

The Self Existent God – Yahweh

Series: Attributes of God

Exodus 3:13-15

¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them?

¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations.

God has given us information about Him and his character traits.

- God has revealed himself for us to know Him.
- We can know God and what He is like.
- Today we start on a journey looking at the attributes of God.
- The attributes of God are the character traits of God as they are revealed to us in the Scriptures.
- The Bible, God's Word, tells us what God is like and what He is not like.
- Without the authority of the Bible, any attempt to explain God's attributes would be no better than an opinion, which by itself is often incorrect, especially in understanding God (Job 42:7).
- Failure to do so can cause us to set up, chase after, and worship false gods contrary to His will (Exodus 20:3-5).

Reading through some of the names of God can be helpful in our search of what God is like. They are as follows:

Elohim - strong One, divine (Genesis 1:1)

Adonai - Lord, indicating a Master-to-servant relationship (Exodus 4:10, 13)

El Elyon - Most High, the strongest One (Genesis 14:20)

El Roi - the strong One who sees (Genesis 16:13)

El Shaddai - Almighty God (Genesis 17:1)

El Olam - Everlasting God (Isaiah 40:28)

Yahweh - LORD “I Am,” meaning the eternal self-existent God (Exodus 3:13, 14).

God is eternal, meaning He had no beginning and His existence will never end.

He is immortal and infinite (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17).

Self-existence: When Moses asked who he was talking to in the burning bush, God said, “I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS.” God has no beginning or end. He just exists. Nothing else in all the universe is self-caused.

He was never created and never came into being. “You are worthy...to receive glory, honor, and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being” (Revelation 4:11). While these are words of adoration, it is affirmation that God preserves and is the final cause of all things.

There are no variables to tweak that would endanger God’s existence. God simply *is*—no qualifiers, no exceptions, no dependencies.

Psalm 102:25–27 (ESV)- Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.

When God described Himself to His servant Moses, He revealed two of His names: “I AM WHO I AM” and “the Lord God” (Exodus 3:14-15). The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language, and in Hebrew both those names are heavily rooted in the word *hayah*—a word that simply means “to be.”

In other words, God is the God who is.

Big Idea - God exists without the aid of anything or anyone.

That all being said let’s look at the application to Moses at the burning bush:

I. God is Personal (vs. 1-4)

Exodus 3:1–4 - Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the

mountain of God, *even* to Horeb. ² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed. ³ And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. ⁴ And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I.

Note: Moses has been wandering 40 years unaware that God was at work in His life to prepare him for something greater than himself and now, Moses is finally ready. These verses present the *circumstances* of Moses' call by God. After 40 years of training in the courts of Pharaoh, Moses now neared the end of another 40 years of his life as a shepherd.

Leading his father-in-law's flock in search of grassland, Moses approached Mount Sinai. Why did God take Moses into the wilderness for 40 years?

- To prepare Moses, Israel, and Pharaoh for the Exodus.
- To humble Moses and to teach Him to put his trust in God alone.
- To take the Egypt out of Moses.

The self-existent God is very involved in your circumstances. God often orchestrates circumstances in our lives to bring us to a place where He can speak to us and use us for His glory. When he knows we're ready – He calls

II. God is Holy (vs. 5-6)

Exodus 3:5-6 - And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground. ⁶ Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy 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.

God is holy, holy, holy and will not allow a self-sufficient and self-willed man to approach.

The self-existent God is Holy!

God told Moses to do two things to show special honor to this place because of the immediate presence of God.

- He told Moses to keep a distance (Do not draw near this place).
- He commanded Moses to show reverence for God's presence (Take your sandals off your feet).

Do not draw near literally has the sense of “stop coming closer.” Moses was on his way for an up-close examination of the burning bush when God stopped him short.

This was a holy place; and because God is holy, there will always be a distance between God and man. Even in perfection man will never be equal to God, though we will be able to have closer fellowship with Him than ever.

Take your sandals off your feet: Removing the sandals showed an appropriate *humility*, because the poorest and most needy have no shoes, and servants usually went barefoot.

III. God is Watching (vs. 7-10)

Exodus 3:7-10 - ⁷ And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; ⁸ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

vs 7 - I have seen. I have heard, I know their sorrows.

vs 8 - I am entering the human world to correct the plight.

I will take them to the promised land, I will deliver them to a land that is good. I will take them to a land that was promised to them. I will take them to a “land flowing with milk and honey.”

God intends to deliver his people, and he intends for Moses to serve as his agent. He will require Moses to negotiate with Pharaoh.

So, God's plan is: I will send you as my agent to deliver my people to the land of milk and honey.

IV. God is Identified (vs. 11-15)

Exodus 3:11-15 - ¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? ¹² And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall be* a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. ¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. ¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations.

- The self-existent God
- The God that always was
- The God that always will be
- The Alpha and Omega - beginning and end

God said, "I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS." God has no beginning or end. He just exists. Nothing else in all the universe is self-caused.

Do you know this God?

SEED Group Questions
Sunday, July 11, 2021
Message: The Self-Existent God

1) Ice Breakers

- What's your most irrational fear?
- If you could choose to remain an age forever, what age would you choose? Explain why?

2) Relational Discipleship - The message of Jesus is doctrine and truth; the method of Jesus is small group relationship-building.

- Why did Jesus spend most his time ministering to just a few in small groups?
- What is the danger in only attending a large group setting (worship service) and never building relationships in the church?
- Why can it help and encourage those within a small group to hear that others struggle with sin?

3) Sermon - The Self-Existent God

- When we say God is self-existent what does that mean?
- God has given us information about Himself and His character traits. Why is it important we know them?
- God showed His personal relationship with Moses in the 40 days on Mt. Saini. What did He do there to shape Moses? How has the Lord showed Himself personally to you in the past month?
- God's holiness shows us the distance our sin has put between Him and us. What did Jesus do according to Hebrews 10:19 to bridge this gap for us? *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*
- Explain the ways we diminish the self-existence of God using the following verses: Exodus 20:3–5 ³ *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* ⁴ *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:* ⁵ *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

- How does it comfort you to know that God is always watching? How does it unsettle you?
- When Moses asked who he was talking to in the burning bush, God said, “I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS.” God has no beginning or end. He just exists. Nothing else in all the universe is self-caused. Why is this truth hard to wrap our heads around? Conversely, how does this truth steady you in an unsettled world?