

More Than Just a Name: Jehovah

If you recall, last week we began a new series of messages focused on the grand nature of the Creator. The intent of these messages is to help us better understand that God is **More Than Just A Name**. Most of us, because of how God is revealed in the Scriptures, know that He exists as this tri-personal being. He interacts with us in the only manner He can because as we learned last week, God simply IS! As the one who said to Moses, “*I AM WHO I AM*” (*Exodus 3:14*), we get to experience the presence of the great I AM as this eternal and undivided person who reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In continuation from last week's message, we are going to spend our time together this morning considering these questions: **What is the true name of God?** and, **how does knowing this impact me personally?** Remember, God's name is not simple, it is not one to be dismissed, it is filled with complexity, and stands as the most important name in all of existence. His name becomes important for us because in all the variations found throughout the Bible, He reveals His nature and all His magnificent attributes. It should be one of our goals to “know” God as fully as we can. If you wish to have a more personal and intimate relationship with your Creator, then you must take your knowledge of Him from head to heart. The more you learn about who He truly is, the more you'll recognize His involvement in your life, and the more you'll experience His mercy, grace, and love.

Last week, I presented you with the formal, personal name of God, which is found in the Hebrew Bible over 6800 times. **YHWH**, since they do not use vowels, stands as the most common name for God, and as we saw last week, most English translations respectfully write this as, “The LORD”. Some translations will use the Hebrew word for Lord, which is 'ādôn, which you've probably heard as Adonai. The more common English translation, which has only been around for less than 700 years, is “Jehovah”. What I want you to understand by sharing these names with you is that God's name is unequivocally the most complex and most important name ever! Because of this, we need to recognize the significance of His name and understand that when we speak of God, we are speaking of **More Than Just A Name**. We are referring to Jehovah, the “Self-Existent One”. Jehovah Elohim, the “Creator”.

Therefore, if the Hebrews worked diligently to keep a higher level of respect for His name, perhaps we should too? Look at the Ten Commandments. **Read Exodus 20:1-12**. In these verses you'll find instructions from God about how we are to revere and respect Him. Pay special attention to verse 7, because God tells us that we should hold even His name with the highest respect. God doesn't take kindly to a lack of respect when it comes

to how we speak of Him. What this commandment simply means is that God considers the use of His name in manners which bring Him disrespect or lessen His value as a direct act of sin. Another way to consider this is to know that direct and blatant misuse of His name is equal to that of blasphemy. We must know that when we utter His name, it should be done with no personal intent other than to show honor and respect for the great "I AM".

Let me show you a couple of examples on how important it is to understand that it must be **More Than Just A Name.**

Read Leviticus 24:10-16 and then **Mark 3:22-30**. Now, we're not going to spend a lot of time breaking these stories down, but I wanted to point out a few things for you. First, present in these stories is God as He is. We see God as "*Jehovah El Elyon*" which is the LORD Most High. God as all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present, addressing people who have used His name in vain. In Leviticus, we see God deal with sin in a way that seems harsh. He had a man stoned. When compared with what Jesus taught in the parable recorded for us in Mark, we must understand that when someone completely denies the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit along with denying the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, then that person will never have an opportunity to be forgiven. One death was physical in nature, the other speaks of choosing spiritual death, for eternity. To know Jesus and accept Him and all His work is God's guarantee that death will only come to us in the physical way, but never spiritually!

To be spiritually alive means we get to see and experience the full nature of "*El Shaddai*", the All-Sufficient One. Do you believe in your heart this morning that God, as He is; as Father, Redeemer, and Guide, is your "El Shaddai"? Your All-Sufficient One? Can you trust and be content in knowing that "*El Elyon*" is the One who watches out for you?

For those here today that know Jesus as Lord and Savior, you can rest assured that God is faithful to fulfill all His promises for you. You can trust and know that God is your provider. Your "*Jehovah Jireh*". Those in Christ know that God allowed His Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay the price as the penalty for our sin. Through Jesus, "*Jehovah Jireh*" provides everything. Those in Christ can be confident in knowing that because of Jesus, they can move from victory to victory under the protection and banner of "*Jehovah Nissi*". **1 Corinthians 15:57** as we saw last week, says this: "*But thanks be to God (Jehovah Nissi), who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"