
1. Introduction:

In this study, we will look at the first names of Yahweh in the Old Testament. As we continue towards the study of Father God (Paterology), so far we have found the following truths about Him:

- The Trinity are the Pre-Existing Ones.
- Our heavenly Father's original plan was to have sons and daughters.
- God lives inside of His creation (but can choose to live outside of creation).
- He lives inside of time (but can choose to live outside of time).
- Yahweh/Elohim is relational with man like a father is relational with his son.
- God is covenant-keeping and, therefore, relational.
- He can change His mind except if it breaks the covenant.

Now, we are going to look at more attributes of Yahweh. Some teach that we must call God Yahweh, YHWH, or Jehovah. We will see over this lesson- that is unnecessary. Interestingly, Jesus did not teach us to pray; "Our Yahweh, who is in heaven"!

2. What's in a Name:

A. Biblical Names Have Meanings:

Hundreds of times in the Bible, names reflect a particular character that the parents want their child to have.

B. Names Do Not Describe Everything About a Person:

Some teach that we must call God Yahweh. Others are horrified that we spell the name Yahweh rather than YHWH. Others have become so religious that they will write G_d! If we don't, we are "wrong" because "God" is a deity's name, not the original one. Yet we found that God even called Himself Elohim, which means a deity in Genesis 1:1.

Just like my name Neville means New village (which is very accurate of my breakthrough and church planting grace), that does not define who I am as a total person:

- I am a blood father to three children, and I am a spiritual father to hundreds worldwide;
- Also, I am a husband to one woman.
- Then I am a preacher,
- a veterinarian,
- a flight captain,
- I am an apostolic prophet

so my name only defines a small part of me.

It is the same with Yahweh. You will remember from the previous study that Yahweh means "I am who I say I am". In other words, "Don't put me in a box, I will reveal myself to you through many different attributes".

3. Yahweh to be a Name for All Generations:

A. Primary Name.

When God identified Himself with the name of Yahweh to Moses, He said this primary name would be a memorial for all generations.

EXODUS 3:15

GOD TOLD MOSES, "THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: 'THE LORD 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 THIS IS MY MEMORIAL TO ALL GENERATIONS.'

B. The Name Yahweh is Still Relevant.

This is the primary name of God as revealed to man and applies today. However, as we progress through this series of studies, we can call Him 'Father' under the New Covenant.

C. The New Covenant name:

Under the New Covenant, the primary name of Yahweh becomes Father, and He can now be known as a Father.

4. Descriptors of Yahweh:

A. His Attributes:

Yahweh wants to show His attributes because they are who He is, so as sons and daughters of God, these attributes become ours. (eg YHWH Jireh is God OUR Provider).

B. We are His children:

Under the New Covenant, we are now heirs of God.

ROMANS 8:17

AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST ...

5. Old Testament Names of Yahweh: Jireh (God, Our Provider):

A. He Will See To It.

When we call upon His Name Yahweh Jireh, He will see to it
. Yahweh Jireh means He who was pre-existing before creation and 'will see to it!'

B. The Law of First Mention:

Scriptures are weighed more heavily the first time a concept or word is mentioned.

The first time we read of the name Jahweh Jireh is when Abraham offers up Isaac as a sacrifice.

GENESIS 22:14

AND ABRAHAM CALLED THE NAME OF THAT PLACE JEHOVAH-JIREH: AS IT IS SAID TO THIS DAY, IN THE MOUNT OF JEHOVAH IT SHALL BE PROVIDED.

C. The Gift of a Substitute.

God gave Abraham a gift (a ram) so that Isaac did not need to die. Abraham was the primary beneficiary - the man who made a covenant with God:

JOHN 3:16

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

D. The Free Gift of Grace.

Under the New Covenant as our Father, He still provides everything we need through His gift - grace. The context of this scripture is the financial provision:

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TOWARD YOU, THAT YOU, ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS, MAY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

6. Old Testament Names of Yahweh: Rapha (God, Our Healer)¹

A. He is Our Healer.

We need to understand that the name Yahweh Rapha is not trying to describe how powerful God is- that He can heal. He is saying that He is OUR healer.

B. Insight of a Rabbi.

Rabbis tell us that the word PUT is essential to understanding this scripture:

EXODUS 15:26

AND SAID, "IF YOU DILIGENTLY HEED THE VOICE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN HIS SIGHT, GIVE EAR TO HIS COMMANDMENTS AND KEEP ALL HIS STATUTES, I WILL PUT NONE OF THE DISEASES ON YOU WHICH I HAVE BROUGHT ON THE EGYPTIANS. FOR I AM THE YAHWEH WHO (JIREH) HEALS YOU."

¹ See Healing 101

Author:

Dr Neville van Eerten

Old Testament
Names of Yahweh



C. Divine Health:

The use of the word PUT indicates that this is not just a promise of healing but of divine health.

There is a proviso on this: that IF you follow the Lord...

For this reason, rabbis have put the following reading of this passage:

If you follow me only then I will give you divine health. However, if you follow false God's and sicknesses come upon you, then I will heal you from your sicknesses.

D. The Covenant Promise.

God then sealed it with a covenant promise that would later come through Jesus Christ:

ISAIAH 53:5

**BUT HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS,
HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES;
THE CHASTISEMENT FOR OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM,
AND BY HIS STRIPES, WE ARE HEALED.**

E. Matthew Explains it More Clearly:

MATTHEW 8:16-17

WHEN EVENING HAD COME, THEY BROUGHT TO HIM MANY WHO WERE DEMON-POSSESSED. AND HE CAST OUT THE SPIRITS WITH A WORD, AND HEALED ALL WHO WERE SICK, THAT IT MIGHT BE FULFILLED WHICH WAS SPOKEN BY ISAIAH THE PROPHET, SAYING:

**"HE TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES
AND BORE OUR SICKNESSES."**

For further teaching, see Healing is in the Atonement.

7. Summary:

A. Old Testament Revelation of God:

- The Trinity are the Pre-Existing Ones.
- Our heavenly Father's original plan was to have sons and daughters.
- God lives inside His creation (but can choose to live outside of creation).
- He lives inside of time (but can choose to live outside of time).
- Yahweh/Elohim is relational with man like a Father is relational with man.
- God is covenant-keeping and, therefore, relational.
- He can change His mind except if it breaks the covenant.

B. Nature of God 102: Old Testament Names of Yahweh:

- His Old Testament primary name is Yahweh (we will see that this is no longer His primary name later).
- All descriptors (eg Rapha) are related to us, not God.
- He is our provider (Yahweh Jireh).
- He is our healer (Yahweh Rapha).

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