

Jesus Has a Name

Episode 2

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Jesus is the I Am

We ended the last episode with a question, “How is the **Hayah** and **Yahweh** connected to Jesus?” We now understand that God is I AM, and His memorial name to all generations, **Yahweh**, is errantly translated as “**the Lord**,” but where does Jesus come into all of this?

In **Exodus**, we are told that the Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush, and Moses saw Him and then hid his face for he became afraid to look at God.¹ So Moses saw God in the form of the Angel of the Lord, as did Abraham, Jacob, Hagar, Balaam, Joshua, the sons of Israel who entered the Promised Land, Gideon, Manoah and his wife (the parents of Samson), David, Elijah, Gad, Ornan the Jebusite, and Zechariah.² All of these people fell and worshiped when they saw the Angel of the Lord. And please understand, worship is something an ordinary angel would never permit. Worship is for God and God alone.³

Moreover, the story of Gideon makes it crystal clear that **Yahweh** is the Angel of the Lord, for the writer of Judges states that the Angel of the Lord (**Yahweh**) came and sat under a tree and then we are told that **Yahweh** (the Angel of **Yahweh**) instructed Gideon.⁴ Again, the Angel of **Yahweh** is an appearance of God in a form which people could see, and yet not die.

Moreover, Jesus stated that, with the exception of Himself, not a single man has ever seen God the Father—only the One who is from God has seen Him.⁵ But many men and women have seen and beheld the Angel of **Yahweh** (who is **Yahweh**) and have seen and beheld the Son of God; thus, we have to logically conclude that the appearances of the Angel of **Yahweh** were the Son of God, Jesus, who took on a pre-incarnate form as the Angel of **Yahweh** (always translated

¹ **Exodus 3:2-6**

² **Genesis 26:23-25; 28:12-14; 16:11-14; Numbers 22:22-35; Joshua 5:13-15; Judges 2:1-5; 6:11-24; 13:1-23; 2 Samuel 24:16; 1 Kings 19:1-8; 2 Kings 1:3-16; 1 Chronicles 21: 14-30; Zechariah 1:10-12; 3:1-6;**

³ **Revelation 19:10; 22:8**

⁴ **Judges 6:13-14**

⁵ **John 6:46**

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as the Angel of the Lord).

Perhaps this explains why after Jesus came to the earth as a man, we never again in the scriptures have an overt appearance of the Angel of **Yahweh**, with the possibility, however, of some appearances in **Revelation** that are likely, but though not overtly stated.

Jesus being the Angel of **Yahweh**, being God, also explains why Jesus claimed the very same identity of the "**Hayah**" when He was speaking to the religious leaders of His day.

John 8:56-59

"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." So, the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I AM**." Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Clearly, there was no misunderstanding as to what Jesus claimed; hence, their attempt to kill this man who had the gall to claim that He was God.

Do you want to know something totally cool? "Jesus" was the earthly name given to the Son of God ("*Iesou*" in the Greek), which is a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name Jehoshua or as we say it, "Joshua." Jehoshua is a combination of two Hebrew words. You guessed it, **YAHWEH** and *Yasha*. **YAHWEH**, being rooted in the "I AM" declaration of who God is, communicates that all that was, all that is, and all that will ever be finds its origin and completion in Jesus. Which is why Jesus claims to be the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.⁶

The second word, *Yasha*, means to be open or free, i.e., by implication to be safe or saved. Thus, Jehoshua, or Jesus, literally means "**Yahweh** frees," or "**Yahweh** Saves." And this specific name speaks to what He does in our lives, He frees us and saves us from ourselves, from our Old

⁶ **Revelation 1:8; 22:3**

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Sinful Nature, and from everything in our lives that stands in opposition to His being the **Adonai**—the Lord—of our lives.

This also explains why the spirits, specifically the demons, have such a huge reaction to the name Jesus. When confronted with the name Jesus, they recoil and even flee because they are being confronted with the truth that **Yahweh** frees, therefore, their control over any person or situation is about to be dismantled as their true master, **Yahweh** Sabaoth (**Yahweh** of Heaven's armies), operating as **Yahweh** Yasha, is about to bring forth freedom into the life of another person He loves and they can do nothing about it, they are powerless when confronted by their master.

Sadly, in our Bibles, we have **YAHWEH**, "The existing one," translated as "the Lord" which is not a name so much as it is a role or a title. This is tragic and creates a gap of intimacy between us and the One who wants to be known by His name. Thus, when you read "the LORD" know that it should always be rendered as "**Yahweh**." Likewise, the phrase, "the name of the LORD" should simply say, "the name **Yahweh**," as the preposition "of" is not in the Hebrew or the Greek of that phrase.

In more ways than I can describe, this translation fiasco makes absolutely no sense. Chalk it up to the dark religious nature of man; but it has taken away from, and diluted, our understanding of this beautiful and powerful name. It has stolen a bit of the intimacy God desires to have with those He has called into His household.

God the Father and His Son Jesus chose to reveal their personal name to man, they chose not to keep it secret. But for some reason the Jews got all religious and decided that the name was too holy to speak, even though, as far back as Eve, they spoke His name, and you cannot go back much further than Eve. Tragically, they stopped saying the very name that was given to them forever as His memorial-name to all generations—yes to **ALL generations**. And, of course, they would not even write it down. They would just say, "*The name*"—ooo, it all sounds so ominous and holy. Again, how does that make any sense?

This is one of the reasons why Jesus said, "And if the light you think you have is actually

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darkness, how deep that darkness is!”⁷ The religion of Christianity, along with the religion of Judaism, have buried the name **Yahweh** under some mistaken and ill-gotten notion of holiness.

Thus, by the time the Bible was translated, they were referring to Him as “*Adonai*,” which is the Hebrew word ordinarily translated as “the lord,” in the sense of one’s king, master, governor, or lord in that generic notion of rule and authority. **Adonai**, the Lord, is a title one would use even for their boss or someone they honored. But it is a far cry from the meaning and context of **Yahweh**, which is rooted in *Hayah*.

Are you beginning to grasp how much meaning and context has been stolen from our relationship with God? In fact, even today when a Jewish person is confronted with the letters **YHWH**, they will tell you it is to be translated as “*Adonai*.” This is tragic and I am sure it hurts God’s feelings. After all, they refuse to say His name.

In most of our translations, when **Adonai** and **Yahweh** are used together, it is translated as sovereign (Adonai) Lord (**Yahweh**) (which if we were to be literalist while ardently holding to the religious traditions, we would have to say, “Lord, Lord,” as sovereign is the substance of the word Lord—the one who is the ruler, the despot, the one in absolute control (the **Adonai**). But the Spirit was not speaking in doubles; rather, He was assigning a role to the name **Yahweh**. Therefore, **Adonai Yahweh** should be translated as Sovereign **Yahweh** (Lord **Yahweh**) or **Yahweh** is Sovereign (**Yahweh** is Lord).

The Greek writers of the Septuagint, the “Bible” that was commonly used in Jesus’ day, ran with the Hebrews’ religious deference and translated every instance of **YHWH** with the Greek word “*kurios*,” which also means “Lord.” *Kurios* however is a great translation of the word **Adonai**, but a terrible translation of the name **Yahweh**, as *Kurios* was used to refer to Caesar and other magistrates, and speaks of a role and a title, but it is not a name.

It seems however that we are stuck with this debacle in all our modern translations, as our translators did not choose to correct this obvious error. As a result, most people read the Bible without ever truly knowing or understanding the depth and the meaning of the name **Yahweh**,

⁷ *Matthew 6:23*

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much less the true meaning of the word “Lord” (**Adonai**). As a result, “Lord” has come to be understood as a substitute, even a generic, for the word, “God” and is used interchangeably.

By the way, Jehovah is the Latinized transliteration of **Yahweh**, picked up in the 12th Century. You will often see it as a substitute for **Yahweh** in the King James, American Standard, and other English Protestant translations. But that is like calling William “Bill,” Robert “Bob,” Jack “John,” or Steve “Ronald.” It is just not the same. We should be calling Jesus by His eternal name, the name which He chose to reveal to all of us as His memorial-name to all generations.

HIS NAME IS YAHWEH!

Jesus was often politely referred to as “*kurios*” (lord) as were many other leaders of the day. Perhaps this is the reason why Jesus made sure that even though the religious language did not clarify the distinction between **Yahweh** and “**Adonai**” (again, translated “*kurios*,” He would make the clear distinction and cause great havoc by identifying Himself as the I AM, the **Hayah**.⁸

Moreover, the Holy Spirit constantly referred to “the name of the Lord” all throughout the New Testament. For those of you who have a literal mind, He was not saying to “the Lord of the Lord,” again, we are dealing with a translation debacle. Practically, all these references to the Lord are a throwback to the name **Yahweh**.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND **OF THE LORD {Yahweh}**, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? **For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.** To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Even though this passage uses the Greek rendering “*kurios*,” the quoted Old Testament

⁸ **John 8:58**

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passage utilizes **Yahweh**.⁹ As Jesus was sure to make a distinction about His identity, the Spirit does not want us to miss the true meaning of the name. As the Alpha, nothing starts that He does not initiate; as the Omega, nothing is completed that He does not complete. Every aspect of life, without exception, is from Him, by Him or through Him, and to Him.¹⁰ That is the meaning of the name **YAHWEH**, the meaning we must ascribe to the word translated as “Lord.”

It is my opinion, the generic use of the word “Lord” and its merging with the idea of God, caused by generations of religious translators, has resulted in damage far beyond our having lost an understanding of His personal name. In fact, there are many people who confess Jesus as Lord but have no clue as to what “Lord” even means. It is more that they are confessing Jesus as God.

As I said before, for many, Lord and God have become interchangeable words. But they have completely different meanings. God speaks of His transcendency—His eternal nature that exists outside of time. But Lord speaks of Him being the sole progenerator, the sole source or originator, of ALL things, whether good or evil. Again, ALL things are from Him and through Him and to Him (Yes, all things in heaven and on earth, in both the seen and unseen realms, nothing is excepted!).¹¹

Therefore, the title “the Lord” declares that all things begin and end with Him and that He is in control of all things, all the time, even all those things that do not make sense to our conscious. As such He is **Adonai**.

I know I have driven this point into the ground, but the effect of this blending of these concepts (God and Lord separate from His name), results in people confessing Jesus as Lord and it being somewhat of an empty confession, as very few people look to God for ALL things and even fewer would hold God responsible for ALL things (both good and evil). Just think about it; **Yahweh** (the I AM) being **Adonai** (the Lord) is an extreme concept.

And since believing in His name and calling on His name is critical to salvation, this is a huge problem within the religion of Christianity, as most adherents do not even know His personal

⁹ *Isaiah 40:13*. Note: Hebrew Text refers to **Yahweh**, not the Lord

¹⁰ *Romans 11:36*

¹¹ *Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6, 11:12; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 2:10*

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name but only His title (God) which gets confused with His role as the Lord.

With that said, **Yahweh** is used literally thousands of times in the Old Testament. Many references speak of the Father, like the infamous passage where David says, “**Yahweh** says to my Adonai, ‘Sit at my right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for your feet.’”¹² And many other references speak directly about Jesus, as in the whole creation story.¹³ Again, **Yahweh** is the name which the Father and the Son share! This is the name we should be using. Even Jesus’ earthly name declares this beautiful truth, as Jesus is **Yahweh** Yasha.

Likewise, in the New Testament, there are hundreds of references to the “name of the Lord” (which should be properly rendered **Yahweh**), some which uniquely address the Father,¹⁴ some uniquely to the Son,¹⁵ and still in others to both at once.¹⁶ In the transcript of this episode, which you can download on the website, *threshermediagroup.com*, I have footnoted these references so you can dig in, do the work, and come to be intimately acquainted with this glorious name of the Father which He has given to the Son.

The substitution of “the Lord” for **Yahweh** has not just diluted our understanding of the name but distorted it. No wonder so few people know what it means to believe that Jesus is **Yahweh**. The name **Yahweh** unequivocally declares that the Father put *all things in subjection* under Jesus’ feet, and gave Him **as head** over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all such that He is far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.¹⁷

For nothing starts that does not begin in Him and nothing ends that is not completed in Him and He alone, the **I AM**, is sufficient for our every need. This is how we are to think of Jesus, as our **I AM**, our sufficiency for all. This is what we are to read into the phrase, “the name of the Lord.” **Yahweh** is the one who fills all in all and satisfies all. Nothing is exempted from this truth.

In addition, with God everything is personal; after all, we are talking about His name. He wants

¹² **Psalm 110:1**

¹³ See **Colossians 1:16**

¹⁴ Father: **Luke 4:8, 12, 18, 19; 10:2, 21; 20:37; Mark 12:11, 13:20; Matthew 5:33; 9:38; 11:25; 21:42; 24:42**

¹⁵ Jesus: **John 13:3; Luke 6:5, 46; 13:35; 19:31; 20:44; Mark 2:28; 11:3; 12:37; Matthew 7:22; 12:8; 21:3; 22:43,45**

¹⁶ Both: **Luke 20:42; Mark 5:19; 12:29, 36; Matthew 4:7, 10; 22:37; 22:41-46**

¹⁷ **Ephesians 1:21**

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us to know Him by His name and all that His name communicates to us and for us. And when we actively believe in **Yahweh** (when we bet our lives on His name), we will start to know the power we have been given to destroy the fear that has kept us bound forever play-acting as if we are the lord—the *Adonai*—of our own lives.

As we fold this truth into the 3 things we must believe (**Yahweh** is **Adonai**, that **Yahweh** is good, and that we are aliens and strangers on this earth), suddenly all things in our lives start to make sense.

1. If **Yahweh** is **Adonai**, then all things in our life, both the good and the downright evil, has come from Him, nothing is excepted. Every detail of our lives has been carefully put into place by the one who is in control of all things all the time. That means the good things you have done and the evil things you have done. That means the good things others have done and all the evil others have done. It has all be according to His good plan.
2. With that said, since **Yahweh** is good, then we can be confident that all of it, even the evil (whether our own or that of others) has been a necessary part of His good plan for our lives, for all that He does is good, because He is good. To us, it may not feel good, it may not seem good, it may not be good by any other person’s definition of good, but it is good for “goodness” describes His character and His nature, as well as all that extends from His life towards ours, for **Yahweh** is good.
3. And if we are aliens and strangers, a “good” God must take that reality and do what He must to make it our cognitive, emotional, and practical reality. Thus, all that He brings into our lives (both good and evil) is intended to separate us from all our attachments to this world, to our *flesh* (our Old Sinful Nature), to the enemy (the devil and his demons), and to all that stands in opposition to our knowing and living as if **Yahweh** is our **Adonai** who is good.

Again, when we understand these 3 things, the events of our life start to make sense and come into focus. And as we continue in this discovery of the name, we will find each of **Yahweh**’s names

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reveal to us an aspect of His character, His nature, His relationship with us, and with mankind at large. For instance, the name **Yahweh Yasha** explains that He desires us to experience in Him freedom from fear, freedom from the pain which has controlled us, and freedom from all the ways we have learned to protect ourselves from further pain (like attempting to control the outcomes of our lives through all manner of dysfunctional coping mechanisms). Best yet, His name promises freedom from the bane of our *Old Sinful Nature*, our nasty *flesh*.

Yahweh is life: He is the I AM, He is our I AM, Yes, **Yahweh** is our **Adonai**, and that is what His name declares. He is everything we need, all the time.

Let us stop here, and we will pick up in the next episode with the implications of the name **Yahweh**. By the way, I cannot stop saying this name now that I know it. When I am reading the Bible, I am starting to naturally substitute **Yahweh** for “LORD” every time I see it. I hope you fall in love with this powerful, amazing, name and let its meaning begin to define life for you in the here and now and rewrite all the scripts you might have in your mind and soul about who our God is.

One last thing, in the English translations, if the “LORD” is all capitalized, you can be sure that the underlying Hebrew is rendered as **Yahweh**. If the “Lord” has only the first initial capitalized, then you can be sure that the underlying Hebrew is rendered as **Adonai**. That is just a tip to help you as you start to fall in love with His name and begin to see His name everywhere you read in that beautiful Bible.

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