

GOD'S GREAT NAME

(Cf. notes on 1 Chr. 16:24)

Ex. 6:1-8

Intro: JEHOVAH is the name used more often than any other name for God in the OT. It is found 6,823 times (Stone, Names of God in the OT, p. 19).

It is a very simple name when you consider its origin. It is formed from the imperfect tense of the verb, to be, and it was a condensation of the expression, "I am that I am," found in Ex. 3:14.

But, however simple its origin may be, and its literal translation (the One who is), its full meaning seems to be almost inexhaustible!

I want to consider several facts of its meaning with you this morning. (Review the context.)

I. The name, Jehovah, indicates God is a God of revelation - One who desires to be clearly distinguishable by men, to be identified by them.

He wants to be known.

Cf. "I am Jehovah" (Ex. 6:2). This reminds Moses of Ex. 3:13, 14.

Cf. also 6:7; 7:5; 8:22 - to Pharaoh.

The Bible is primarily a revelation of God. Nowhere is that more apparent than in the name Jehovah in the O.T.

He is always "moving, pervading history, and manifesting Himself in the world" (K+D, Pent., Vol. I, p. 75).

Cf. Ezekiel's prayer in Isa. 37:14-20.

(could be another point) implied in this is the fact that He has always been +

always will. Cf. 5:1. Cf. Mt. 6:8

II. As Jehovah, He is a God who reveals Himself progressively (6:3).

Abraham did not learn all about God, and what he learned he did not learn all at one time.

Here, about 400 years after Abraham, God is revealing Himself in a new way.

This progressive revelation continues throughout the OT until Christ comes! Then it is finished.

Cf. Jn. 1:18; 17:8, 9.

But think of how this applies personally.

Moses was a man who hungered for the knowledge of God. Cf. Ex. 33:18.

Think of all he wrote about God - Moses' theology!

And yet, one of the most illuminating statements he ever made, he made not more than 40 days before he died! Cf. Deut. 3:24. (How long before this it was actually said, we do not know, but it stands as a summary of all that Moses knew - only the beginning.)

Who is here 120 years old? How many of us feel like only beginners?

III. As Jehovah, He is a God who is faithful to His promises. Cf. 6:4, 5b.

Do you remember what Moses had anticipated in 4:1 - "They will not believe me."

Cf. 2 Tim. 2:13.

In the approx 400 years between Abraham and Moses, God had never forgotten His promises to Abraham.

Cf. 2: 24 &

See how Moses again summarizes at the end of his life. Cf. Dt. 7: 6-9.

How full the Word is of this!

He has never failed. He will never fail. He is JEHOVAH!

IV. As Jehovah, He is absolutely sovereign, completely independent in what He does. He has unlimited freedom!

Cf. 6: 6-8.

Why did He choose the Israelites?

Who said He could take them away from the Egyptians?

Who told Him He could drive out the Canaanites?

WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO SAY, "JEHOVAH, WHAT DOEST THOU?"

No one does! Why?

BECAUSE HE IS JEHOVAH.

Illustrated by Nebuchadnezzar in Dan. 4: 30-35.

Cf. Psa. 136: 4-6 ff.

V. As Jehovah, He is concerned about salvation (6: 6-8). not by etymology, but by usage.

Cf. Gen. 12: 3 & with Gal. 3: 8.

Cf. also Isa. 45: 21, 22 - the latter, the verse which was used to bring C. H. Spurgeon to Christ.

Concl.: Christian, are you in a place like Moses was.

Do you have problems?

Have things gone wrong in your work for the Lord?

Are you struggling with the problem of unanswered prayer, or an answer that appears to be, no?

Would you like to give up?

Are you mad at God? Do you think He might be dead after all?
Do everything you believe being tested?

THEN LISTEN.

Moses knew all about these things — AND HE DISCOVERED THAT GOD LET ALL OF THESE THINGS HAPPEN SO HE WOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN THAT GOD IS JEHOVAH!