

Is Jesus Jehovah? The missing name YHWH

Ex. 3:12-15 “What is His name?”

Israel had been enslaved in Egypt for four generations (400 yrs). Almighty God remembered His covenant with Abraham and called Moses, an 80 yr. old stutterer, as His deliverer. First, Moses asks God what is your **Name?** He knew names revealed purpose, destiny, character etc. He wanted to know the final outcome. For example:

Adam named Eve *chavah, mother of living or* Esau= hairy red; Peter= *petra to petros*.

What is Moses asking? He knew God (*elohim*) as Creator and *el shaddai* as Almighty. Wasn't God enough? Humans began calling on YHWH with Enosh (Gen 4:26).

Impt. Since YHWH used **6823X in Heb. Scr.** Always covenant name of promise.

1. Ex 3:14 I AM THAT I AM *ehyeh asher ehyer*

3:14 tell Israel I AM sent me to you

3:15 YHWH has sent me to you. WHAT IS THE CORRECT NAME?

2. Meaning of I AM (3:14) I AM is first person of verb “to be”

Same word used in **3:12 I will certainly be with you... I** am with you here; I will be with you there in Egypt.

Not yet, but I will be when the time comes. LORD graciously encouraging him by promising *to be with him* and assuring the ultimate success of his mission.

Certainly, I will be with you (*ehyeh*).

Active element of verb I WILL BE...is His continued presence.

YHWH is translated LORD in most English translations. Distinguish from Lord with lower letters which means *Adonai*.

3. 3:13 Behold, I am coming to the sons of Israel (Present tense). God has sent me (past tense).

“What is his name?” What is so special about this God? No visible presence accompanying him. He would be alone and present himself to the enslaved sons of Israel as their divinely sent

deliverer. He would tell them the God of their Fathers had promised to free them. Not much impression for a people sunk into and adapting idolatries of Egypt. They had been settlers there for more than 400 years.

“Show us the Father” is still the cry of the bewildered heart.

4. 3:14 I AM from Heb. Verb *havah* “to be.” Verbs have tense.

If *qal* “static perfect” it is finished, all movement has ceased. Just HE IS.

If *hiphil* “imperfect tense” from mere existence to constant movement affording new manifestations of Himself. *“What am I like?”*

Most scholars prefer imperfect tense God is I AM not HE IS.

5. 3:15 YHWH sent me. My memorial name to the ages. His name is not a NOUN but a active verb.

Problem: I AM sent me: YHVH sent me. Who sent him” Both from same verb.

Ehyeh is 1st person of verb *hayah* “to be.”

YHVH is 3rd person of same verb.

I AM and HE IS a normal historical narrative.

6. Ex. 3:14 I AM that I AM means “I even I”

Verb “to be” is not used in the Hebrew present tense. *Am, is, and are* are implied.

The Repetitive name is emphasized. I even I. In Greek it is *ego eimi* I, I am.

I shall continue to be what I will be or what I have been or am.

Mofatt trans: The Eternal, but it doesn’t really reveal much. Moses knew God was eternal.

I AM THAT I AM is a literal trans, but it doesn’t say enough. Like “I’m Popeye the sailor man.” It doesn’t say a lot.

6. Ex. 3:14 *ehyeh* is the “imperfect mood/aspect, a way of looking at the action.” It means uncompleted action.

The Hebrew *Yood* prefix gives it the imperfect, a future tense.

If perfect tense the action is finished, but effect may continue. What happened?

“Imperfect” something is not nailed down as to when it happened.

Dr Pentecost: “It contains each tense of the verb “be” and might be translated: I was, I Am and I shall always continue to be.”

The Imperfect may be past I WAS something or the other over a period of time OR

Future: some grammarians call the imperfect the future tense in Hebrew: I shall be.:

EMPHASIS: is on God saying: “I shall be what I AM,” or, “What I have been,” or “I shall always be what I always have been.”

Emphasis on centrality of God, unchanging nature of God.

He is the same yesterday, today and forever Rev 1:4,8; 11:17 is, was, coming

Note: Gen 1 elohim (plural noun) for God is only used for power, strength, Creator

Gen. 2 God related to primary creation, man in His own image.

Gen 2:1 begins with “in day when YHVH Elohim created. Emphasis is on Yahweh, the covenant relating personal God. YHVH never used for godless people.

8. Ex 3:14: *I will always be what I have always been.*

Correct? Ex 3:12: *ehyeh* I will be with you when you go to Egypt

Literal trans: *For with you, I, am going with you.*

Has a future , unfulfilled promise. Moses: you’re uncertain, fearful, but trust Me. I will be with you.”

Now, when God said: *ehyeh asher ehyeh* the promise is still there. I shall be with you in the future as I have been with you in the past and I am with you right now.

Question: “Doesn’t it mean I AM THAT I AM? Yes, but what is being said?”

Example: NT passage where Jesus picks up on John 8:58. “Before Abraham was born, or came into existence, I AM (grk *ego eimi, I, I am*). Before Abraham came into existence I have always been and the Jews wanted to kill Him.

Ex 3:14 I SHALL BE still retains God's **self-determination**. I AM THAT I AM emphasized God is what He determines.

Gernhaus Vos Commentary: "He is from within determined. Not influenced by outside force. He is!

OK: If translated I SHALL BE, who determines what he is? God Himself. He is.

9. **Ex. 3:15 is not first time YHVH or LORD is used and known.**

a) 5:1-2 Pharaoh resisting implication of the Name.

V1 Moses said "Thus saith YHVH"

V2 Pharaoh replied: "Who is YHVH?"

God intended both Israel and Egyptians know Him as YHVH. The Sovereign, Self-determined redeeming God.

b) Ex 8:19 That you may KNOW there is none like YHVH. When frogs are gone tomorrow you'll know.

Ex 8:22 When flies gone you will KNOW

c) **Ex. 6:1-10** YHVH opens and closes 7 I wills. The name YHWH contains 7 I wills.

10. **God's Memorial name to all ages/generations.**

A: **:YHVH** is THE memorial covenant name.

3rd per sing of verb HAYAH "to be."

(1) His people called upon He who exists; object of worship and faith

(2) Contrast to dead idols and icons of gods in Egypt.

B: Name was not **UNKNOWN** before Ex. 3:14-15

Abr, Isaac, Jacob called upon YHVH. Gen 13:4; 21:33; 22:14; 26:25; 28:21-22

(1) Ex 6:3 Appeared as God Almighty, but not known as YHVH.

C: **YHVH His memorial name** now contains what He is and does. How to be remembered and known from generation to generation.

(1) Hos. 12:5 Even YHVH, the Elohim of hosts; YHVH his mem name

QUE: How does God want to be known? He will be what He will be. WHAT?????

His WORDS and His WORKS manifest what/who He is.

Jn. 14:9-10 "Show us the Father." How did Jesus answer the question?

D: Jewish reverence. The Name was too sacred for utterance. Substituted LORD. When read YHVH read LORD or G-D.

The English name Jehovah dates to 1270AD and a Catholic monk Raymundus Martini.

E: The NAME is recorded 6,823 times in the Old Testament but not once in the New Testament. WHY? It was His Memorial name for **all generations**.

GOD is not a name, but a title. God could be any god from any religion from Islam to Buddhism.

F: Pronunciation or participation? Ex. 6:1-10 I AM YHVH. Experience YHWH and then you will know I AM.

11. The Mystery of the Missing Name.

A: Mt 1:21 Named J'Shua, He WAS The Christ.

Y'Shua will save His people.

Psa 68:4 says God's Name is Yah. How pronounce one syllable?

B: Shall save is "shua" from Heb root YASHA = Y'shua, Jesus, is a New Covenant Name.

C: Jn. 5:43 Jesus said, "I come in My Father's name" YHWH.

Jn. 17:5 Jesus said, "I have manifested your name YHVH."

How did Y'shua manifest YHVH= He will be?

Fulfilled every promise Elohim made to His covenant people. 6,823 times He said I WILL BE, but when Jesus came never repeated promise again. Why?

Verb change from imperfect = incompleting action to NOW- present perfect, **Emmanuel** = God is with us, completed action. Seven times Jesus said "I AM." He fulfilled every Hebrew covenant promise. His name was and means, God is with us and His bodily resurrection proves it beyond reasonable doubt.