

Chardon Christian Fellowship
Home Fellowship Lessons
Names of God
Lesson 2: YHWH (Jehovah)
STUDY GUIDE

LESSON

A. YHWH

YHWH is known as the Tetragrammaton name of God in that it only has four (tetra) letters (gramma). It is the most sacred name for God. In English Bibles, the word *YHWH* is translated as: Lord, Jehovah, Personal God of Israel, The Self-Sufficient One, The Existing One, The Eternal One. This name projects an overall image of “The Self Sustaining, Eternal God above all things”.

It is important that we understand the magnitude of this name, and the power behind this name. Since it is used 6,519 times in Old Testament, we should discover as much as we can about this name of God.

B. First use of YHWH in the Bible

The first use of *YHWH* is in **Genesis 2:4** where God has Moses pen in the Pentateuch (first 5 books of Old Testament) a description of the creation of the universe:

Genesis 2:4 *This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God (YHWH Elohim) made earth and heaven. NASB*

In this verse we see the word *YHWH* combined with *Elohim*. *Elohim* will be studied in future lessons, but it means “supreme God”. Putting this combination together, we see our God referring to Himself as *YHWH Elohim*, that is, “The Eternal One, The Supreme God” or ‘The Self-Sufficient One, The Supreme God.’ According to some scholars, “...*YHWH Elohim* .. means that *YHWH*, the personal God who rules over Israel, is at one and the same time the universal God who rules over all.”

YHWH Elohim is first recorded in **Genesis 2**, and we see throughout the account of creation God referring to His divine power in bringing all into existence as ‘*YHWH Elohim*’.

See: **Genesis 2:4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22**
Genesis 3:1, 8, 9, 13, 14, 21, 22, 23

C. Revelation of God to man as YHWH

We see God revealing Himself to man as *YHWH* in the encounter of Moses with Him at the burning bush.

Exodus 3:1-6 *(in your Bible, YHWH is translated as LORD, and Elohim as God)*

Exodus 3:13-15 (in your Bible, YHWH is translated as LORD, and Elohim as God)

We see God revealing Himself to man as both *YHWH* and *Elohim* in the encounter of Moses at the burning bush. God refers to Himself as the Supreme God (*Elohim*) over the Hebrews. He then emphasizes in **Exodus 3:14** that He is The Absolute Self Sufficient Eternal One by saying “*I Am who I Am*” (אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה ; *YHWH ‘asher YHWH*). There is none His equal. He eternally exists. He also told them His name, and this is personal with Israel.

The name “I AM” confidently states that His existence is different from all other existence.

Isaiah 45:5-7 (in your Bible, YHWH is translated as LORD, and Elohim as God)

QUESTION: *Why did God say it this way? Why does He refer to Himself as both YHWH (Lord) and Elohim (God)?* Consider sharing an answer with the group.

D. Jesus in light of revelation of YHWH

We must not lose sight that any revelation regarding the name or nature of God is also a revelation regarding Jesus. Jesus is as much of the Godhead as the Father (*YHWH*) and Holy Spirit. Although separate ... they are One.

John 8:58

John 5:17-18

Revelation 1:8

Hebrews 13:8

John 8:24

Revelation 22:13

John 1:1-3, 14

John 14:6-7

E. How does knowing the name YHWH affect me?

A fundamental question is “*How does knowing God’s names impact my Christian walk? How should this affect me? Is this mere academia, that is, just facts?*”

In these times where Christianity is under such attack by people, Hollywood, the courts, and media, we must know the nature of the God we worship and serve.

God, as the Self-Sufficient One, never changes (immutable) since there is nothing incomplete or insufficient in His character. He does not change with time, and time or events do not control Who or when He is ... He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our nation and culture are undergoing considerable change ... ‘sexual sins’ are now called ‘alternate lifestyles’ ... ‘lying and cheating’ are called ‘advantageous business practices’ ... marriage is being redefined by the courts ... clothing that 40 years ago was called vulgar and nudity is called ‘avant-garde’ ... people worship Hollywood actors and not righteous men but ... God does not change. It is the nature of *YHWH* to be Self Sufficient, the One, Creator of all, the Alpha and Omega, He who transcends time ... He Is (*YHWH*)!

James 1:17

Isaiah 43:10,11

Psalm 90:2

Malachi 3:6

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

We need to move beyond academics with this lesson. Just knowing about *YHWH* being a Tetragrammaton and that it translates to *LORD* in most Bibles is just ‘academics.’ We need to realize in our soul Who we are talking about. We need to change our attitude about using His name in any frivolous manner (no examples in this lesson ... just printing them would be wrong). We need to know that the world judges His Holy Name based on our behavior. While we love Him, and we know He loves us, we need to be afraid of the power and majesty of His Holy Name !!!

Romans 12:1-2

Colossians 3:2

REFERENCES

All Bible quotes are from New American Standard Bible, Lochmann Foundation

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