

The Meaning and Significance of the name Yahweh (I AM)

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning **God (אֱלֹהִים Elohim)** created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of **God** was hovering over the face of the waters. 3Then **God** said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Genesis 2:1-5 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2And on the seventh day **God (אֱלֹהִים)** ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3Then **God** blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which **God** had created and made.

4This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that **Yahweh God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים)** made the earth and the heavens, 5before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For **Yahweh God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים)** had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;

Genesis 4:26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then *men* began to call on the name of **Yahweh (יְהוָה)**.

Genesis 12:1 Now **Yahweh (יְהוָה)** had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.

Genesis 15:1-4, 7 After these things the word of **Yahweh (יְהוָה)** came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**” 2But Abram said, “**My Lord Yahweh (אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה)**, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!” 4And behold, the word of **Yahweh (יְהוָה)** came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” ...7 Then He said to him, “**I am Yahweh (יְהוָה)**, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.”

Genesis 17:1-2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, **Yahweh (יְהוָה)** appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am **Almighty God (אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי El Shaddai)**; walk before Me and be blameless. 2And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” ****

Genesis 18:1-3 Then **Yahweh (יְהוָה)** appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3and said, “**My Lord (אֲדֹנָי Adonai)**, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

Genesis 26:24 And **Yahweh (יְהוָה)** appeared to him{Isaac} the same night and said, “**I am the God of your father Abraham;** do not fear, for I *am* with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham’s sake.”

Genesis 28:13, 17-19 And behold, **Yahweh (יְהוָה)** stood above it and said: “**I am Yahweh (יְהוָה) God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac;** the land on which you lie I will give to you and your

descendants.... ¹⁷And he was afraid and said, “How awesome *is* this place! This *is* none other than **the house of God (בֵּית אֱלֹהִים)**, and this *is* the gate of heaven!” ¹⁸Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹And he called the name of that place **Bethel (בֵּית-אֵל)**; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

Genesis 31:13 ‘I *am* the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar *and* where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.’ ”

Genesis 35:11 Also God said to him{Jacob}: “I *am* God Almighty (אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי El Shaddai). Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

Genesis 46:3 So He said, “I *am* God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

Exodus 3:6 Moreover He said, “I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. ... ¹³Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

14And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

15Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘Yahweh (יְהוָה) 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.’”

16“Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘Yahweh (יְהוָה) God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, “I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; 17“and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.”’ ”

18“Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, ‘Yahweh (יְהוָה) God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to Yahweh (יְהוָה) our God.’”

19“But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. 20“So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go. 21“And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.

An Expression of the Divine Nature

Yahweh who called Abraham from Ur (Gen 12:1), now cuts a covenant with Abraham to fulfill His salvation promises (Gen 15:7). Yahweh is God’s covenantal name by which He desires to be known as the salvation God. That He is “I AM” tells of His essence—“existing always” with absolute independence/freedom, self-determination, and constancy. Yahweh freely desires to save! Yahweh determines to reveal Himself by salvific deeds, so that His covenantal saving Essence is known. Elohim, the God of creation, who is to be feared due to our sin, is revealed to have always been Yahweh, the covenant making God of salvation.

“The absolute Being working with unbounded freedom in the performance of His promises.” (Page 467)

Exodus 6:1-9, Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”

²And God spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am Yahweh (הוה).”

³“I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty (אל שדי El Shaddai), but by My name Yahweh (הוה). I was not known to them.” ⁴“I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers. ⁵“And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant. ⁶“Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I am Yahweh (הוה); I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷‘I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am Yahweh (הוה); your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸“And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am Yahweh (הוה).’ ” ⁹So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.

Exodus 6:29 that the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “I am Yahweh. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you.”

Exodus 7:5 “And the Egyptians shall know that I am Yahweh, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.”

Exodus 7:17 ‘Thus says the Lord: “By this you shall know that I am Yahweh. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.

Exodus 8:22 “And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am Yahweh in the midst of the land.

Exodus 10:2 “and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son’s son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am Yahweh.”

Exodus 12:12 ‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am Yahweh.

Exodus 14:4 “Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am Yahweh.” And they did so.

Exodus 14:18 “Then the Egyptians shall know that I am Yahweh, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

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 Yahweh who heals you.”

Exodus 16:12 “I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am Yahweh your God.’ ”

Exodus 20:2 “I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exodus 22:27 “For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.

Exodus 29:46 “And they shall know that I am Yahweh their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the Lord their God.

Exodus 31:13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am Yahweh who sanctifies you.

Matthew 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.