

# HALLOWED BE THY NAME

## #3 – “Yahweh: LORD”

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<sup>13</sup>Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘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, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

*Exodus 3:13-15 TNIV*

Introduction: Of all the names ascribed to God in His Word, the most important is *Yahweh* (Hebrew יהוה, pronounced yă'wā). Not only is it the most descriptive name for God, but also the most holy. The Hebrew people considered it so sacred, in fact, that they would not dare to pronounce it.

### I. What's in the Name *Yahweh*?

- A. Yahweh occurs 6,823 times in the Bible, far more than any other name for God.
- B. In most English translations, Yahweh is rendered LORD to indicate its sacred nature.
- C. In the Hebrew text, the name Yahweh actually appears as just four Hebrew consonants, and is often called the “tetragrammaton” (Greek “four letter word”).
- D. Since the tetragrammaton was never pronounced by the Jewish people, its definite pronunciation was lost.
- E. Until fairly recent scholarly attempts at reconstruction, many pronounced the name “Jehovah,” an Anglicized form the pronunciation used by German scholars.
- F. God referred to himself as *Yahweh* when he called out Moses to deliver his people from Egypt.
- G. The name *Yahweh* sounds like the word for “I AM” in Exodus 3:14, and is likely descriptive of God's absolute self-existence.

### II. Yahweh is Absolutely Self-Existent!

- A. Yahweh always was and always will be, and depends on no other for his sovereign existence.
- B. Yahweh's act of creation is the “uncaused first cause,” and his divine design permeates our universe.
- C. Yahweh acts to reveal himself exactly as he chooses.

1. Yahweh is the God of “special revelation,” meaning that he reveals himself personally for the specific purpose of exacting redemption.

<sup>2</sup>God also said to Moses, “I am the LORD. <sup>3</sup>I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, 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, where they resided as foreigners. <sup>5</sup>Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

*Exodus 6:2-5 TNIV*

2. Yahweh is the name God uses for himself when he speaks new truth: “Thus saith the LORD,” as in Jeremiah 1:4, 7, 9, and 11.
3. Jesus, the perfect revelation of Yahweh in flesh, also speaks of himself as the “I am” (in John), is called “Lord,” and “is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews).
- D. Yahweh is sufficient in every circumstance of your life, and he reveals himself to you to redeem you.

### III. Yahweh is Absolutely Holy.

- A. Yahweh's very essence, his personality, is holiness.  
And [the seraphs] were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” *Isaiah 6:3 TNIV*
- B. Because Yahweh is holy, he loves and rewards righteousness in his people.

<sup>13</sup>So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—<sup>14</sup>then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. <sup>15</sup>I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. *Deuteronomy 11:13-15 TNIV*

- C. Because Yahweh is holy, he hates and judges sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, . . . let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . . Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. *Hebrews 10:19-23*

Conclusion: Yahweh is the highest, holiest name for a high and holy God who reveals himself to us in love to change us.