

**Knowing God and His Names I: An Exposition of Exodus 20:1-2**  
**Desert Light Christian Church, March 3, 2019**



On January 21, 2017, Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi said, “I Hate to Say This, But Dems Are the Ones Actually Doing ‘The Lord’s Work.’” Wait a second! God isn’t a member of an American political party. When Jesus gave His great commission, He wasn’t thinking, “Oh my, we’ll have to wait a couple of thousand years till Nancy and her democrats do my job.” Ms. Pelosi missed it on 2 counts. Jesus didn’t say, instead of make disciples- “go and make democrats of all nations...” no, no, no. She showed her ignorance about God in general, and that He doesn’t need any political party to get His work done. Hosea 4:6 says that regarding God, we shouldn’t be ignorant, ***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”***

He has His own kingdom, ***“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”*** (Philippians 2:10-11). As Christians, do we know our God, by name? And if we as Christians know about Him as He revealed Himself in the Bible, do we know Him personally as *our* God in *our* hearts, for the things He revealed about Himself? When you love someone, you want to know everything you can about that person, don’t you? The first way to know someone is know their name. God gave us many names and titles of Himself to tell us about who He is. In the next 3 months or so, we’ll come to know God by the names He gave us. ***“And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery”*** (Exodus 20:1-2).

The first of the Jewish 10 commandments, are about the existence of God, as a person, with a name, for His people and what He did for them. If it were a command it’d be,

**“Know who your God is.” Our God is 3 persons in one God, with many names, and He wants to be your God.**

**1 . Know who your God is, God, plural yet one.** The very word “God,” Christians usually start with a capital “G” to distinguish from all other gods people worship. A man from India, Raj, said to me, “Eric I come from the land of 350 million gods.” Our English “God” with a capital G to describe the God of the Bible is a translation of the Hebrew word, *Elohim*.

So, Exodus 20:1-2, ***“And God spoke all these words, saying, “I...”*** says literally translated, “And Gods, He spoke all these words, He was strongly saying, ‘I’ (or) ‘ME,’”

The word “God,” comes from *Eloh*, a title, “God” from El, which can be any god. However, our God, has the title *Elohim* which is plural. Whenever a Hebrew word ends with “im” that’s a plural masculine word. Hebrew verbs match the number and gender of the subject. They have a he, she, or those guys, or those girls identity. So, with *Elohim*, in normal language it should say, “And Gods, *those guys* spoke these words.” But it says, “Gods, He spoke...” Lesson #1 about God- 3 persons in one God, we know the 3 as, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. It’d be like saying, All the people of Desert Light, he came to the potluck.” Normally not sensible, but our God is 3 in 1. That’s what separates the

God of Jews and Christians from the Muslim god, Allah. Allah is an Arabic way of saying what is Eloh in Hebrew. It's singular. Muslims emphasize Allah is only one. Our God and Allah aren't the same. Hebrew *Eloh* with "im" at the end makes it a plural, the verbs that follow make it singular. So, it's not, "Gods, they spoke," but rather, "Gods, He spoke."

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in 1 God, The Holy Trinity. It separates the God of the Bible from every other god and religion on earth. We must get to know Him.**

**2 . Know who your God is, He's given us many names for Himself**



In the old spaghetti westerns, Clint Eastwood was the man with no name.

God's the opposite. He takes names seriously and uses names and titles to tell us who He is.

For His title of "Lord," in Hebrew is *Adonai*, and in Greek, *Kurios*.

"Christ," is the Greek *XRISTOS* and in Hebrew Messiah, or *Meshiach*. That would be the "title" name for Jesus.

As God, He's *El* (Hebrew for God) *Shaddai*, (all powerful-Genesis 17:1), *El Elyon* (Most High-Genesis 14:8), *El Olam* (eternal-Genesis 21:33), *El Roi* (who sees-Genesis 16:13), *El Gibbor* (the mighty one-Isaiah 9:6), *YHWH Jireh* (who provides-Genesis 22:14), other names that begin with YHWH, *Ropheyka* (who heals you all-Exodus 15:20), *Nissi* (our banner- Exodus 17:15), *Ma-Kaddeshkem* (who makes you all holy- Leviticus 20:8), *Qanna* (Jealous- Exodus 34:14) *Shalom* (our peace-Judges 6:24), *Shammah* (who is there-Ezekiel 48:35), *Sabaoth* (of hosts or armies-Isaiah 1:24) *Tsidkenu* (our righteousness- Jeremiah 23:6).

**3 . Know who your God is, He wants to belong to you.**

Back to our verses, ***"And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery"***

"And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery"

"Strongly Saying"

Hebrew exclamation-----!

**Anochi= "!!!!" or "ME!!!!"**

Where the text says ***"And God spoke"*** it is translated literally as, ***"Gods, He spoke."***

Then, ***"all these words, saying."*** Literally, it is "He was saying," (the verb is designed to be a singular 3<sup>rd</sup> person, making it "He" was saying. The word for "saying" is in a form of intense, a verb form called the *piel* making it clear that this statement isn't just a "by the way." It would be the Hebrew exclamation mark. It shows that what He said He really meant. That's why "strongly saying" is a good translation. For the beginning phrase in the first commandment, our bibles translate, ***"I am the LORD (YHWH) your God."*** Here in the original, there is no "am" It's only one word, *ANOCHI*, meaning, a strong, "ME!" or "I!" and the "am" is assumed. In Exodus 3, yes, God calls Himself "I Am." But in the text of Exodus 20:1, picture someone standing up, thumb pointed to the chest, saying, "ME! Your God" or "I! Your God" He wants our attention, that He exists, He is no force, unnamed higher power, or man upstairs. God is personal, meaning He is a person with all qualities of person-hood and a name. Then He reminds them that He brought them out of slavery- a God who gives freedom. This is theology 101, God who

makes people free, He's love, including His mercy, goodness, kindness, faithfulness. He's powerful, knows all, sees all, everywhere, can do anything He chooses. He's glorious, is majestic, full of splendor, majestic, magnificent, beautiful and amazing. He's holy, meaning He's righteous, pure, precise, and perfect.



In English Bibles God's name, YHWH, is written **LORD** in caps. But the meaning of its letters points to the cross. Hebrew was probably the first alphabet. Alphabet was invented by drawing a picture of something that started with a sound, and that was the letter. Y or *yod* in Hebrew, means, "hand." H is for *heh*, which comes from an ancient word for, "window." The idea is, "look!" it

can also be an abbreviation of the word for look, "Hinneh!" The w is the letter *vav*, from "nail." Another *heh* follows the *vav*. It says, "A hand, look, and nail, look!" God's personal name that He calls Himself speaks of the cross. The first time God's name as YHWH appears in the Bible is in Genesis 2:4. ***These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD (YHWH), God made the earth and the heavens.*** That means at the beginning of creation before anyone had ever sinned, God had already planned the cross, knowing that we would become sinners.

### **Is He your God?**

The Jews have had this first command where God says, "I," or "Me," His name, and says, "**Your God**" almost 1 1/2 millenia before the church began. Not only is He a personal God, but He longs to be the God of our personal lives. He pointed to Himself saying "I" and gave His name, YHWH, but then He says who He belongs to. "**Your God**" begs one question for everyone today. "**Know who your God is.**" **Our God is 3 persons in one God, with many names, and wants to be your God.** Have you made Him "your God?" There's only one way to do that. He becomes the God of anyone who makes His Son Jesus, Lord and master of their lives.