

Names of God: *YHWH*

The Great I Am

- Upon encountering the burning bush, God calls Moses to return to Egypt to lead his fellow Israelites back to this mountain to worship
- Moses & the Israelites had spent 400 years among the Egyptians, who had a pantheon of gods
 - Thus, Moses needs clarity about which god he is speaking to
- God describes Himself as the same God who Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob worshipped
 - This does not give the clarity that Moses is seeking
- So, God tells Moses His name
 - YHWH: “I am that I am”
 - The basis for existence; the Author of creation (Heb 2:10b; Gen 1:1)
 - Thus, one of the names for God is the Great I AM

YHWH = The LORD

- Throughout the OT, when the name YHWH appears, it’s normally translated as “The LORD”
 - This is to distinguish it from the name Adonai
 - Adonai = My lord/master
 - Can be used for people or God
 - When the Hebrew word is Adonai, it is typically translated as “Lord” (Ex 4:10a)
- In the Intertestamental period (350 BC- 30 AD), YHWH was read as Adonai
- The Masoretic Text (MT, AD 1000) added vocalization marks to pronunciation
- They added the vowels of Adonai to the consonants of YHWH → Jehovah

YHWH in the NT

- Though the Hebrew word YHWH doesn’t appear in the NT, the word *kyrios* is used instead
 - Translated as “Lord”
 - Matching the LXX lexeme for both *YHWH* and *Adonai*
- “Lord” is the term used to address Jesus (Luke 6:46)
- Through Him, all things are created (John 1:3)
- Jesus even calls Himself “I AM” (John 8:58-59)

So What?

- YHWH is the basis of existence and the author of creation
 - As Adonai, He is Lord of all
- Do we find our existence rooted in Him?
- Is He Lord of our lives?

Mediation Verse: *Exodus 3:14*