



Lewiston Church of Christ

March 10, 2019

Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

Randy Thornton: 208-758-3289

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

Lewiston church of Christ

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Great Words in God's Word

(Third in a series of bulletin articles on Bible words)

YHWH

“YHWH” is the personal name of Israel’s God. It is known to scholars as the “tetragrammaton” (meaning, four letters). Due to the lack of vowels in biblical Hebrew, scholars don’t quite know how it was pronounced. The name “Yahweh” is an educated guess. At some point in Israel’s history, YHWH was considered too sacred to pronounce out loud. A replacement term was needed so ancient Jews often used “Adonai” which means “Lord.” In most English Bibles, the word “LORD” is used for “YHWH.” At least it still has four letters!

YHWH” is a proper name derived from the verb “to be.” It is how God introduced Himself to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3. It literally means, “I Am Who I Am” or “I will be who I will be” (the imperfect tense could refer to the present or the future). It occurs 6,828 times in the Old Testament, but not in *Esther* or *the Song of Songs*.

When Moses met the blazing bush that wouldn’t burn out on Mt. Horeb, a conversation with God ensued in which Moses was commissioned to deliver the Hebrew people from slavery. However, Moses lacked confidence for such a task. He asked God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11).

Instead of telling Moses who he was, God introduced Himself by name. In other words, who you are, Moses, is not the point, it’s who “I AM”! This is My mission and I plan to use you in it. So, YHWH told Moses “This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14). The rest is history.

So, God’s personal name is a verb. It affirms God’s self-existence. His being is like nothing else that exists, so why shouldn’t His name reflect His exclusivity? Only YHWH exists as a self-sufficient Being. The rest of us owe our existence to Him.