

I AM THAT I AM Pt 3

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“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. 15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations..” Exodus 3:14 & 15.

We return to our study in Exodus 3:14 & 15, this evening we continue on the subject of **I AM THAT I AM**. We have tried to explain the unexplainable. As a reminder again I did say that there were 3 of the many attributes of God that came to mind when speaking on this subject. These attributes are non-communicable attributes which means you do not find these attributes on any of His created beings. The Eternity of God, the Immutability of God and the Aseity of God (self-existence), describes the essence of I AM. I know there are other attributes that can be added, like His Omni-presence or His Omniscience and others, but I feel that these 3 really set forth the fundamental nature of the Great I AM.

With the light of the New Testament, it does not take a scholar to realize that Jehovah God (Angel of the LORD) that spoke to Moses from the burning bush is none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As a reminder, we have said that in Ex.6:3 where it says again, *“And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, **but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.**”* That does not mean that they did not know His name was JEHOVAH, they knew that glorious name, but, that, they did not know Him in the means or application of what that name signifies, the fulfiller of the covenant. We saw this morning that this is the God that spoke to Jacob in his dream in Genesis 28:13, *“And, behold, the **LORD** stood above it, and said, **I am the LORD God** of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed.”*

The patriarchs knew the name LORD or Jehovah but not in the fulfillment of His promises. These died not having seen the promises as we are told in Hebrews 11:13, *“**These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**”* They did not know Him as the fulfiller of the promises, but they knew Him as the PROMISER of the covenant, but not as the fulfiller of the covenant, but in faith they died having seen the promises them afar off. They knew the name LORD but not in the fulfillment, but as the PROMISER.

But from this time forward, that is, from the burning bush experience of Moses in Exodus 3, they would **NOW** know God as Jehovah/Yahweh, that is, the LORD I AM THAT I AM both as the PROMISER and as the FULFILLER of those promises. From here forward, He will be known by that MEMORIAL name (Ex.3:14 & 15) of I AM THAT I AM! As

Jehovah God, as Yahweh, as LORD! This name 'I AM' will continue into the New Testament.

“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” The usage of I AM clearly establishes to show us who God is. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint (LXX) we see a glorious truth in this passage, that is, the usage of EGO EIMI, which our Lord Jesus Christ used in the New Testament to bridge and cement this glorious truth of the Godhead of the Son. The following is the Greek translation (Septuagint – LXX) (copied) of Exodus 3:14, “καὶ εἶπεν ὁ θεὸς πρὸς Μωϋσῆν ἐγὼ εἰμι (Ego eimi) ὁ ὢν (I AM -the existing One or I AM - the Being, HE that is) καὶ εἶπεν οὕτως ἔρεῖς τοῖς υἱοῖς Ἰσραὴλ ὁ ὢν (the existing One [I have always been] or the Being, He that is) ἀπέσταλκέν με πρὸς ὑμᾶς.”

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you

And (kai) said (eipen) the (ho - ὁ) God (theos) unto (pros) Moses (mousen) I (ego) Am (eimi) the (ho) being (on - ὢν) and (kai) said (eipen) thus (outos - οὕτως) shalt (ereis) thou say unto (tois) the children (uiois) Israel (Israel) the (ho - ὁ) being (on - ὢν) hath sent (apestalken - ἀπέσταλκέν) me unto (pros)

I'm sharing this on purpose in order to make application in John 8:24 and 58 later on. Now I know that I'm entering into shaky ground because I'm not a Greek student, but have studied enough to read some Greek. It might not make sense now but when we make application of this you will see this blessed truth.

In the Hebrew it's, I AM (hayah) that I AM (hayah). In the Septuagint the Hebrew I AM is Ego Eimi, the verb is in the present tense, that is, it speaks of continuous action. When God says “I AM,” it speaks again of His Eternal existence. John Gill says about this verse, “*This signifies the real being of God, his self-existence, and that he is the Being of beings; as also it denotes his eternity and immutability, and his constancy and faithfulness in fulfilling his promises, for it includes all time, past, present, and to come; and the sense is, not only I am what I am at present, but I am what I have been, and I am what I shall be, and shall be what I am.*” God is self existing, He is independent and immutable. He exists apart from anything or anyone. The Living and True God is the one who is, that has always been and that will ever be, there is no beginning or ending with God. He is the: 'I AM' that has always been, is and shall be.

The Hebrew name for LORD is Jehovah/Yahweh. This is the most solemn and sublime of all divine names. They say that the original pronunciation has long been lost because of the superstition among the Jewish people, which they feared that if they pronounced the name it would violate the 3rd commandment. This was misguided reverence, so they substituted the name. One writer says, “*JEHOVAH is the most sacred, holy Name of God for the Jews who had a great fear that they might pollute His holy Name and thus they refused to pronounce it*

(substituting **Adonai**) (they feared violating Ex 20:7). There was one exception on the great Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) when the high priest (and no one else) could speak "YHWH" as he entered the Holy of holies). When the Jews copied the letters **Jehovah**, they would stop transcribing when they came to **YHWH** and would remove their clothes, take a bath, put on clean garments and use a new unused pen to write this most venerated Name. How tragic to see God's Name taken in vain with such impunity on television and movies!"

Again, Jehovah is the English word put together from the four Hebrew consonants J (yod) H (he) V (vav) H (he), YHVH, which they pronounce ADONAI or ELOHIM in substitution for the original because it was forbidden to pronounce. One writer says, "This is the most solemn and sublime of all the divine names. Various expressions are used to distinguish Him such as "the Name," "the great and terrible Name," "the unutterable Name," "the ineffable Name," "the peculiar name," "the incommunicable Name," "the Holy Name," "the separate Name," "the distinguished Name." All of these expressions are attempts to communicate the Tetragrammaton YHWH or JHVH (Yahweh or Jehovah). It is a substitute for the ineffable name of God. It was also known as "the name of four letters" because from the Hebrew it is transliterated JHVH into English." Girdleston in his *Old Testament Synonyms* writes, "It is everywhere a proper name denoting the person of God and Him only . . . The Hebrew may say the Elohim, the true God, in opposition to all false gods; but he never says the Jehovah, for Jehovah is the name of the true God only. He says again and again, my God or my Elohim, but never my Jehovah, for when he says my God he means Jehovah. He speaks of the God (Elohim) of Israel, but never of the Jehovah of Israel, for there is no other Jehovah. He speaks of the living God, but never of the living Jehovah, for he cannot conceive of Jehovah as other than living."

YHVH (or YHWH) is the name translated "LORD," which is again referred to as the Tetragrammaton which in the Greek means, "The Four Letters." Tetra = four and gramma = letter. The following is also copied from Precept Austin web page for your info:

	<p style="text-align: center;">יהוה</p>
<p>The Tetragrammaton as it appears in the Dead Sea scrolls where it was written in the ancient Hebrew script.</p>	<p>The Tetragrammaton in modern Hebrew letters.</p>

In Exodus 3:15 notice what God continues to say to Moses, "And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: **this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.**" The name LORD or Jehovah/Yawveh is not only the name for the self-existing God, but also the special memorial name in which God revealed Himself to Moses. God told Moses, this is my name for ever and it will be a memorial for all generations, as though He is telling Moses this is MY ETERNAL NAME! Thus, Jehovah/Yahweh or YHVH emphasizes God's absolute being and denotes complete transcendence in time. He is beyond His creation; He is without beginning and without end because HE ALWAYS IS! The name I AM THAT I AM; contains each tense of the verb **to be**, thus, I AM and I SHALL ALWAYS CONTINUE TO BE. He is the blessed eternal I AM; therefore He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Jehovah is the expression of who God is, it is the expression of His being, and we can see this in

Rev.1:8 and Rev.4:8. If we break up the name Jehovah in its 3 syllables this is what we shall find: **JE** = time to come, **HO** = denotes the time present and **VAH** = denotes time past. *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, **which is**, (HO) and **which was**, (VAH) and **which is to come**, (JE) the Almighty.”* (JEHOVAH) *“And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, **which was, and is, and is to come**”* (JEHOVAH)

He is from everlasting to everlasting, without beginning and with end, **HE IS!** This is why He said what He did in Isaiah 42:8, *“I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another...”*

This is all so very important in describing the Jehovic name of God. This is how He is pleased to reveal Himself to us. And in doing so He reveals Himself in the Godhead bodily. God will not share His name or His glory with anyone because it is His absolute person. If Jehovah/Yahweh can be applied to Jesus Christ, then it makes Him: **GOD of very GOD!** This is my purpose for giving an extensive explanation of the name Jehovah/Yahweh. If Jesus Christ is God, then He can be called JEHOVAH/YAHWEH.

By now you should know where I'm heading with this: Jesus is the GREAT I AM! Before we look at some New Testament passages to show this glorious truth, let's look at one of the most explicit and unmistakable passage that without a shadow of doubt shows Jesus Christ to be JEHOVAH/YAHWEH. Isaiah chapter 6:1-5, *“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord (Adonai) sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the **LORD** (יהוה = **Jehovah/Yahweh**) of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen **the King, the LORD** of hosts.”* Isaiah was given a blessed privilege in beholding the LORD of Glory. He saw the Lord sitting upon His holy throne, high and lifted up, then he saw and heard the Seraphims sing, Holy, Holy, Holy is the **LORD**, to which I'm sure Isaiah never got over. Well, pastor Joe how can you show that he is speaking of Jesus Christ from this text? I'm going to let the LORD Jesus Christ answer that question for me. Listen to the words of Christ in John 12:37 – 41. Turn now to Mark 2:1-12, where our Lord proves He is God of very God by forgiving a man's sins. The Pharisees were accusing Jesus of blasphemy because He was forgiving sins, their reasoning, which was correct, that only GOD can forgive sins. They are saying to Christ who are you to do only what God can do? In another passage where they accuse Christ of blasphemy also because He made Himself EQUAL to God, the Jews did not misunderstand what Christ had said, nor did Christ correct them in their assessment of being equal with God. Turn to John 5:17 – 21.