read Genesis 17:1-8**

- When we come to Abram, God goes another step further in revealing who He is by adding a title.
- He adds God “Almighty.”

- “El Shaddai” - It means God All-powerful, God can do anything.
- This title is typically connected with His promises.

-God bases His promise to Abraham on who He is and what He can do. *Why did Abraham need to know this about God?*

**-Romans 4:21-** *“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.”*

-He comes to Abraham saying...

- I’m not only God, the One true God and Creator of everything, who you have known thus far.
- I am also God who can do any and everything I want.
  - I possess that ability because of who I am.
  - I have made this promise and you can believe it because its based on my ability and character.

-How God reveals himself is always in close connection with the circumstances or the mental state of the person.

- This becomes a pattern as you go through the Bible. God reveals more about Himself in relation to people and circumstances.

-This is the same title that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would know God by. Job also uses this title frequently.

*As God continues revealing Himself, He now comes to the point when He gives Moses His personal name...*

### **3. God’s name is Yahweh**

## **-Read Exodus 3:13-15 and 6:1-3**

- When we come to Moses, God takes it a step further and reveals His personal name.
  - He moves from a title to a personal name.
- God reveals His personal name as “Jehovah” or “Yahweh”
  - His name means - “I am who I am”, “I will be what I will be”, or “I am the One who is.”
- What does this name reveal to us?**
  - It speaks of God being eternal, self sufficient, self existent.
  - It speaks of immediacy, present.
    - Ever been with a friend who is in Lala land or scrolling and you wish they would just be present with me.
  - God says I am present. I am here. I am waiting.
  - It speaks of nearness, accessibility.
- What is the difference between Yahweh and Jehovah?**
  - It is two different transliterations of the same name.

YHWH

    - Jews would not say the name of God out of reverence.
      - They did not write in the vowels.
    - Yahweh is direct from the Hebrew.
    - Jehovah is a Latinized version. It's an attempt to say the name.
  - When you come to your English Bible, Jehovah or Yahweh is translated as:
    - LORD
    - GOD
    - This is to follow the Jewish reverence of the word.
- Why is it even important to know that God has name?**

1. A name is important because it reveals a person.

-Not in essence of male or female but in the essence of relationship.

-God has a name which makes Him personal.

-It makes Him reachable, not some being far out in the universe.

-Not some impersonal energy force or a subject in a text book in a world religion class.

-He wants to know and be known. He wants to relate or have relationship with you and me.

-He doesn't just want you to know a bunch of facts about Him, but be in a relationship with you.

-He wants to communicate, spend time together, get to know each other as time progresses.

2. There is power in a name.

-Think about a loan coming from a no-name bank versus a well-known bank.

-A promise coming from someone you barely know versus a promise coming from someone you know really well.

-A name means something.

-In Hebrew culture a name had significant meaning. More than just a title.

-It carried with it the idea of power, purpose, authority, and responsibility.

-God often changed people's names after He revealed His will for their life.

-Abram "exalted father" to Abraham "father of many nations."

-Jacob "deceiver" to Israel "one who prevails."

-Simon to Peter "rock."

## Taking Your Next Step

- God reveals Himself in the same way to you and I.
  - Progressively, and in relation to us and our circumstances.
  - This is why trials and hardships allows us to know God in greater ways than anything else.

### What does God's name mean for you today?

1. It means He is personal.

The different names of God reveal the different ways he relates to humanity.

2. It means He is knowable.

-God has a name for every situation you will encounter in life. We need to discover and understand those names to help us in those situations.

3. It means you can pursue a relationship with Him.

-It means we will continually grow in our knowledge of him as we navigate life and experience him.

-This should create a motivation, a desire to know him. To know that there are things about God that we don't know, and that we can learn.

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