



Week 2 Session Guide

YAHWEH - I AM (The Personal Name of God)

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.'"

Exodus 3:13-14

Part 1 - Old Testament (Exodus 3:1-15)

The time had come to deliver His people out of the hands of their oppressors. God had heard their cries which arose because of the merciless demands their captors, the Egyptians, were making of them. Life was bitter and hard, and their joy and song had long ago been extinguished. All that was left was their groaning. But that was enough, because just as He heard their joyful melodies, He now heard their sorrow.

So many things converge when God initiates a thing. He planned, prepared, and now He was about to move. He brought His people, just a few in number, into Egypt, and now He was about to bring out a great multitude with great force like a woman giving birth to her child. God's people, now a nation, was being birthed into a destiny of God's making.

How does the Almighty initiate such an undertaking? How does He vacate the womb, when the child is the people of His planting? No one could have imagined, because it had never been done. God's way is to prepare a man whom He will send to do His bidding. He raised Moses in the courts of Egypt where his hunger for release grew, and then through circumstances, He sent him to the solitude of the desert to make him ready for the task He conceived.

In the mount, at the holy altar, God met with Moses and enlisted him to go and speak to Pharaoh: "let my people go". Before he could go to Pharaoh, he had, perhaps, a more difficult task. He had to convince the captives that their cries had been heard and the time for their deliverance had come. Moses asked, what shall I say, Lord, when they ask me your name? How would the God of such a great deliverance make Himself known to His people in this historical instance? God simply said tell them "I AM THAT I AM" or "I AM WHO I AM".

Discussion Questions:

What does God intend to communicate with this name? What can we gather about God from this revelation?

What is implied by this understanding of God's nature? What is God saying to the Israelites, and by extension to us by this name?

In the context of this event, we can be sure that He will deliver us when we cry to Him for help, and that He will fulfill His good intentions toward us at all times. Like Paul, we know that all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose, because He is I AM.

In what ways have you experienced or seen God as a “Deliverer?”

Part II New Testament (John 8:13-59)

While this declaration of God’s name spurred faith in the Israelites to receive deliverance from Egypt, it did not provoke the same in the Jews of Jesus’ day. The Great I Am appeared on the human stage clothed in flesh to deliver men from the bondage of their sins and give them eternal life, as Jesus said in John 14:6,

“I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

However, they were unwilling to receive Jesus, who like Moses, was sent from God to accomplish His work.

Discussion Questions:

Read the story and examine why, according to Jesus, the Jews had no room in their hearts for I AM (Jn. 8:13-59).

When would I AM be made known to them (see v. 28)?

The Book of Hebrews compares Jesus to Moses and says that He is greater. In what ways can you compare Jesus to Moses?

Discuss how we today can prepare our hearts to receive I Am and all that He offers to us through the revelation of this wonderful name.

How do our “deliverance” stories open up opportunities to introduce others to YAHWEH ... the Great I AM?