

# *“One of the Names of God--Yahweh”*

## *Exodus 6:1-13*

INTRO:

Last week I talked with a man who insisted very loudly that God did not have a name in the Old Testament. He insisted that when God told Moses ***“I am that I am,”*** He gave the only indication of who He is and was. I disagreed with him and pointed out that many places in the Old Testament the everlasting God calls Himself *Yahweh*. ***“And God spoke to Moses and said to him: ‘I am the LORD [Yahweh]. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD [Yahweh] I was not known to them.’”*** Exodus 6:2-3. God said to Moses, I didn’t completely reveal what my name *Yahweh* meant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Yahweh, the LORD is a special name God called Himself in the Old Testament to help the Children of Israel know who He was. Yahweh is a name that we need to understand because it is part of the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. In our study today we will explore two points; What does Yahweh mean to the Old Testament Jews? Second, what does Yahweh mean to us today?

*I. God’s Name Yahweh (Exodus 6:1-9)*

*II. God’s Name Yahweh for Us (Matthew 1:21)*

*I. God’s Name Yahweh (Exodus 6:1-9)*

A. **Exodus 6** is God’s answer to Moses’ prayer. Moses under orders from God told Pharaoh to let Yahweh’s people go. Pharaoh responded, ***“who is this Yahweh God who demanded Pharaoh to let the Jews go?”*** He, Pharaoh did not know any Yahweh. Boy was he going to find out who Yahweh was. But, that is jumping ahead in the account. Moses takes this rejection to the LORD saying,

***“So Moses returned to the LORD and said, ‘Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all.’”*** (Exodus 5:22–23).

B. Listen to part of Yahweh our God’s reply to Moses His servant. (Exodus 6:1-5)

***“Then the LORD [YAHWEH] 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.’ And God spoke to Moses and said to him: ‘I am the LORD [YAHWEH]. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD [YAHWEH] I was not known to them. 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. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.’”***

1. The name *Yahweh* is God's covenant keeping name. The name *Yahweh* means that God keeps His promise. The "*ineffible*" name comes from the same root of the word God used in **Exodus 3:14** to describe Himself. "***I AM that I AM.***" *Yahweh* is the always present, self-existent one in whom is all power and authority.

2. God equipped Moses with promises to give to Israel and an understanding of God's name *Yahweh* to get them through the process of deliverance from Egypt. Later God adds a little title to go along with His special name. He calls Himself, "***Yahweh, God of hosts.***" Our God is the ever-present, faithful, all-powerful, God of all the armies of heaven and earth. This is Israel's God and our God.

C. In this name, God issues to the Children of Israel some important promises. He did fulfill these promises and they are celebrated in the four cups uses in the Passover Seder.

***"Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; 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. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. 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 the LORD.'"*** (Exodus 6:6–8).

The four major promises are remembered and repeated in the four cups drunk in the Passover Seder.

1. *Yahweh* promised He would bring them out from under the burden of the Egyptians. This is memorialized in the First cup the Cup of Sanctification.

2. The LORD promised, "***I will rescue you from their bondage.***" This promise is remembered in the second cup, the Cup of Deliverance.

3. The LORD promised, "***I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.***" This promise is the promise behind the third cup, the Cup of Redemption. The third cup is the cup we use in the Lord's Supper.

4. The fourth promise was: "***I will take you as My people, and I will be your God.***" The fourth cup is the Cup of Restoration.

## ***II. God's Name Yahweh for Us (Matthew 1:21)***

A. God's covenant name was very important to God's people in the Old Testament. We also must understand how important it is to us today. There are two important reasons it is important to us.

B. First, it is important because it tells us of God's purpose in sending His Son to die for our sins. Do you remember Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus? He wrote about how Mary was expecting the Son of God when she and Joseph came together. Joseph did not know what to do. He thought he would divorce her privately so as not to embarrass her. God sent an angel to speak to Joseph and we got to listen in on the conversation. One of the most important verses in Scripture is from this little talk. **(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."***

Jesus is the English translation of the Greek translation of the Hebrew name *Joshua*, which means literally ***Yahweh saves***.

Our ever faithful, all powerful, holy, covenant keeping God reached out to save us by sending His Son, His only Son, Whom He loves to come and die to save us from our sin.

C. Second, the name Yahweh is important to us because God has made a covenant with us. He will be our God and He will be His people. Every Lord's Supper we read these words.

***"In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"*** (1 Corinthians 11:25).

Because our God is a covenant keeping God, we know that He will keep the provisions of this eternal covenant with Him. While we will never tire of God and God alone, He will also never tire of us.