

# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



## TEXT SUMMARY

In our text, [Exodus 3:13-15](#), we see one question from Moses and one reply from God, where He first declares **what** He is, then **who** He is, then what all that **means** for Moses and Israel.

## **INTRODUCTION (observation):**

1. This question from Moses follows in tandem from the first question he asked in last week's text (3:1-12). What was that question?
2. Notice that God gives Moses two nearly identical answers to his question: what sort of Being He is and what His Name is. What are those two answers? (v. 14-15)
3. Verses 16-22 provide a kind of preview of what comes next in the following chapters. What promises does God make in this text?

## **DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):**

Most of the names for God we see in the OT are really not names but **titles**. The Hebrew word translated “God” is an elastic term the Scriptures use to mean the one true God, angels, or even pagan idols. “Lord” means what it looks like, the Master of all things.

The only actual **name** for God, **Yahweh** (rendered in SMALL CAPITALS “**the LORD**” in most English Bibles) was the Covenant Name for Israel’s God. This rendering is a nod to the high reverence for the Sacred Name in Jewish tradition. When they read the Scriptures aloud and would come to the Sacred Name, they would refrain from uttering the Name and substitute the title “Lord” (“Master”) in its place.

# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



## **DISCUSSION** (cont.):

Of the six thousand times “**the LORD**” is used in the Hebrew Scriptures, this text is the best explanation of what the Sacred Name actually **means**: the God of the Hebrews is the Eternal One who hears, commits, and acts on behalf of His people.

How does this understanding of God differ from the pagan deities worshiped both in Egypt and in Canaan?

1. See Psalm 115.
2. See also Elijah's sarcastic trash-talking to the increasingly desperate prophets of Baal at the Mt. Carmel showdown (1 Kings 18:25-27).
3. See Isaiah's razor-sharp taunts (Isaiah 44:9-20; 46:5-7).

## So what? (Application):

Someone once remarked that our spiritual problems almost always boil down to a misunderstanding of and mistrust in the character and nature of God:

1. **His wisdom:** His capacity not only to know all things in time and in space and even in the hearts of men but also His ability to see how all things fit together
2. **His goodness:** both His deep hatred of sin and unaccountable fondness for sinners
3. **His power:** His completely uninhibited ability to do exactly what He wants to do

Can you think of a time (maybe now) when you were (are) tempted to doubt God's wisdom or His power or His goodness? How can you use reflecting on Scripture to recalibrate your understanding of the character and nature of God?