

## Theology Proper — The Names of God: Jehovah

### I. EXEGETICAL — Examining a relevant passage of Scripture.

“Then 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?’ And 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.” Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: “Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, & the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations. (Ex. 3:13-15)

“And [Moses] said, ‘Please show me Your glory.’ Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of Jehovah before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’ But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’ (Ex. 33:18-20)

“Now Jehovah descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of Jehovah. And Jehovah passed before him and proclaimed, Jehovah, Jehovah God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation. So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped. (Ex. 34:5-7)

#### A. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF THROUGH HIS NAME (OR NAMES).

#### B. GOD’S SPECIAL NAME IS *JEHOVAH*.

#### C. GOD’S SPECIAL NAME, *JEHOVAH*, DESCRIBES THE ESSENCE OF HIS BEING.

##### 1. TRANSCENDENT HOLINESS (INCOMPARABLE OTHERNESS)

##### 2. HIS INFINITE SELF-EXISTENCE & SELF-SUFFICIENCY

##### 3. HIS ETERNITY (OUTSIDE OF TIME)

##### 4. HIS IMMUTABILITY (UNCHANGABLE)

#### D. THE NAME *JEHOVAH* SERVES TO MAGNIFY THE QUALITIES OF HIS BEING (WSC 4; WLC 7) — i.e. the “GLORY” of His “GOODNESS” (Ex. 33:18-19; 34:6).

### II. DOGMATIC & POLEMICAL — Summarizing the teaching of Scripture as a whole, by way of addressing relevant questions and controversies.

A. Are God’s names essential to His being or simply a gracious and accurate means of self-revelation to His creatures? (We affirm the latter.)

B. Is the name JEHOVAH applied to God alone? (We affirm.)

C. Is the name JEHOVAH applied to all three persons of the Trinity? (We affirm.)

D. Was the name JEHOVAH unknown prior to the burning bush? (We deny.)

E. Did the Serpent omit the name JEHOVAH on purpose? (We affirm.)

F. Should the name JEHOVAH be abandoned due to the Germanic “J”? (We deny.)

G. Should the name JEHOVAH be abandoned in favor of YAHWEH due to alleged discrepancies in the Masoretic vowel points? (We deny.)

H. Is the Greek rendering of JEHOVAH as “Kurios” (Lord) in the LXX (and subsequently in the NT) illegitimate or inauthentic? (We deny.)

I. Does the NT Greek rendering of JEHOVAH as “Kurios” (Lord) necessitate the removal of JEHOVAH from English OT translations and psalters? (We deny.)

J. In an increasingly syncretistic and pluralistic age, would an English rendering of JEHOVAH more effectively convey the biblical doctrine of God than the more generic title “LORD”? (We affirm.)

### III. PRACTICAL — Applying the teaching of Scripture to our lives.

A. KNOW THIS NAME!

B. TRUST THIS NAME!

C. CALL UPON THIS NAME!

D. LOVE THIS NAME!

E. TAKE THIS NAME!

F. FEAR THIS NAME!

G. APPROACH THIS NAME!

H. MAKE MENTION OF THIS NAME!