

**Occasion:** GBCM, Sunday am 10/22/2017

**Title/Theme:** Who is The LORD?

**Text:** Exodus; survey

## INTRODUCTION

Turn in your Bibles to Gen 50:19. The OT patriarch Jacob, whom God named Israel, has just died in Egypt. His son Joseph is second in command to Pharaoh, and has immense power. Now that Israel is not around, Joseph's brothers are afraid that Joseph might take revenge on them. They remember what they did one time when their father wasn't around to see it: they threw Joseph in a pit and then sold him into slavery. So, they worried about what Joseph would do to them now that their father isn't around. Look at Gen 50:19.

*<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them*

It is clear that Joseph's view of God was different than his brothers and it affected what he would do. Joseph looked past his brother's evil hearts and all the misery he had been through. He saw God on the throne. Joseph fixed his thoughts on God's good character and plan to save many lives including his brothers and their families. So, he told them not to fear. He trusts God to be God and won't take any revenge but live in peace with them and in gratitude to God.

This kind of thinking about God is what I want us to consider this morning. And we will see this theme in the book of Exodus. I want us to taste and see that the Lord is good so that we will look past the difficult people and circumstances in our lives to find our hope in God.

Turn to Exodus 5:2. This sermon is simply compiled from the verses I underlined during my morning Bible reading. And I'm praying God will use it in all of our hearts. In Exodus 5, Pharaoh, king of Egypt asks a question that puts our theme into words. *"Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."*

So, the questions for us this morning are, "How well do we know the LORD? and will we do what He says?" The title for the sermon is, "Who is the Lord?" and the answer should be clear as we look at the book of Exodus.

Let's begin in Exodus 2:23. Look at that with me. Exodus 2:23-25. *"<sup>23</sup>During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. <sup>24</sup>And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup>God saw the people of Israel—and God knew."*

God saw and God knew. So,

### **I. God is the one who sees and knows all things in our lives.**

look at Exodus 3. Moses is in exile from Egypt for trying to deliver the people of Israel by his own means. He is now shepherding sheep in the wilderness of Sinai. God appears to him in a burning bush and says in verse 7, "<sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup> 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. We learn that

#### **A. God sees the affliction of His people, 3:7**

**B. He hears their cries for help****C. He knows their suffering****D. He comes down to**

1. **Deliver them from their affliction**
2. **Bring them out of Egypt into the land of promise**

**E. Explanation:**

1. Now, Moses could have said in his heart, “Great! But where have you been? Why did you wait so long? I saw and knew this 40 years ago when I tried to deliver the people by killing the task master and using my status as prince in Egypt: could your eyes possibly be blurry or your knowledge a bit late?”
2. But Moses was on holy ground with no shoes on—in a rather fearful position in the presence of God—wisely, he laid his hand on his mouth and did not say and maybe didn’t even think such things.
3. And yet, he could have, and later on was almost certain to struggle when God seemingly took forever to get the people out of Egypt and away from the Egyptian army and into the promise land.
  - a. We don’t know how long it took to introduce Moses to the people and to Pharaoh.
  - b. We don’t know how long the plagues took or how long before they crossed the red sea where Pharaoh and his army were destroyed.
  - c. We do know that the children of Israel ended up wandering in the wilderness for 40 years before they were brought into the land of promise because they did not obey the Lord.
4. It must have felt like forever at times.

**F. Application:**

1. So, the question for us is, “Will we believe that God sees and knows and will deliver even when it seems like He is taking forever?”
2. Will we wait on His time and His way to deliver us? Will we trust Him and obey as we wait?

**G. Application/Illustration/Transition:**

1. Moses was given an active role in God’s deliverance: Go tell the people that God sees, knows, and will deliver. Go tell Pharaoh to let them go.
2. But Moses argues with that—he complains about his inability. He gives excuses and asks more questions. And one of his questions leads to our second point about who God is. It is in 3:13-17
3. *<sup>13</sup> 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?” <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”<sup>[a]</sup> And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD,<sup>[b]</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, <sup>17</sup> and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land . . . flowing with milk and honey.’”*  
So, number 2,

## II. God is the one who is everything His people need--YAHWEH

1, God sees and knows everything in our lives and

**2, He Himself is the answer to everything that we need.**

**A. Yahweh is God of past, present, and future:** He always will be what He always has been.

**B. Yahweh wants his people to believe that He sees, knows, and is the one who they need;** look at Ex 4:4-5

*<sup>4</sup> But the LORD said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—<sup>5</sup> "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."* God is looking for faith.

**C. Yahweh will give the ability to say and do what He commands; look at 4:11-12**

*<sup>11</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"<sup>12</sup> Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."*

**D. Yahweh is the Creator, Sustainer, and Enabler.**

### E. Application:

1. So, do we believe that God sees, knows, and cares about everything in our lives? And do we believe that He is sufficient to do everything we need?
2. Do we realize that what He does in our lives is what we need!
3. Can you say, yes? Or is there some hesitation?
4. I know it is hard to believe and impossible to fully understand. But we are seeing in Exodus and know from the rest of the Bible that God is Yahweh—the all-sufficient one for His people.
5. He is working everything together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose—and that good is us being made like Christ for God's glory.
6. And since all things in our lives work together to make us more like Jesus, they are all good—even the bad things that happen to us.
7. But it is hard to accept all things as good, so it is right for us to say, Lord help my unbelief!

### F. Application/Transition:

1. So, when Moses and now Aaron with him, go to Pharaoh, He asks that question we read in the introduction, "Pharaoh said, "*Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.*" His conclusion is that he would not listen and obey the Lord. Even the people of Israel had trouble listening and believing because things got worse for them instead of better, 5:21, *<sup>21</sup> and they said to them, "The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."*
2. It will often seem like God is not delivering us at all. Things are worse. He doesn't seem sufficient for me. I don't see how He can see or know or care about my affliction. That leads us to the third truth about God.

## III. God is the one who WILL do what He said; 6:1-8

*Ex. 6:1-8, "But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."<sup>2</sup> God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup>I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty,<sup>a</sup> but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. <sup>4</sup>I also established my*

*covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. <sup>5</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. <sup>6</sup> Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.'"* <sup>9</sup> Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

***God says, I am Yahweh, and I have done what I said and I will do what I said even when we don't have strength to believe it.***

**A. God is confident in Himself: He has always done what He said**

1. V. 3 "He appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty
2. V. 4 "He established his covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan
3. V. 5. "He heard the groaning and remembered His covenant. He did not forget what He said even though he waited 430 years—just as he said he would to Abraham

**B. God is not afraid to make promises**

I try to be very careful about making promises—my ability to remember and to follow through is limited as a human being. But not God.

1. V.6, He says I will 7x in three verses
2. God makes promises, and
3. He can keep His promises because He is God:
  - a. All knowing
  - b. All powerful
  - c. All loving
  - d. But

**C. God does not over promise**

One of our business goals at DDL is to under-promise and over-deliver; which grew out of an experience where the opposite kept happening. God does not over-promise because He always delivers, and because He is careful about what He does not promise.

1. He does not say exactly when they would get out of Egypt
2. He does not say how many plagues or how often Pharaoh would refuse to let them go
3. He does not say how long or how hard it would be to get into the land of promise.
4. God does give enough specifics that we can know and trust His promises, but not so many that He is ever at risk of breaking them
5. And amazing, and wonderfully,

**D. God still keeps His promises when we don't believe**

1. V. 9 the people did not believe, but God still delivered them
2. 2 Tim 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

**E. Application:**

1. We must fix our hope in God and what He has said even when we face disappointment after disappointment. Like Pharaoh saying no 10 times in a row (the introduction and 9 plagues).

2. Every hardness of heart by Pharaoh was a temptation for Moses and the people to doubt, be disappointed, or be discouraged. He may not have known how many plagues there would be, but look at 9:13-14, the 7<sup>th</sup> plague: <sup>13</sup>*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me." For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself,<sup>a</sup> and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth.*
3. Moses did know that the goal was for God to show all the people—Egypt and Israel especially—that there is no one like God in all the earth.
4. God's intent through making and keeping promises is to show His power and to have His Saving name proclaimed in all the earth.
5. So God wants us to value His name, to trust Him, and to proclaim Him:
  - a. this is what we do when we are Christian disciples who believe the gospel and proclaim the gospel;
  - b. when we are faithful followers of Christ who know God's unique greatness, value that above everything else, and live to make His greatness known to others as our church mission statement says.
6. But you will have to be patient when His deliverance seems slow. When time after time you thought things would get better and they get worse.
7. Fix your hope on the *eternal* and *internal* promises of God and wait on the one you know from Scripture and Creation is good and doing good for those who trust in Him—for those who fear Him

#### **F. Since God will do what He says, we must pay attention to Him**

**G. Transition:** So, 1. God is the one who sees and knows all things in our lives. 2. God is the one who is all sufficient for us 3. God is the one who will do what He says. And

#### **IV. God is the one who leads us into humanly impossible situations. 13:18, 14:1-4**

Once the people finally got out of Egypt, <sup>18</sup> *God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.* Chapter 14, *Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. <sup>3</sup> For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, "They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in." <sup>4</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." And they did so.*

##### **A. God wants us to learn not to fear in these humanly impossible situations**

<sup>14:10</sup> *When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." <sup>13</sup> And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."*

##### **B. God knows exactly what He is going to do—He is not worried**

<sup>14:15</sup> *The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. <sup>16</sup> Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.*

### C. God will get glory for Himself and make Himself known as Yahweh—the deliverer of His people

*14:17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”*

### D. God wants us to see His great power, to fear Him, and believe in Him

*14:31 Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses*

### E. God wants us to praise Him

*15:2, The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation;  
this is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him  
11 Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*

### F. There is so much good that God does in impossible situations.

He teaches us to trust Him and praise Him no matter what. And now there is a fifth point about Who this Lord is:

## V. God is the one who tests our attention and obedience to Him

look at chapter 15:22 *22 Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. 24 And the people grumbled against Moses, . . . There the LORD . . . tested them, 26 saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.” 16:4 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.*

### A. We tend to grumble at God's tests

*15:24 And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” 16:2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” 8 And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.” 12 “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”*

1. We need to remember who God is and stop grumbling
2. Accept His tests and trust in Him. But

### B. We have a very hard time listening to and trusting in God

*19 And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” 20 But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.*

1. We want what we want
2. We think we know better

3. We want to see for ourselves

**C. So, be ready for God’s tests, and guard your hearts from grumbling. Next we see,**

## VI. God is the one who wants a personal relationship with us

*20 And God spoke all these words, saying <sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

### 1. An exclusive relationship

<sup>3</sup> *“You shall have no other gods before me*

### 2. A lovingly-loyal relationship

<sup>5</sup> *You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God,*

### 3. A serious, committed relationship

<sup>7</sup> *“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*

### 4. A pure, sinless relationship

<sup>20</sup> *Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”*

a. We have a taste of this now through Jesus by the Spirit

b. It is our identity in Christ

c. And it will be a personal reality in heaven

d. God also wants a

### 5. A relationship of blessing for us

a. *24 In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.*

**B. Transition:** There are more aspects of who the LORD is in Exodus, but I had to pick one last one; jump ahead to Exodus 29

## VII. God is the one who dwells among His people

*<sup>29:45</sup> I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. <sup>46</sup> And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God*

**A. He wants us to know Him, v. 46**

**B. He wants to be our personal God, “their God” v. 45**

**C. He wants us to remember what He has done and what He can do, v. 46**

**D. His purpose for delivering us and setting us apart as Holy is to live with us and for us to live with Him—the reverse of the curse at the Garden of Eden, v. 46**

**E. We should seek to know Him and have his presence with us. He is our unique privilege, 33:13-16**

*<sup>13</sup> Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” <sup>14</sup> And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.” <sup>16</sup> For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”*

**F. We should want to see his glory, 33:18**

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

**G. God's glory is His Name—His unique character, 34:5ff**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands,<sup>a</sup> forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty,

**H. God with us is our only hope and help,**

<sup>9</sup> And he said, "If now I have found favor 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."

**Conclusion**

And now in conclusion, turn to one place in the NT. Matthew 1:18, <sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ<sup>a</sup> took place in this way. . . . <sup>21</sup> Mary will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Two things: 1. The name Jesus means Yahweh is salvation; Jesus is Yahweh, the LORD that Pharaoh didn't know and would not listen to or obey. And 2. Jesus is God with us, present to deliver and sustain us.

That means: Jesus is the one in Exodus 1. Who sees and knows all things in our lives. 2. Who is everything that we need. 3. Who will do what he said. 4. Who leads us into humanly impossible situations to get glory and show us His power and lead us to praise Him. 5. Who tests our attention and obedience to Him. 6. Who wants a personal relationship with us, and 7. Who dwells among us. Jesus is God with us, our Savior and Lord!

Remembering these truths is the most helpful thing you can do in any situation. Are you able to think like Joseph: "people and circumstances may mean it for evil, but God means it for good!"?

Will you commit to learn who this LORD Jesus is and choose to listen to and obey Him?