

[Faith, Hope & Love_Part17](#)

We left off with our study of the name **Yahweh**. **Jehovah Jireh** provided Himself, **Yahweh** (which means the Lord), as our comfort, security, and confidence because this name assures us that He has all things in control all of the time—every little detail. **Yahweh** is our I Am, and the one who causes all to be. Hence, He is the one who sets forth the path of our lives, establishes each and every step, and then secures our footing. This name **Yahweh** can bring the deepest of comfort to our souls when we rest in the truth that only God is *good* confident that all He directs and permits in our lives is an expression of His great love for us. However, practically, emotionally, this name can be one of the most upsetting names when things in our life are not going the way we would like and we lose sight of the fact that He is *good* and His purpose, in all things in the life of the chosen, is love.

We must therefore always remember and hold on to the three foundational truths: 1) we are aliens and do not belong to this world; 2) Jesus is **Yahweh**; and 3) **Yahweh** is good. If we hold to these three truths, we will be able to confidently navigate the ups and downs of this life. These three truths secure us and are the ROCK upon which we can and must build our lives. We focused on numbers 2) and 3) last week, but we must never forget number 1): we are aliens and we don't belong to this world. The Lord began to impress this upon us in **Haggai** and then again in **1 Peter**. Keeping our minds and our emotions stayed on this truth is one of the keys to enduring those difficult times when **Yahweh** takes you down a path that you do not like—a path that is intended to separate you from finding your identity and purpose in the things of this world, including your religion. **Yahweh** wants you to be like Him and He wants you to carry out the works which have been set aside

for you to fulfill. He knows that only in this way of living will you ever truly be filled, satisfied, and content during your time on this earth. You may not always like the path; but it will yield its good results if you let Him have His way with you.

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

I want you to understand that our joy in this life comes not from some mental or emotional psych job nor does it come from our circumstances. Joy comes from a deep confidence in the name **Yahweh**, fully assured that through trials and difficulties the Lord will produce in your soul endurance; and when it is all said and done you will be perfect, complete, lacking in nothing. You will be free from this world, needing nothing from the kingdom of the world to be secure. And since “Consider” is in the *aorist middle imperative*, we know it is a command (*imperative*), it is to be our way of life from beginning to end (*aorist*), and being in the *middle* voice, we must dig down deep into our souls and decide that it is good when we face difficulties knowing what it can produce in our lives. But it is also important to note that when it says, “the testing of your faith *produces* endurance” that “produces” is also in the *middle* voice. Which means that you have a role to play in the test achieving its outcome in your life. You must dig down deep into your soul and agree that it is all ultimately good regardless of what it might feel like. You must

choose to press into the path that **Yahweh** has established for you and walk in it confident of His love and His purposes for your life. **Yahweh** is a beautiful name; and as long as you call on that name you will be able to endure everything that He has prescribed for your life. Besides, **Jehovah Jireh** has provided you everything you need to have victory in each and every trial.

However, even though you must choose to “consider” throughout the whole process of working your way through tests and trials, I want you to know that no matter what test or trial you face, you are not in it alone. This is one of the reasons the name **Yahweh** or **Jehovah** brings comfort into our lives. You may not be aware of it, but there is a whole host of heavenly beings that are engaged on your behalf. Some of those beings are angels and some are nasty evil demons, but they are all working, whether they know it or not, for the same purpose—that you might be conformed into the image of Christ and fulfill the works that the Father has assigned to you. **Jehovah Jireh** has made this provision for you. This brings us to the next name of God whose name reveals the biggest spiritual irony ever. Sadly, this name has been largely misunderstood and has painfully led to all sorts of dysfunction in the lives of the chosen.

14. **Jehovah Sabaoth**—the Lord of Hosts or the Lord of Heaven’s armies. This name is used 239 times in the Old Testament and it is the most used compound name in reference to the Lord. But what is most fascinating about this name is what it reveals about the behind the scenes workings of the Kingdom of God in the spiritual realms. As we studied last week, **Jehovah** is a derivation of the name **Yahweh** or Lord. This name reveals that there is nothing outside of His absolute control. **Acts 10:36** emphatically states that He is Lord of all! Every single person

and every aspect of creation in both the seen and the unseen worlds are subject to His lordship. As far as the name “**Sabaoth**” it refers to a mass of beings gathered for war; an army. Jesus is the Lord of Heaven’s armies. Thus, every good angel and every demonic angel works for Jesus who is Lord of all.

I told you this name has largely been misunderstood. We all understand that the Lord has myriads and myriads of angels ministering to Him who are at His beck and call. ***Palm 68:17*** says, “The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands.” ***Hebrews 12:22*** confirms there are myriads of angels. And in ***Revelation 5:11-12*** we read, “Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands.” This is the picture that I am sure we all have in our minds: the Lord and His angels, swords drawn, ready to vanquish evil, Satan, and his demonic hoards; waiting for a child of God to call on the Lord so they can sweep in and quickly dispatch the unseen workers of evil. And while that may happen, it is only part of the story. **Jehovah Sabaoth** is Lord over all the armies of heaven, both good and bad. They all do what He commands. They are not rogue nor are they free agents; they are all subject to His strict administration.

We see this clearly in the story of King Ahab. But first, let me give you a quick background. We know from ***Job 1*** and ***2, Hosea 7:12, 1 Kings 22:19-23***, and ***Zechariah 3:1-2*** that the Lord has these strange celestial staff meetings on the mountain of God. From this high and loft place, the Lord calls forth His “assembly” and reviews what the angelic beings are up to (including Satan and various demonic beings). It is in this assembly, which is also referred to as the “Council” or the Courtroom of God, where Satan brings accusation against God’s people (this seems

to be what Jesus alludes to in **Matthew 5:21-22** when He says that whoever insults his brother is in danger of being brought before the court or the council). In the Lord's angelic chambers, decisions are made with regard to the people of the earth. And we learn from **1 Samuel 16:14, 18:10, 1 Kings 22:19-23, Isaiah 19:14, and 2 Corinthians 12:7** that the Lord dispatches his angels, including the demonic spirits, out from the assembly with specific instructions to accomplish His authorized purposes. It is truly bizarre. Let's look at the behind the scenes spiritual workings on the mountain of God leading up to the demise of King Ahab of Israel.

2 Chronicles 18:18-22

Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left. "The Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that. "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' And the Lord said to him, 'How?' "He said, 'I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and prevail also. Go and do so.' "Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of these your prophets, for the Lord has proclaimed disaster against you."

Now we know that this reference to "all the host of heaven" does not just include good angels since a deceiving spirit came forth, stood before the Lord, and recommended the plan of action which the Lord approved against King Ahab and

his prophets. Thus, all the host of heaven or all the armies of heaven is a reference to both the good angels as well as the bad or demonic angels. In this encounter, the Lord had proclaimed disaster on King Ahab and this demon put forth the plan through which it would be carried out. It is clear that the demonic spirits were not free to just go and do whatever they wanted to the King of Israel; rather, they needed two things: 1) the Lord's specific approval of a plan; and 2) the Lord's empowerment of the plan—in other words, the declaration that it would succeed. Without His Word, it seems they could not act and even if they could (which the name **Jehovah Sabaoth** indicates that they can't), they would not succeed. Thus, it is clear from this passage that every angelic being and every demonic being works for Jesus and only does what He allows or directs.

To the surprise of most believers, even Satan, Lucifer himself, works for the Lord. Satan is not an independent agent waging a war against the purposes of the Lord; although that is what he wants us to believe and it is the lie that most believers have swallowed. Rather, the truth is that he is just a tool—that is it, just a tool. Satan works for **Jehovah Sabaoth** just like all the other angels. However, I must say that it is clear from the scriptures that neither Satan nor his demonic hoards fully comprehend this reality. That is how much bigger God is over all of His creation. That is why our God is called **El Shaddai**—the Lord God Almighty, and **El Elyon**—the Most High God; and it is the reason why the relationship between **Jehovah Sabaoth** and Satan and his demonic hoards amounts to the biggest cosmic irony ever. We must never forget how big, gigantic, and superior our God is and how subservient to the Lord the enemy is. Let's look at the book of **Job** and an encounter between God and Satan in the Lord's great assembly of the heavenly court.

Job 1:6-12

One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. "Where have you come from?" the Lord asked Satan. Satan answered the Lord, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on." Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil." Satan replied to the Lord, "Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!" "All right, you may test him," the Lord said to Satan. "Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically." So Satan left the Lord's presence.

Did you notice that as with with the story of King Ahab, the Lord granted 1) specific approval of the plan; and 2) empowered the plan by setting a strict limitation on what Satan was permitted to do. The Lord let Satan be creative, but he would not let Satan harm Job physically. The story goes on to say that Satan caused all these horrible disasters to steal away every tangible thing from Job. He enticed foreign invaders to attack, he caused fire to fall from the heaven and burn up Job's sheep and shepherds, and then caused a tornado to crash down on the home of his children and kill them all. It was awful; but Job still humbly worshiped

the Lord. So this led to the follow on encounter at another meeting of the great assembly.

Job 2:1-7

One day the members of the heavenly court came again to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. "Where have you come from?" the Lord asked Satan. Satan answered the Lord, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on." Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil. And he has maintained his integrity, even though you urged me to harm him without cause." Satan replied to the Lord, "Skin for skin! A man will give up everything he has to save his life. But reach out and take away his health, and he will surely curse you to your face!" "All right, do with him as you please," the Lord said to Satan. "But spare his life." So Satan left the Lord's presence, and he struck Job with terrible boils from head to foot.

This second scene is pretty similar to the first scenario for we see that the Lord still gave specific approval of Satan's plan and empowered the plan. What is really disturbing however is that in both scenarios it was God who started this banter over Job's life. Satan did not come to the heavenly court with some accusation seeking permission to attack Job; rather, Satan had just been roaming the earth and God prompted Satan to focus on Job. However, in this spiritual drama, God had great

plans for Job; plans which would involve Him actually meeting raw God and getting to know Him like never before. These plans would more than confirm Job's faithfulness to God despite his tremendous pain; and, in so doing, shame all the heavenly hosts of darkness. But Satan did not understand that God holds all the cards. Satan arrogantly thought that all it would take is some deep wounding and Job's faith would cave. But the faith in the heart of Job was rock solid and instead of cursing God we find that he worshiped the Lord (**Job 42:1-6**). In fact, Job said that all his complaints in terms of his suffering were ignorant for what he learned about God was far too wonderful for him to understand.

So it is fascinating how this all occurs. God knows what He is going to do and He uses the enemy to accomplish His tasks and the enemy seems dull to the Lord's overarching sovereign control. And what is even more interesting is that throughout all his suffering, Job did not blame Satan nor his demons; rather, he blamed God for all his tragedy; he knew who was truly responsible. He said, "For the Almighty has stuck me down with his arrows. He has sent his poisoned arrows deep within my spirit. All God's terrors are arrayed against me." "Have I sinned? What have I don't to you oh watcher of humanity? Why have you made me your target?" (**Job 6:4; 7:20**). And in **Job 42:7** God affirmed that Job has spoken right about Him. Throughout tragedy after tragedy, Job understood that **Yahweh** was in control of everything all the time, even the devilish agents through which his suffering came.

Once again, this name **Jehovah Sabaoth** should bring you great comfort. The great cosmic irony however is that the good angels know they are carrying out the Lord's purposes but it seems that the demonic angels don't understand this truth.

The demons always seem far too anxious to run to do their work believing that they are able to hurt and damage the Lord's chosen. But **Yahweh** has planned it all in advance and uses all of it, both the successes and the failures of His chosen ones, to make them more like Christ. That is His plan all along and the purposes of **El Elyon**—the Most High God—are never thwarted. Besides, we must always remember that **El Shaddai**—the Lord God Almighty—exists outside of time and knows what we will choose; and **Jehovah Jireh** has made provision for all of it. **Revelation 22:13** says that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega the beginning and the end. Thus, all things originate with Him, including every single test and trial that we face. And all things end with Him; He is the completion—the fruition—of all matters. Accordingly, He knows how we will respond to every single test and trial and He uses it all for His glory—even our failures.

I want to make one other point about this great cosmic irony and the way Satan is just a tool of **Jehovah Sabaoth**. Do you actually think that if Satan understood what the Father had planned that he would have enticed Judas to betray Jesus and then enticed the religious leaders to force Rome to crucify him? I dare say not. Satan did not know, much less anticipate, what God was doing. I am sure that in his blind arrogance and pride he thought he had just carried out the biggest cosmic coup ever and had finally thwarted the plans of God fulfilling his braggadocios claim that he would ascend to heaven and raise his throne above the stars of God (the angels) sitting on the mount of assembly (**Isaiah 14:13-14**). Satan foolishly believed he would supplant Jesus and take control over the heavenly assembly. The Spirit addresses his foolishness in Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 2:6-9

Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

I believe the Spirit was talking about Satan and his demons when He referenced "the rulers of this world;" for that is who they are. **John 12:31, 14:30;** and **2 Corinthians 4:4** state that the king, prince, and ruler of this world is the devil; and it was these rulers who crucified our glorious Lord. However, because their wisdom is not the wisdom of God, they did not see the plan, they had not heard the plan, and in no way did they ever imagine that God would become man and that Jesus' death and resurrection would make it possible for man to be indwelt by God. It was all too fantastical and they had no clue. They just unwittingly carried out the plan of the Father thinking they knew what they were doing. And, by the way, the Father's plan was clearly announced beforehand in scripture—remember, God does nothing without first revealing it to His servants the prophets (**Amos 3:7**). And although it was boldly announced, it was not understood by Satan nor his demons; they did not have the insight to understand the wisdom of God. So all their efforts came to no avail as the Lord used their efforts to crush the Son of Man to

accomplish His own plans. The Alpha and the Omega strikes again!

Thus, whether they fully understand it or not, the angels (both good and bad) work for Jesus. And what is even more fantastical is that they all serve the Lord's chosen ones—you and me. **Hebrews 1:14** says, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" This does not say that some of them fill this role, but all of them. This is the great cosmic irony. When the Lord grants permission for Satan or his demons to come against the beloved and empowers their plans, they don't realize that it is always, always, always for the ultimate benefit of His loved ones as everything He does and permits is an expression of His great love for us. They want to hurt us, they want to conquer us, they want to destroy us, but the Lord's has a different plan in mind.

For example, as we know the Lord told us that Lucifer is going to come after me and press his thumb into my head. It sounds simply awful. The most powerful being ever created by the Lord is going to try and mark me with his unseen but unmistakable print. But the Lord already told us the end. I would remain like gold and Lucifer will fail. Thus, I can now arm myself with this truth about **Jehovah Sabaoth** knowing that God has sent Lucifer to accomplish His own purposes in my life. I can also trust the **Jehovah Jireh** has made provision for this time. **Yahweh** has established this and to prepare me for this attack He has a very difficult lesson for me to learn. But again, He has made provision and has told me that this lesson will be learned through stillness and waiting. Personally, I don't like any of it and it kind of freaks me out, but I am also confident that it is all for the Lord's beautiful purposes. Therefore, I can trust that nothing is random, nothing is arbitrary, and the enemy will not have his way with me.

I have to say that in light of this truth regarding **Jehovah Sabaoth**, each and every one of us have spent far too much time afraid of Satan and his demons. It seems that in the world over, people are fascinated and scared to death of the devil. After all, most of us are afraid of what we can't see especially when we know something is lurking about in the dark. But sadly, few believers are ever taught the truth about Satan and his demons because they have not been taught the truth about **Jehovah Sabaoth**. Yes, Satan and his demons strike terror in the hearts of men; but the Word of God in **Deuteronomy 6:13** is clear, we are to fear only the Lord our God. We must be willing to bet our lives on the name, for when we do we will have no reason to fear—none at all. They cannot do anything which **Yahweh** does not allow and being our **Elohim**, they simply cannot thwart His will for our lives. Thus, we must fear only the Lord our God. This is so powerful!

You might be wondering how this truth is reconciled with the fact that we are to be on the alert because Satan prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (**1 Peter 5:8**). It sounds like he can just attack as soon as we are not ready. Actually, it is in perfect sync when you read the passage in context. **1 Peter 5:6-7** commands us to let God humble us before Him because He cares for us. If we don't let Him humble us, we just might be brought before the counsel by Satan and accused; and God just might give this lion permission to attack. And in **1 Peter 5:9** we are told to resist the devil firm in our faith knowing that the suffering we endure is also being experienced by other believers. So if we are facing suffering, if the lion is permitted to attack, it is not an experience unique to us; rather, God has authorized it and will use it to conform us into the image of Christ. He will use it to convince us that we should let Him humble us before Him. The Lord assures of this

truth when He says in **1 Peter 5:10** that after we have suffered for a little while the God of all grace, who calls us to His eternal glory in Christ, will perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish us. In other words, God lets Satan come against us so we can learn how to call on the name of the Lord and be saved (**Romans 10:13**). **Yahweh** is always in control and He will use this “lion” for His own purposes in our lives.

Thus, we must fear only God; we are not to fear the enemy. Over the years we have faced many demonic beings: powers, principalities, dominions, wicked forces in heavenly places, and the demonic beings that attach to people and at times even take up their residence within people. I have to admit, some of it has been simply terrifying and harrowing. After all, they are glorious beings and they are not afraid of us at all. Besides, in the Bible almost every human who ever encounters an angel falls down and is practically paralyzed in their presence. That is how awesome these angelic beings are; so it’s no wonder we feel terror. But here is the thing, **Jehovah Sabaoth**—their Lord—lives within us. They may not be afraid of us, and their glory far exceeds our own, but they are terrified of Him. He is their Lord. So if you want to know how to terrify the enemy, live in the strength of our God. Let Him fully take dominion over your lives. Rout out the enemies in your land, refuse to worship their demons, and slay them allowing the Lord to possess you. As He takes up more and more room in your soul, you will find that the enemy will flee from your presence—from His presence in you.

James 4:7-8

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to

God and He will draw near to you.

The Spirit of God which dwells in us is not a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and discipline (**2 Timothy 1:7**). The power of God dwells within us to resist the devil and to cause him to flee. That is why we must be our lives on the name!

Isaiah 8:12-14

Don't call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don't live in dread of what frightens them. Make the Lord of Heaven's Armies holy in your life. He is the one you should fear. He is the one who should make you tremble. He will keep you safe. [Amen]

In closing, I want you to understand that this name **Jehovah Sabaoth** is used so many times because the Spirit incorporates it when addressing how God does what He does with mankind. What we find out that in practically every area of our lives, even the administration of His mercy, comes at the workings of His heavenly hosts which have been sent to fulfill His purposes. His angels are behind wars and desolations on the earth; His reckoning against those who rebel from Him; they influence kings; are involved in the birth of people (as in Samuel); they help us conquer our enemies (David with Goliath); they distribute His blessing; they protect and preserve His chosen ones; they are involved in the administration of the Kingdom of God; they help disburse the Lord's wisdom to man; they carry God's instructions about the future to us, and they are even involved in natural disasters.

There is simply no limitation that can be placed on the lordship of our God. It invades every part of our lives. And **Jehovah Sabaoth**, the Lord of Hosts, engages His servants to fulfill all His plans. We live in a spiritual reality where the Kingdom of God invades all aspects of our physical lives. For example, in addressing His plans to destroy Assyria, the Lord announces:

Isaiah 14:26-27

This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. "For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"

They are all ministering spirits, all of them; sent out by **Jehovah Sabaoth** to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation. Yes, God employs the hosts of heaven—all of them—for you and for me. Some of them appreciate it and take great joy in helping us and some of them have no clue and don't understand that they are always carrying out His purposes in our lives. Talk about a boost to your ego; yes, the Lord your God does it all for you. That is who you are to Him. He loves His bride dearly. We must not forget it, especially when we encounter various trials and sufferings. All that He does and permits is an expression of His great love for us. We can know this to be true and rejoice knowing that with each trial and suffering we learn endurance and when endurance has its perfect result, we will be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. And all through this journey we have help as all the hosts of heaven are engaged on the behalf of

the beloved.

Let's Pray