

## Understanding the Old Testament Week 5: Yahweh, Israel, Egypt, and The Call of Moses

### **Genesis 28 - Jacob encounters Yahweh.**

- **28:12:** Dream of the ladder which angels ascend and descend on it. *See John 1:51*

John 1:51 ESV: And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

- Jesus is our ladder. Jesus is what causes heaven and earth to meet. “On earth as it is in heaven”. “Whatever you bind and lose in my name”. “All authority on heaven and on earth have been given to me”, etc.

- **28:13:** The Lord appeared to Jacob. “I am Yahweh”. Also notice: “the Lord stood”.

### **Genesis 29 - Jacobs fight for (first) love.**

After 7 years is deceived, works another 7 years for his true or first love. Do we fight for Jesus the same way? *see Revelation 2:1-7*

Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

Note: NOT a defense of polygamy. God’s pattern is and always has been one man and one woman. God uses imperfect people.

### **Genesis 29 & 30. Jacob’s wives face bareness.**

Israel is a supernatural nation; it would only exist with the direct influence of the Lord. Not only once, but with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s wives.

### **Genesis 30, 31, & 32 - Jacob leaves his father-in-law and fear Esau.**

### **Genesis 32:22 - Jacob Wrestles with Yahweh (Jesus pre-incarnation).**

Jacob is given a new name. Israel. Israel means “strives with God”.

### **Genesis 36: Esau is Edom. Edom is commonly referred to through out the Bible. Edomites.**

### **Genesis 37 - Joseph. Joseph has two dreams.**

37:9 - Joseph’s 2nd dream compare with Revelation 12.

### **Joseph’s life as a picture of Jesus.**

- Joseph is sold and bought. Wife of Joseph’s master falsely accuses him of impropriety. Thrown into prison. Ascends to be Pharaoh’s right hand man and has equal authority as Pharaoh in many areas.
- Beloved of the father. Accused of a crime he didn’t commit. Thrown into prison. Taken up to rule at the right hand of the King.
- Jesus is the beloved of the father. Accused of blasphemy. Takes the sin of the world upon himself and dies. Descends into the grave to take back authority. Rises on the 3rd day. Ascended to the throne to rule and reign.

### **Joseph and Jesus’ Second Coming**

- Joseph’s brothers don’t recognize him their first visit. Recognize him the second visit.
- Israel largely missed the Messiah the first time, Jesus and Paul prophesied the salvation of a multitude of Jews before the 2nd coming. (This is taking place rapidly now.)

### **Genesis 48:15-16 - The angel that is God.**

## **Genesis 49:8-11 - Joseph's blessing on Judah.**

12 sons of Israel = 12 tribes. Why do I count 13?

Levi will not get a land inheritance, they are priests. Joseph's sons each get a blessing. Manasseh and Ephraim.

## **Exodus 1 - Pharaoh Oppresses Israel**

Pharaoh believes he is a deity and is worshipped by the Egyptians as such. Specifically, Horus the son of Amon-Re the primary god in the Egyptian Religion. Everything either of the Pharaohs in this narrative do needs to be considered through that knowledge. (*The Pharaoh in Ex 1 is not the same as Ex 5*)

- **1:7**: "the people of Israel were fruitful and multiplied".

- **1:8-14**: Pharaoh and the Egyptians are worried the Israelites are reproducing so fast they will soon outnumber them and take over, so Egypt enslaves the Israelites.

Israel is finally doing part of the Edenic command to "be fruitful and multiply" (they aren't doing so well on the "fill the earth"), as a result Egypt comes against the Israelite people. Demonic forces of evil will not sit by and let us achieve what we are called to do as followers of Jesus, when we grow, we must expect opposition; we cannot let this opposition discourage us from what He has called us to.

- **1:15-21**: Pharaoh commands the abortion of all males (the ones who would make up an army).

Note: v16 "birthstool". This is the Hebrew word for potter's wheel, not birthstool. Egypt believed their gods of fertility formed children on the "potter's wheel". Google "Egyptian god potter's wheel" and you will immediately find pictures of hieroglyphics depicting this very thing.

Egyptians also had a way they believed they could determine the gender of babies in the womb. They were "natural" ways and obviously less accurate than modern solutions, but it is what they believed and did in Ancient Egypt.

- **1:22**: The midwives refuse to perform the abortion, so Pharaoh commands all male children to be thrown into the Nile. *see John 10:10: "The thief comes to steal kill and destroy."*

## **Exodus 2 - Moses foreshadows baptism. Moses flees from Egypt.**

- **2:1-10**: Moses is placed in a basket and put in the Nile River. The waters literally bring him from "death to life". Had Moses' mother kept him, he would have been found and killed, but because he was surrendered to the waters the Lord brought him through the waters to life.

- **2:11-22**: Moses kills an Egyptian and flees to the priests of Midian.

The daughters of the priests of Midian are kept from watering their flocks, Moses stands up for them and waters the flocks. The father then says: "Call him, that he may eat bread." v16-20

This may be a spiritual lesson pointing to how selflessly serving and teaching others causes us to be blessed as well as them. This certainly was a selfless move on Moses' part, potentially putting him in danger to help these women and their flock.

## **Exodus 3 - Moses meets Yahweh.**

- **3:2**: The angel of the Lord in the burning bush.

Note the garden imagery. There is no reason to believe the bush was a dead stick bush as portrayed in movies. More likely it was a lush bush. Bible scholars believe it to be a "rubus sanctus" commonly called a "holy bramble".

- **3:3-4:** “turn aside to see”; “when Yahweh saw Moses turned” He spoke to Moses.  
The Lord waits for us to turn our attention upon Him so He can speak to us. Often, we don’t hear him speak because we fail to turn and give Him our full attention. see 2 Cor 3:16-18.
- **3:5:** “Take off your shoes.”
  - *“This is the first clear example of “sacred space” since the garden of Eden. In the ancient Near East, removal of footwear, here probably sandals of papyrus or leather, was a sign of respect and displayed an attitude of humility.” - The JPS Torah Commentary: Exodus - The Theophany at the Burning Bush (3:1-6)*
  - Descriptions of the clothing the priests in Israel were to use is extremely detailed for every article of clothing. Shoes, however, are never mentioned. It is believed this is to say priests are not to wear shoes. We do know Ancient Judaism as far back as we can tell did not wear shoes while serving in the temple.
- **3:6-10:** God declares who He is and what He wants to do. He is the God of Israel; He has come to set His people free and take them to the promised land that was promised to Abraham.
- **3:11:** Moses’ first excuse. “I am nobody.”
- **3:12:** “I will be with you.”
- **3:13:** Moses’ second excuse (*possibly*). “The people won’t listen to me, what is Your Name?”
  - Something to think about: Pagan magicians (remember the Egyptians had magicians and Moses grew up in the house of Pharaoh) believed if you could get a spirit to tell you its name you could control the spirit. Some people still believe this, including some Christians... The Bible DOES NOT state this. Some do point out that even though this idea is not found in the Bible, it was a very common belief, Yahweh speaking His Name to Moses was [possibly] a statement of authority that 1) He could never be controlled and 2) The trust He put in Moses to carry out His plan.
  - Many commentators, especially ancient ones, view this as an excuse thinking Moses asked expecting the Lord not to speak His Name to Moses. There are times the Lord may have refused to speak His Name when asked. See Judges 13:20-22
  - Regardless of how true the above is there is clearly power in the Name of the Lord (and the Name of Jesus). See Exodus 33:18-23; 18 LEB.
- **3:14:** “I AM WHO I AM”, tell them “I AM” has sent me to you.
- **3:15:** Yahweh, the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

### **Did Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their decedents know the Name Yahweh?**

- He told His Name to Abraham: Genesis 15:7.
- Isaac knew it: Gen 26:22.
- He told His Name to Jacob: Genesis 28:12-13.
- Moses’ question wouldn’t have made any sense even considering ancient belief in the knowing a spirits name. If Moses came to Israel and said “God is going to take us out of Egypt” and the Israelites respond “what is His Name?” and Moses says “Yahweh”. If they don’t know the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is names Yahweh they are going to respond “who is that?”

### **Yes, they all knew the name of God, Yahweh. So why ask this question?**

*Exodus 6:3 ESV: I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.*

- This is a foundational verse for an anti-Christian/Jewish movement.
- In English it is translated in a way that it seems like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, DID NOT know the Lord's Name.
- **This isn't a problem**, while the English translations seem to contradict, top Hebrew scholars, including non-believing scholars have pointed out Exodus 6:2-3 could easily be translated:
  - “God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am Yahweh”. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty and I am Yahweh. Did I not make my name known to them?” Exodus 6:2-3

### **How do we pronounce YHWH?** (Hebrew has no written vowels)

- We don't know for sure; we know it's NOT Jehovah (Yehovah).
- We are pretty sure it is Yahweh.
  - Some reason: **1)** The V sound was not spoken in until after the exile at the earliest. **2)** Hebrew has no vowels, but we know where they got the vowels for Jehovah. They stuck in the vowels of the Hebrew word for Lord: Adonai
  - (YHWH + Adonai) יהוה + אֲדֹנָי = יְהוָה (Yehovah). Hebrew linguists call this an “impossible form”.**
  - Scribes did this not so we would say Yehovah. But so anyone reading aloud would know to say “Adonai” because Jews would not use the Divine Name they would replace it with Adonai, Lord.**
  - 3)** We are 100% sure that the first vowel should be an A. i.e “Yah”. Yahweh is addressed as the shortened “Yah” 26 times in the OT. It also is the ending of Hallelu(jah) or Praise to Yah(weh).
  - 4)** The second half we know that wah (weh) is the one pronunciation that follows Hebrew grammar rules. Thus, we get “Yahweh” as our best option.

**3:16-18:** God's plan and promise to lead Israel out of Egypt.

**3:19:** “by a mighty hand” see (Deut 5:15)

- We have a lot of Egyptian material that talks about “the conquering arm of Pharaoh” (remember Pharaoh is a god to the Egyptians), and “Re, Possessor of a Strong Arm”.
- Simply put, God is saying “I'm going to beat down these so called ‘strong gods’”.

### **Exodus 4:1 - Continuation of Exodus 3. God calling Moses, Moses not wanting to accept.**

- **4:1-9:** Moses' third excuse. “They won't believe me” God provides miraculous signs.
- **4:10:** Moses' fourth excuse. “I don't speak well.”
- **4:11:** “Who made man's mouth?”
- **4:13:** Moses' refusal. “Please send someone else.”
- **4:14:** Yahweh becomes angry and makes a compromise (that will eventually hurt Israel).
  - God splits His intended leadership position from one office into two. Leader and Priest. Aaron His priest. Moses will be leader of the people.
- **4:14:** Behold [Aaron] is coming out to see you.
- **4:18-20:** Moses DOESN'T go see Aaron. Moses is seemingly having second thoughts. see v21-23
- **4:21-23:** The Lord repeats to Moses what He wants Moses to do.
- **4:24-26:** Bridegroom of blood incident.
- **4:27-28:** The Lord tells Aaron to go meet Moses (again).
- **4:29-31:** Moses and Aaron meet with the people of Israel and tell them what the Lord has said He is going to do.