



I Am Series

Part 1

December 5, 2021

After Moses had taken the life of an Egyptian task master and fled to the wilderness, he finds himself having an experience that causes him to take a pause. He sees a bush raging in flames but is not consumed; it was at this pivotal moment that the God of Israel speaks to Moses and outlines His divine plan for His People and this deliverer named Moses.

But it is the final words of the Lord to Moses that are profoundly insightful and prophetic. I would like for you to turn with me to Exodus 3; beginning in verse 1 through verse 15. Please stand in honor of the reading of God's Word...

Exodus 3:1-15, "Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your 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 at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the

hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” ¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.” May the Lord add His blessing to the reading and the hearing of His Word; Amen.

I would like to draw your attention to the 13th and 14th verse found in this passage of text for a moment. **“¹⁸Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”**

I Am who I Am; In some of your Bibles it may record it as, “I Am that I Am.” What did the Lord mean or better yet, what was He saying? In the grammatical structure of this sentence in the Hebrew, it reads as thus, “‘eh-yeh, ‘a-ser, ‘eh-yeh”. “‘eh-yeh” defined means to fall out, come to pass, become or to be (Strong’s Hebrew # - 1961) The second word in this sentence structure is ‘a-ser which means who, which, or that (Strong’s Hebrew # - 834. Notice that God says to Moses, “I am who I am” but then God tells Moses to tell the People, “I am has sent me to you”. Very important; we will come back to this point.

Recorded in the book entitled, “These Were God’s People: A Bible History” written by William C. Martin is the following on this very complex sentence which is comprised of only three words and I will quote what he wrote, *“Somewhat overcome by the enormity of this*

commission, Moses asked a very practical question. When he confronted the Israelites with this message of deliverance, who would he say had sent him? What was the name of this god who spoke from the Bush? In the Old Testament times, a name was believed to reveal something of the fundamental character of its bearer. Moses felt it would be necessary to identify the source of his message by name. The answer God gave to Moses was cryptic, "I am who I am" or "I will be what I will be." The Hebrew phrase used here is subject to a number of possible translations in each of these is capable of a wide range of interpretations. Quite possibly, the phrase is intended to heighten the sense of the infinite capacity of him who bears the name. Then, in 3:15, God reveals to Moses the name by which he is to be known. There he identifies himself as "the Lord the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, in the God of Jacob."

In closing Martin records, "In the later period of Israel's history, especially after the exile, an aura of almost magical holiness enshrouded the name, causing Jews to avoid using it in ordinary conversation. In its place, they substituted the Hebrew word Adhonai meaning Lord or Master. When vowels were eventually added to the Hebrew text of the

Bible in the sixth and seventh century A.D., the vowels of Adam and I were combined with the consonants of YHWH. The result was the familiar name “Jehovah”. This has been hallowed by centuries of use, but it is an impure transliteration and almost certainly bears little resemblance to the original form... The overall significance of all this wordplay over the name of God was probably that the nature of God was not something that could be encapsulated in a single name but something that would be progressively revealed in the course of his participation in the historical processes. Moses’ task would not be to describe the nature of God he proclaimed so much as to help Israel perceive his presence in the historical crisis it was to experience.”

I would like to draw your attention to the last part of this passage,

“The overall significance of all this wordplay over the name of God was probably that the nature of God was not something that could be encapsulated in a single name but something that would be progressively revealed in the course of his participation in the historical processes. Moses’ task would not be to describe the nature of God he proclaimed so much as to help Israel perceive his presence in the historical crisis it was to experience.”

The Name of God could not be encapsulated in a single name but would be a matter that would be progressively revealed in the course of his participation in the historical processes. Moses' task would not be to describe the nature of God he proclaimed so much as to help Israel perceive his presence in the historical crisis it was to experience. It was God's name that was stated in such a way that it would be beyond definitive boundaries to thus allow Him to be our all in all.

And it is because of this that the Israelites, through his nature being defined and exposed through his presence being found in the confines of their historical crisis that it was through this great difficulty that the nature of God was defined. We can find this to be true within the very names given to God; some of you may be familiar with these phrases.

Names of God:

1. Jehovah - Jireh - The LORD will Provide - Genesis 22:13-14

2. Jehovah - Rapha - The LORD who Heals - Exodus 15:26

3. Jehovah - Nissi - The LORD my Banner - Exodus 17:14-15

4. Jehovah - Mekaddishkem - The LORD our Sanctifier - Leviticus
20:7-8

5. Jehovah - Shalom - The LORD our Peace - Judges 6:24

6. Jehovah - Saboath - The LORD of Hosts (angelic armies) - 1

Samuel 1:3

7. Jehovah - Elyon - The LORD most High - Psalms 7:17

8. Jehovah - Roi - The LORD my Shepherd - Psalms 23:1

9. Jehovah - Tsidkenu - The LORD our Righteousness - Jeremiah 23:6

10. Jehovah - Shammah - The LORD is Present - Ezekiel 48:35

So when the Lord told Moses, “I AM THAT I AM”, He was letting Moses know, I am the God who is more than able to be everything you will ever need. And that same God is ruling today and through Christ is declaring the same over us today.

I AM THAT I AM! I Am whatever you need me to be! This is very reason why the Apostle Paul wrote the following passage found in the book of Ephesians 3:14-21, ¹⁴“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family^{lcl} in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more

abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

It would seem that the Lord was, by the giving of His name in the manner in which He did, the Lord was offering a challenge to let Him prove to the Nation of Israel that He was able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think. And as opportunity presented itself over the discourse of history, the Nature of God became noted in the Names of God. Remember the experience of Isaiah when King Uzzia died? What did the prophet record? Isaiah chapter 6:1-5, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!” 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”

One cried to another! One angel is having a conversation with another angel; notice the angels aren't talking to the Lord, they are talking to one another because they are confounded by what they are seeing because as they are flying around Him and His Throne, they are seeing different facets and dimensions of God that they had never seen before.

Simply put, no matter what position or angle that these angels were positioned in, every time they looked at Him they saw a different dynamic of who He is in and of Himself. If Angels can't define Him then it makes sense why the Lord simply told Moses what He did because even if He tried to describe Himself, it would be infinite by His very nature of being.

And this is the reason why you got to be willing to go through some stuff and withstand some difficulty and endure hardness as a good soldier unto Christ because somethings you will only learn about God when you are willing to go through pain, through transition, through difficulty, through lack, through discomfort, through storms, through adversity. Somethings about God you will only learn when He is all you have left! And just like the Israelites, they endured some things and while enduring some things, they learned somethings about the God that they served.

He is the Great I Am and He is declaring by His very Name:

1. I Am your Provider!
2. I Am your Healer!
3. I Am your Banner!
4. I Am your Sanctifier!
5. I Am your Peace!
6. I Am your Guardian!
7. I Am your Most High God!
8. I Am your Shepherd!
9. I Am your Righteousness!
10. I Am Present in every season of life!

In the Gospel of Saint John, Jesus, being our Immanuel (God with Us) declared some I Am statements that echoed into the Ages! He is our great I Am today and He is making Himself known to us by His Spirit!

1. Point #1 - In the Gospel of Saint John 8:12, Jesus declared, “I am the Light of the World.”

a. John 8:12-14, ¹²“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ¹³ So the Pharisees said

to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴ Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.”

b. To a lost and dying world filled with darkness, Christ offers Himself as the guiding light to a wayward humanity to find Peace with God and with themselves!

c. John 1:1-5, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

d. The Light of the Gospel is the same Light that Christ made manifest into the Earth by way of Redemption through His Cross and it is this same Jesus, being the Word made flesh, that was in Genesis 1 declaring “Let there be Light”

- e. The very same Word who declared let there be light into the darkness of the cosmos is the same Word who is declaring today “Let there be light” into our hearts and lives today by the power of the Holy Ghost!
- f. Jesus truly is the Light of the World and my question for all of us today is, “Is the Light of the World the light of your life?”

2. Point #2 - In the Gospel of Saint John 14:6, Jesus declared, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

- a. John 14:1-7, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know

him and have seen him.”

- a. To the hearts of humanity who desire a relationship with their Heavenly Father and Creator, Jesus makes it abundantly clear that He is the only way to the Father; if we desire a relationship with our Heavenly Father then it is only possible through His Son, Jesus Christ!
- b. Jesus is the source of all truth and knowledge about God because a He came forth from Him as the Only Begotten Son fo the Father.

3. Point #3 - In the Gospel of Saint John 15:1, Jesus declared, “I am the True Vine.”

- a. John 15:1-5, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are

the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

b. To the Born Again Believer who needs provision and pruning, by attaching ourselves to Christ as the true vine, we enable His life to flow in and through us.

c. Then we cannot help but bear fruit that will honor the Father. Pruning is Painful but Productive; endure the process of pruning...

4. In closing, Point #4 - In the Gospel of Saint John 11:25, Jesus declared, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

a. John 11:21-27, "²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

- b. To the Church of the Living God filled with hope, Christ offered Himself upon the Cross to prove that Death is not the final word for those whom are in Christ through the salvific work of Grace! Death does not win; for Christ has already overcome the grave. We are on the Winning Team!
- c. And it is during this Christmas Season that I want to encourage all of us to have heart of gratitude, a spirit of thankfulness, and a mind that resides in His Peace in Jesus Name! May we all choose to trust the Great I Am because He is truly all that we would ever have need of today!