

December 4th, 2022

What Is His Name?

Exodus 3:13-15

The Name of names

So vital are these verses that many Bibles specifically cite them in their preface. I picked up three Bible on my shelf this week, and all three cited **Exodus 3:14-15** in their introduction. Why? Because these verses tell us God's special, unique, peculiar name. And this name is cited 6,521 times in the OT.¹ It is the name Yahweh. That's how to pronounce the word LORD when you see it in caps. This is God's covenant name, His personal name—it is the Name of names, the Name our passage says is “to be remembered throughout all generations.” Much of the trouble that we experience today is because we have forgotten this Name. I don't mean we've forgotten how to spell it or how it sounds—but rather we have forgotten what Yahweh *means*. “I AM WHO I AM.” It is simultaneously the most mysterious Name and the most magnificent Name. It is a Name that helps you parent your children, go to work, face a frightening economy, it helps you not to be anxious when your car breaks down, it helps you take the Lord's Supper with confidence, to sing Psalms and hymns from the depths of your soul, to face your own death, to love and pray for your enemies, and to look at the future and laugh. **Proverbs 18:10** says “The name of Yahweh is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.” God told Moses His Name not to satisfy a curiosity, but to arm Him, to strengthen Him, to equip Him to face all opposition. Beloved that's what this Name will do for you. Knowing God's name is to know that nothing can defeat you, no evil can frustrate God's purposes for you, nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. All blessing is contained in His everlasting Name.

¹ This is what I found according to the KJV on the Blue Letter Bible site: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h3068/kjv/wlc/0-1/> thought the Legacy Standard Bible claims the number is 6,800 times which probably represents the different manuscripts these translations come from.

- ☆The Wonder of a Name
- ☆The Wonder of God's Name
- ☆The Wonder of God's Unending Name

I. The Wonder of a Name

Re-orientating ourselves

Moses is on Mt. Sinai. After 40 years of being in the wilderness, the Angel of the LORD who we discovered is the pre-incarnate Christ, shows up in the Burning Bush and calls to Moses. It is this encounter that shapes the whole Old Testament. You cannot understand the historical books, the psalms the prophets if you do not understand the exodus. The Exodus was the chief, highest, most spectacular redemptive event in the OT—just as the Cross of Jesus Christ is the chief, highest most spectacular redemptive event in the NT. And just as the Cross of Christ had it's beginnings in a manger in Bethlehem, when Christ came down clothed in baby, so the Exodus had it's beginnings on Mt. Sinai, when Christ clothed Himself in a flame of fire. Put yourself there on that mountain with Moses. The LORD tells him that He has come to set Israel free, and that He is going to use Moses as his instrument. Last week, Moses asked in v.11 But "...*who am I* that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Moses was right. He was not sufficient for the task. But the LORD tells Him in v.12 "But I will be with you." The 80 year old shepherd would succeed in taking down the most powerful military force in the world not because he was able—but because the LORD was with Him. Now we find out who this LORD is.

'What shall I say?'

Please look with me at v.13 "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?"'" Now it seems that Moses did not *know* God's name. Now if you look in the book of Genesis,

both Adam and Eve and the patriarchs were already using this Personal Name of God, e.g. Eve called God Yahweh in **Genesis 4:1**. Why didn't Moses know it? Doesn't Scripture say he was a man of faith? (**Hebrews 11:24**). Yes. But consider that while in Egypt, Israel along with Moses had been thoroughly Egyptianized. It's not much different from what we see today. There are many true God-fearing born-again Christians who are largely ignorant of the God they serve. The reason why Christians disagree on doctrine, is because one or both parties have a *different idea of who God is* at least on that point of doctrine. How many true Christians have you met that attribute more sovereignty to human choice than Almighty God? How many times have you doubted the love of the God who knows the number of hairs on your head? Ignorance of God is a disease that all Christians share. Moses had asked God what His name was because *it seems*, His Name had fallen out of Israel's collective memory.² Moses wanted to know the Name so that when he went to Israel he might persuade the Israelites that God had really sent him.

Our first principle: the importance of a name

Ok, but how could a *mere* name persuade them? Here's the problem: we live in a post-Kantian world where we have been taught that names need not correspond with the nature of the thing named. But that is not Biblical thinking.³ And so we come upon our **first principle**: *God designed names to reveal the nature of things*. Names were never meant to be arbitrary or capricious.⁴ To name something is to describe it's nature. Tolkien understood this when he

² "By asking for God's name, Moses shows he does not know it. This does not mean that the name about to be revealed was not known prior to the burning bush incident. It simply indicates that either the name had somehow been lost to the Hebrews in their many centuries of slavery, or that it was not a prominent designation for God before this time." John D. Currid, *Exodus Vol. 1: Chapters 1-18*, (Auburn, MA.,: Evangelical Press, 2000), pg. 90. Also cf. John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries Vol. II*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: BakerBooks, 2009), pg. 72-73

³ "To give a name in both the Hebrew and Greek intuition is to describe the inmost and real nature of the thing." W.G.T. Shedd, *Dogmatic Theology 3rd Edition*, Ed. Alan W. Gomes, (Phillipsburg, NJ.,: P & R Publishing, 2003), pg. 211

⁴ Even the Greek philosophers understood this. "Plato in *Cratylus* 390, represents Socrates as saying that "the right imposition of names is no easy matter and belongs not to any and everybody, but to him only who has an insight into the nature of things."" *Ibid*

wrote *The Lord of the Rings*. Children, boys and girls, there is an important dialog between Treebeard and the hobbits. Treebeard and Merry and Pippin are all standing on a hill. Treebeard is shocked that they call it such a thing.

Treebeard asks them “Did you say what you call it...”

“Hill?” suggested Pippin

“Shelf, step?” suggest Merry

Treebeard repeated the words thoughtfully. “Hill. Yes that was it. But it is a hasty word for a thing that has stood here ever since this part of the world was shaped.”⁵

Treebeard represents the old way of thinking—that names should reflect the nature of the things they name. Dear congregation, God designed names to reveal the mystery of things. Consider a survey of Biblical proofs.

Consider Adam. Adam’s name has the same etymology as dust. Yes, Adam and all his posterity have great dignity because we have been made in the image of God. And yet, Adam’s very name means dust. Who is man—a creature of the dirt—compared to Almighty God?⁶ Adam’s name teaches all men their true nature.

Consider Eve. She was given two names. **First** she was named woman because “...she was taken out of man” (**Genesis 2:23**). Then, Adam gave her a special name after God promised that from the woman would come the Seed who would crush the serpent. **Genesis 3:20** “The man called his wife’s name Eve, *because* she was the mother of all living.” He’s calling attention to the fact that Eve is the

⁵ cf. C.R Wiley *In the House of Tom Bombadil*, ch. 3

⁶ Adam being made in God's image was given dominion over the earth and this dominion was specifically exercised in naming creatures (cf. Genesis 2:19-20) but of course he doesn't name God. When Adam named the animals (Genesis 2:19-20), "he imposed names upon them, not rashly, but from certain knowledge...he, having closely inspected them, might distinguish them by appropriate names, agreeing with the nature of each...I do not doubt that each of them was founded on the best reason." John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries Vol. 1*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: BakerBooks, 2009), pg. 131

first mother of the Savior would restore life to humanity.⁷ Eve's name teaches us her dual nature.

Consider Seth. Adam named his son Seth *because* he had lost Abel to Cain (**Genesis 5:3**). Seth means compensation. God 'compensated' for the loss of Abel ensuring that the Serpent Crusher would come through Seth's line. Seth's teaches us about God's plan.⁸

Consider Abraham. I don't know why Terah who was a pagan named his son Abram which means "exalted father,"⁹ but we do know why God changed his name to Abraham. **Genesis 17:5** "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude

⁷ "Eve was to be the mother of that Seed that was to bruise the head of the serpent....therefore [Adam] thought it worthy to give Eve her name from it, as the most remarkable thing that he had observed concerning Eve...and therefore he thought it above all things worthy that her name should be a continual memorial of it...the thing of which Adam took special notice in giving his wife this name, was not her being the universal mother of mankind, or the universality of her maternity, but the quality of those that she was to be the mother of, viz. living ones, is evident from the name itself...A name is given for distinction; and therefore doubtless Adam gave her a name that expressed something that was distinguishing" Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards Vo. 2*, (Carlisle, PA.: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), pg. 692. Also see Edward Fisher, *The Marrow of Modern Divinity*, (Scotland, UK.: Christian Focus Publishing, 2009), pg. 72

⁸ Consider Noah. Lamech named him in hopes that he would be the promised offspring. Genesis 5:29 says "[he]...called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." And Noah did bring ensure that relief through his participation in saving the seed of the woman in the deluge. Noah's name teaches us about judgment and redemption.

⁹ Genesis 11:26

of nations.” Abraham’s name teaches us that Jesus Christ would be a blessing to all nations.¹⁰

Consider Moses himself. Just look back at **2:10**. Why was Moses called Moses? Halfway through the verse. “She named him Moses, “Because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”” Moses very *name* uncovers God’s wonderful providence in saving him.¹¹

¹⁰ Consider Sarah. God instructed Abraham to change his wife from Sarai (which means princess) to Sarah. Why? Because now she would be the "mother of nations" - Genesis 17:15-16

Consider Isaac. God instructed Abraham and Sarah to name their firstborn son Isaac which means "he laughs" - Genesis 17:19. This maybe in part because Sarah laughed when told of his birth (Genesis 18:13) but also probably because though Isaac's seed would be the joy and happiness of all the earth. cf. Edwards pg. 710.

Consider Jacob. Jacob’s name means "supplanter" because of the way he was born (Genesis 25:26) and he played this part as Esau pointed out (Genesis 27:36). Though God was behind it all (Genesis 25:23). But the Lord renamed Jacob Israel because (Genesis 32:28) it signified how God would mightily prevail through the nation of Israel. "God now gives him a new and more honorable name...that he may testify a still higher progress of his grace...[Israel] signifies to rule, as if he were called a Prince of God...God had transferred the praise of his own strength to Jacob, for the purpose of triumphing in his person...For he doe not merely impose a name, as men are accustomed to do, but with the name he gives the thing itself which the name implies, that the name may correspond with it." cf. Calvin vol. 1, pg. 200

¹¹ Consider Joshua. It’s no accident that the OT was named "Jehovah is salvation" since it was he that led Israel into the promised land and Jesus was also called Joshua (Jesus' name in Hebrew was “Yeshua” which translates to English as Joshua) since He is the anti type that leads true Israel into the promised land through His death, burial and resurrection. Also cf. Ichabod - 1 Samuel 4:21; Nabal - 1 Samuel 25:25; and how the wicked (because they are wicked and enemies of God) will have their names (like their souls) taken away - Job 30:8; Psalm 9:5-6.

Consider Simon. Why did Jesus re-name him Peter which means Rock (John 1:42)? Because his *name* signifies the solid confession upon which the gates of hell will not prevail (**Matthew 16:18**).

And this is true not only of people but of places. Jacob *named* the place where God met him and covenanted with him Bethel which means “house of God.” He said “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God” (**Genesis 28:17-19**). The *name* Bethel is an everlasting reminder that God is the God of Jacob. Why was the place where Jesus was crucified called Golgotha? Because it means “Place of a Skull” (**Matthew 23:33**). It was named because that is where men perished by crucifixion and it is the place where Christ perished for us. also cf. Genesis 21:3; Genesis 22:14; Genesis 31:48; Genesis 32:2; Genesis 32:30; Genesis 35:7; Genesis 50:11; Exodus 15:23; Exodus 17:7; Numbers 11:3; Numbers 11:34; Numbers 13:24; Numbers 21:3; Joshua 5:9; Joshua 7:26; Judges 2:5; Judges 15:17; Judges 15:19; Judges 18:12; 1 Samuel 23:28; 2 Samuel 2:16; 2 Samuel 5:20; 2 Samuel 6:8; 2 Chronicles 20:26; Jeremiah 19:6; Ezekiel 20:29; John 19:13; Revelation 16:16 etc.

Summa Theologica

To land the plane, Moses asked what God's name was *so that* he and the children of Israel could know who this *God was*. Moses understood that if he knew God's name, *he would know God Himself*.

The Name of the One who came into the world

Let's apply this first point. In this Advent season, celebrate the Name of Him who came into the world. His coming was announced *primarily* by telling us His Name. **Isaiah 9:6** "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and *his name shall be called* Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." His Name tells you *why* His coming into the world was the most glorious event in all of human history: no other being ever has or ever will bear such a name.

Matthew 1:21 "She will bear a son, and *you shall call his name* Jesus, *for he will save his people from their sins*." God named Him Jesus so that you would know that by believing on His name, He will save you from your sins.

Matthew 1:23 "...and *they shall call his name* Immanuel (*which means, God with us*)." God named Him Immanuel so that you would know that not only do you get full forgiveness, but you get God Himself. His name means that God is with you!

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;

'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest."¹²

“There is no name so sweet on earth,
no name so sweet in heaven,
the name before his wondrous birth
to Christ the Savior given.

O Jesus, by that matchless name,
your grace shall fail us never;
today as yesterday the same,
you art the same forever.

We love to sing around our King,
and hail him blessed Jesus;
for there's no word ear ever heard
so dear, so sweet as “Jesus.””¹³

That’s our **first point**. Names are full of wonder because God designed them to reveal things that are hidden.

II. The Wonder of God’s Name

Yahweh is the I AM

Moses asked God what His name was. How did God respond? Please look with me at v.14-15 “God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to

¹² John Newton, *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

¹³ William Bradbury, *There Is No Name So Sweet On Earth*

Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘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.’ Note the parallel. In v.14 it’s “I AM has sent me to you.” In v.15 it’s “The LORD, the God of Abraham...Isaac, and...Jacob, has sent me to you.” LORD in caps is derived from the Hebrew verb “to be” in v.14 expressed as “I AM WHO I AM.” Meaning, wherever you see LORD in caps throughout the OT (nearly 7,000x) you should think “I AM WHO I AM.” In the Hebrew, LORD is expressed in four letters YHWH, and some have pronounced this Jehovah, others Yahweh.¹⁴ Please understand that the word God אֱלֹהִים ‘ēlōhîm and Lord אֲדֹנָי ‘ăḏōnāy are not so much names of God but titles. And these titles can be used of men. Elohim is used of civil rulers in **Psalm 82:1**, and Adonai is used of masters in **Psalm 45:8-9**. But Yahweh is the Personal Name of God and is never used of anyone else.¹⁵ Yahweh alone is “I AM WHO I AM.” So what does it mean? Oh the utter strangeness, the other worldliness of it. How are we supposed to understand this? Well, consider at least four things this means.

1. Yahweh is self-existent

We use the language of “I am” all the time when speaking about ourselves. I am a man. I am an American. I am a Christian. I am Josh. Whatever we put after *I am* defines us and limits us. These definitions, these limitations are imposed upon us from outside of ourselves. But Yahweh has no limitations that come from outside of Himself. He simply says “I AM.” He is self-existent, limitless, infinite. Being is given to us from outside of ourselves, but He is Being *itself*.¹⁶ That is the lesson of the Burning Bush. What does every fire need? Fuel. Without fuel the fire dies. But what was the fire in the bush consuming?

¹⁴ cf. “Excursus 1: Yahweh or Jehovah?” in Michael Barrett, *The Gospel of Exodus*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: Reformation Heritage Books, 2020), pg. 67-68

¹⁵ Cf. Wilhelmus A Brakel, *The Christian’s Reasonable Service Vol. 1*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: Reformation Heritage Books, 1992), pg. 85 & Petrus Van Mastricht, *Theoretical-Practical Theology Vol. 2*, (Grand Rapids, MI.,: Reformation Heritage Books, 2019), pg. 106

¹⁶ As one ancient said “...this Name contains all things in it, like a vast and infinite ocean without bounds.” Damascene in *Thomas Brooks*, *The Works of Thomas Brooks Vol. 5*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, Reprinted 2001), pg. 152

Nothing. This fire—Yahweh—doesn't need a fuel source. He needs nothing outside of Himself to sustain Him. He is self-sustaining. As Van Mastricht says here, He is "...from Himself and for Himself....He alone has all essence."¹⁷ William Shedd says "...this is His peculiar characteristic: that *He is*, in a sense in which no other being is...*He is* self-existent and cannot but be...[Yahweh] must be and cannot be conceived of as nonexistent."¹⁸ *He is* necessarily. That's the **first thing** "I AM" means: *Yahweh is the self-existent One.*

2. Yahweh is eternal

There was a time when you and I *were not*. We *became* when we were conceived in our mother's womb. But Yahweh never became, He is "I AM." Meaning He is eternal. To be sure men and angels are in eternal in *one sense*. Though we all had a beginning we will live forever. But God is eternal in the proper sense. He never had a beginning. He is eternity itself, no beginning, no end, no succession of moments. In Yahweh, there is no *before* or *after* because these words only describe those created things that exist in time. Oh it breaks the human mind to think of it. *Before Genesis 1:1*, *before* the beginning, *before* Yahweh created the heavens and the earth, there was no *before*. And in the Person of Yahweh *after Genesis 1:1*, *after* that beginning of the cosmos, *after* Yahweh created all things, there was no *after*. Augustine prayed to this timeless "I AM" in his Confessions: "Although You are before time, it is not in time that you precede it. If this were so, you would not be before all time...You made all time; you are before all time; and the 'time', if such we may call it, when there was no time was not time at all."¹⁹ That is the **second thing** "I AM" means: *Yahweh is from everlasting to everlasting.*

¹⁷ Van Mastricht, pg. 100

¹⁸ Shedd, pg. 211

¹⁹ Augustine, *Confessions*, (New York, NY,.; Penguin Books, 1961), pg. 263

3. Yahweh is unchangeable

You and I are constantly *becoming*. After a long day we say “I am tired...I am hungry.” Children, boys and girls, right now you can say “I am young” but very soon you will say “I am old.” All of us are constantly becoming something different. But Yahweh is never becoming something else, “He is always I AM.” Meaning He is unchangeable. It is impossible for Him to change. Things that change were something *before*, are something different *now*, and will be something different *then*.²⁰ If God ever becomes something else than He is, than He cannot be “I AM.” As Stephen Charnock says “I AM” means “I am the same, *before* the creation of the world and *since* the creation of the world, *before* the entrance of sin and *since* the entrance of sin, *before* their going into Egypt and *while* they remain in Egypt.”²¹ That is the **third thing** “I AM” means: *Yahweh is immutable*.

4. Yahweh is covenantally gracious

Please look at v.15. The LORD again for the third time in this book brings up the fact that He is the God of Abraham etc. v.15 “God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘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.’” Do you see what God is saying by bringing this up *again in this place*? He is saying that though He is the Self-Existent One, the One who lives in Eternity, the One who can never change—He *has bound Himself to His people*—to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to the children of Israel. He is their God and they are His people. *Why* would God do this? He is the “I AM.” He doesn’t need them or anybody. He doesn’t depend upon them. They don’t sustain Him. In fact at every opportunity they rebel against Him. Why would He bind Himself to this people? Don’t you see, the only possible answer is that He chose to love them. From eternity He chose to set His affection and mercy and pity upon them, and because He is the Great “I AM” He can never undo that covenant love. As one theologian says here

²⁰ “That which is changed *was something, is something, and will be something.*” Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God, Vol. 1*, (Wheaton, IL.: Crossway, 2022), pg. 479

²¹ *Ibid*, pg. 493

“It is more certain than certain that *He will be* who *He is*” to these His people. This is perhaps the most unbelievable thing in this passage. He grounds His covenant mercies in the immutability of His Person. He pours the infinitely strong cement of “I AM” over His promise to save and love and provide for Israel. That is the **fourth thing** “I AM” means: *Yahweh’s covenant love for His people is rooted in His self-existence, eternity, and immutability.*

Our second principle: the comfort of God’s Name

That brings us our **second principle**: *In the Personal Name of Yahweh, we find everything we need for this life and the life to come.*

Experimental Use

Dear congregation, *examine* yourself. What more do you need than this God? I’m not saying that believers don’t suffer if they have Yahweh. We most certainly do. We will suffer loss in this life, the loss of earthly comforts, the loss of friends and family, but we will never ever lose Yahweh. Search your heart, what does it long for more than anything else? Is the answer “I AM WHO I AM?”

In the Personal Name of Yahweh, you have all beauty, all glory, all desire. **Psalm 115:1** “Not to us, O Lord, not to us, *but to your name give glory.*”²²

In the Personal Name of Yahweh, you have the highest, best, greatest good in existence. **Psalm 138:2** “...you have exalted above all things *your name* and your word.”

Consolatory Use

Loved ones, *comfort* yourself with this Name. What friend do you have like Yahweh? Even your best earthly friend will one day be separated from you. Either you or they will die. But Yahweh can never die. He is the self-existent

²² Psalm 115:1

One. “He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”²³

Your earthly friends may selflessly love and serve you and be concerned with you always careful to bless you. But they can never give you eternity. But Yahweh can! “From everlasting to everlasting [He] is God.”²⁴ The Great “I AM” can translate you to the third heaven that Paul saw—that realm where the most powerful rocket ship could never find.

The reality is that your earthly friends will let you down. Friends break their promises or fail you in other ways, often simply because they are mutable and live in circumstances that are constantly changing. But Yahweh is immutable. Nothing can change Him. **Numbers 23:19** “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”

Why do your earthly friends love you? Most often it is because your relationship is built on mutual love, or some mutual relationship, some mutual commonality. They love you because you are lovely to them in some manner. But dear believer, Yahweh does not love you because of some loveliness in you. His covenant with you is not based *on you* at all. It’s based on His free grace. Nothing in you could have moved Him to love you—other wise He is not “I AM.” He loves *because* He chose to love. And He can never un-choose to love you because if His love for you changes, He is not “I AM.” It is more certain than certain that He will continue to be your God and you His child for all eternity world without end.

Admonitory

Therefore rebuke yourself if this God is not your God. What do you have if you do not have Yahweh? The breath in your nostrils will soon vanish. Your life will end either by a small microscopic virus or some tragic accident, or cancer, or heart failure. You cannot keep yourself alive. You are like the glory of a flower—which blossoms in the morning and fades in the evening. Without

²³ Acts 17:25

²⁴ Psalm 90:2

Yahweh you are living your life in vain. You have no refuge from the coming storm, no portion laid up for you, no everlasting blessedness. It would be better for you not exist than to live without Yahweh being your God. Call out to Him. *In the Personal Name of Yahweh we find everything we need for this life and the life to come.* That's our **second point**.

III. The Wonder of God's Unending Name

Jesus Christ is Yahweh

Please look at the end of **v.15** "This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations." Now especially during Advent, a verse like this seems like a contradiction. Every Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Savior the LORD Jesus Christ. And we know that "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him *the name that is above every name*, so that *at the name of Jesus* every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." How can God say in Exodus 3 that Yahweh is His name forever, and that that He is to be remember as such for all generations, BUT then find in the NT that Jesus was given the name that is above every name? How do we reconcile this? Here's the wonder of all wonders and our **final principle**: *Jesus Christ is Yahweh in the flesh.*

The NT witness

Now it's true that Yahweh is not used in the NT—it's a Hebrew word and the NT is in Greek. But it matters little. The NT authors constantly quoted those passages in the OT which contained Yahweh in them and applied them to Jesus Himself.

- Peter at Pentecost quoted the 16th Psalm and applied it to Christ. **Acts 2:25** "For David says concerning him[that is Christ], "I saw the Lord [the word is

Yahweh in **Psalm 16:8**] always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken.” Peter preached that Jesus was Yahweh.

- **Hebrews 2:10** quotes the 102nd Psalm applying it to Christ. We read “You, Lord [Yahweh in **Psalm 102:25**], laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands.” Hebrews taught Jesus is Yahweh.

Jesus Himself taught this

He told the Jews in **John 8:58** “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, *I am*.” That’s why they picked up stones because they believed He was only a man, and He used the Personal Name of God for Himself. Dear congregation, Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the God who came down and put on flesh. The Great I AM *is* the Son of God who came into the world to save sinners.

Celebratory Use

Oh loved ones, here is our exhortation this morning: remember the Name. **v.15** says “thus I am to be *remembered* throughout all generations.” How do we obey this? How are we to remember this Name to the glory and honor of God? A study published in Forbes last year found “that our minds wander 47% of the time, but that they almost wander to negative thoughts.”²⁵ Reclaim your mind. God says ‘Remember my Name.’ When your mind wanders this week, take it captive, force it to *remember* “I AM WHO I AM.”

Remember that you are defined by limitations outside of you, but Yahweh is the limitless, self-existent “I AM.”

Remember that you became. But Yahweh is One who inhabits eternity—the eternal “I AM.”

²⁵ Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisonescalante/2021/01/28/new-science-why-our-brains-spend-50-of-the-time-mind-wandering/?sh=7b1b400a4854> Accessed December 4, 2022

Remember that you are constantly becoming. But Yahweh is never changing, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Remember that you are in covenant with this God. And it doesn't depend upon how lovely, or faithful, or holy you are. He is the God of Abraham and He is your God, not because you attracted Him to yourself. If you attracted Him, He is not "I AM." No He is your God because He chose to love you. And if He chose to love you, He cannot but forever love you because He is "I AM."

Finally **remember** that this Yahweh is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that this "I AM" has promised you all things in Himself.

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."²⁶

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."²⁷

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."²⁸

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."²⁹

²⁶ John 6:35

²⁷ John 8:12

²⁸ John 10:11

²⁹ John 11:25-26

