Ln 2 When You Are Afraid

("jehovah")

From time to time all of us are afraid. We may be afraid because of finances, health problems, career crises, relationship problems, or something else. At times in my life I have been afraid of Virginia (just kidding!). When we are afraid, we need to know God as "***jehovah*.**"

In Lesson One we began to know God better through the name "***elohim***," the God who created us. "***elohim***" is always translated *God*. Now, we will get to know Him better as "***jehovah***." The name "***jehovah***" is translated **LORD** in all capital letters. Sometimes it is translated **GOD** in all capital letters to differentiate it from the name "***elohim***." We need to know God by this name when we are afraid.

Why, according to Proverbs 29:25b?

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Knowing God as "*jehovah*" will calm our fears as we do these **three** things ...

1. Remember God's Presence

In the Old Testament the name most often used for God is "*jehovah*," occurring over 6,500 times. It is first used in the detailed creation account, in which Adam and Eve are central (Gen. 2:4). The generic name "*elohim*" is used when the heavens and earth are central (Gen. 1).

But what do we read in Genesis 2:7a?

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The name "*elohim*" lets us know God as the awesome Creator God.

"*jehovah*" lets us know Him in a more personal and relational way. **The name LORD, in all capital letters, translates the Hebrew name "*yahweh*" (*yhwh*, *yah*-way), which means "to be**." It reveals God has always been and will always be. Written Hebrew did not include vowels, only consonants; thus, the reader supplied the vowels. Over the centuries the actual pronunciation of this name for God has been lost, so the vowels and pronunciation are only guesses.

The name "*jehovah*" is a transliteration of "*yahweh*." The name "*jehovah*" is the result of Hebrew scribes trying to prevent people from pronouncing and misusing the divine name "*yahweh*." They combined the consonants in "***yahweh***" and the vowels in the Hebrew word "***adonai*,**" a name for God we will study later. The way they came up with the vowels is quite technical, but the result is the name "*jehovah*."

LORD (***yhwh*)** is the name God used to identify Himself to Moses at the burning bush when He called him to go to Egypt and deliver the Israelites from bondage (Ex 3). Moses knew there were many gods in Egypt—Ra, the sun god; Nut, the sky goddess; Ged, the soil god; etc. Each of the ten plagues attacked one of the pagan gods of Egypt. Even the Nile River was worshipped as the god of life.

Therefore, Moses asks God what he should tell the Israelites when he says the God of their fathers sent him, and they ask, "What is His name?" (Ex 3:13).

How does God answer Moses' question in Exodus 3:14?

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The phrase I AM WHO I AM is from the word "*yahweh*." It is a word that cannot be translated into a single English word because it's a verb that is past, present, and future tenses all at once. "*yahweh*" means "I am the God who has always been, who is, and who shall always be." In other words, "I am the eternal, uncreated Creator who created the universe." The best translation we can offer is I AM.

How does Jesus, who is the LORD in flesh and blood, describe where He came from in John 8:58c?

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That doesn't sound like correct English, but Jesus is declaring He is the great *I* AM, or *jehovah*, making Himself known to us in flesh and blood. Jesus is the great I AM, or *jehovah*, who has always been, who is, and who will always be.

Therefore, He can make what wonderful promise in Matthew 28:20c?

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When you are afraid, remember the great I AM, *jehovah*, who revealed Himself in Christ, is with you always. In other words, **remember God's presence**, but also ...

2. Remember God's Precept

Sometimes when we are afraid we are tempted to use God's name to say things we shouldn't say. In our culture, language is becoming increasingly vulgar and irreverent. Sadly, even many Christians use God's names carelessly and irreverently.

In a world losing reverence for God, we must not forget what precept of God found in Exodus 20:7a?

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It is interesting the names "*jehovah*" and "*elohim*" are both used in that command. The word translated *vain*, or "misuse," (*shāw*, shahv) means "empty, frivolous, useless, or insincere." Therefore, we should never use any of the names of God carelessly or lightly. The third commandment warns us the Lord will not hold us ***guiltless*** if we use His name in *vain* (Ex 20:7b).

In the Lord's Prayer, what does Jesus say we should pray regarding the Lord's name (Matthew 6:9c)?

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The word *hallowed* means "holy," or "set apart." So, God's name is not to be ordinary, or common, but set aside for special use. His name should be treated as holy, or sacred.

Speech is one of God's most precious gifts to us. Among the many things that distinguish us from animals is our ability to articulate our thoughts and express our concerns verbally. What a tragedy that we so often use this wonderful gift to offend the holy God who gave it to us! When you're afraid, don't use God's name in vain!

Instead, practice what principle found in Psalm 113:3?

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Praising God's name, instead of profaning it, is a great way to calm all your fears.

When you're afraid, **remember God's presence**, **God's precept**, and ...

3. Remember God's Protection

In the Bible, the name "*jehovah*" is used when God is protecting His children. For example, as Noah gathered all the animals and food as God had instructed him, we read Noah *did all that God* (*elohim*) *commanded him* (Gen. 6:22).

However, what do we read in Genesis 7:1a-b?

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God uses the name "*jehovah*" to let us know we have a special relationship with Him that results in His protection. For 120 years Noah faithfully worked at building the ark, and we know he also preached God's Word because Peter calls him *a herald*, or preacher, *of righteousness* (2 Pet. 2:5). During all this time, Noah had not one convert. This reminds us God doesn't call us to be successful; He calls us to be faithful. Noah faithfully gathers all the animals into the ark, and finally he and his family are also safely in the ark as God commanded.

Then, what does Genesis 7:16c tell us?

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No possible harm could come to Noah and his family because the LORD, *jehovah*, *shut* him in the ark.

Referring to Christ, who is *jehovah* come to earth in flesh and blood, what does Revelation 3:7c tell us?

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An atomic bomb could not have opened the door of the ark because God *shut* it to protect Noah and his family. When we, like Noah, experience the storms of life we must remember we are *shut* up in God's protection. Sometimes the storms of life seem even worse because we have created them ourselves by making bad decisions. The storm may be in our finances, relationships, careers, our health, etc.

In these times we need to remember what promise in Psalm 116:6a?

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The word translated *simple* (*petî*, puh-*thee*) means foolish or silly. This means *jehovah* even protects us when we make foolish, silly mistakes.

jehovah, who has been faithful in the past, will be faithful in the present and in the future because He never changes. Do you know why God never changes? He is perfect and you can't improve on perfection!

One Bible verse that best sums up this lesson about our unchanging *jehovah* is Proverbs 18:10.

Write it below:

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When you're afraid, *run* to the name "*jehovah*," and it will cause you to remember

GOD'S PRESENCE,

PRECEPT,

PROTECTION.