

Jesus Has a Name

Episode 8

Call Upon His Name

Yahweh Adonai

We have spent a bit of time on this name already where there is a coupling of the name **Yahweh** with His role as the **Adonai** (the Sovereign, or simply, the Lord). I hope a general understanding of this name has started to settle in our being. **Yahweh Adonai**, translated in most Bibles as “Sovereign Lord” or as “Lord God”, is used 288 times in the Old Testament beginning with Abram calling out to **Yahweh Adonai**.¹

The name **Adonai** speaks of **Yahweh’s** role as the absolute master, the sovereign, the Lord, the one who is in control of all things, all the time, with no exceptions.

Jesus summed it up quite elegantly when speaking of His relationship with His Father, “You have given Him (the Son) authority (or power) over all flesh (over everyone).”² Again, no exceptions. With “given” being rendered in the *indicative*, we know it is a statement of fact.

The prophet **Ezekiel** loved this name **Adonai** as he used it 215 times. In the transcript to this episode, which you can download from the website: thereshermediagroup.com, I will footnote several passages that utilize this name across various books of the Bible, just in case you want to dig in and do some serious study.³ By the way, this notion of God being our absolute master and sovereign is used 4 times in the New Testament.

Beyond speaking of His absolute rule and control of all that there is, all of the time (remember, all things are from Him, through Him, and to Him),⁴ the name **Yahweh Adonai** speaks very personally of God’s ownership over our lives and the responsibility He takes for our lives. It emphasizes that we belong to **Yahweh** and that **Yahweh** possesses the legal and legitimate

¹ **Genesis 15:2**

² **John 17:2**

³ **Genesis 15:2, 8; Exodus 23:17, 34:23; Deuteronomy 3:24, 9:26; Joshua 7:7; Judges 6:22, 16:28; 2 Samuel 7; 1 Kings 2:26, 8:53; Psalm 68:20, 69:6, 73:28, 140:7; Isaiah 7:7, 25:8, 28:16, 49:22, 50:7, 61:1, 11; Jeremiah 1:6, 2:22, 7:20, 32:17; Ezekiel 2:4, 3:11, 27, 6:3, 11:7, 8,13, 16, 17, 21; Amos 3:7, 8, 4:2, 5, 7:1, 2, 4, 5, 6; Obadiah 1; Micah 1:2; Habakkuk 3:19; Zephaniah 1:7, Zechariah 9:14**

⁴ **Romans 11:36**

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natural right to determine the affairs of our lives—all of them. He is the Master, the Sovereign, the Lord, the Ruler, the King, and the one who is personally responsible for all things.

So, this begs the question, do we recognize Him as our **Adonai**, our Lord, our Master? Do we live with the emotional and mental belief that He gets to do what He wants with us whenever He wants? Or are we still arguing with God about His plans for our lives, whether those things that occurred in the past, what is happening now in our present, or what we fear might take place in our future? It is a good idea to let our fight go, for He is the Master, we are His personal possession, and He has one maniacal goal for our lives towards which all things work, that we become like Him.⁵

In that regard, as our **Adonai**, He is the one who chooses what comes into our lives and what He takes away from our lives. He chooses who comes into our lives and who He takes away from our lives. He determines it all. With **Yahweh Adonai**, there is nothing random or arbitrary, as He works out **Plan-A** which He has established from before time for each of us. It has already been written in His book.⁶

And being God, dwelling outside of time, **Yahweh** has already seen it all, for He knows it all. He knows the beginning from the end.⁷ Again, nothing is random or arbitrary. And since **Yahweh** is good, we can live in peace and rest knowing that no matter what He has chosen to bring into our lives, or to take away from our lives, it is all proposed to accomplish His good, pleasing, and perfect will for our lives, which is to transform us into the image of His Son.

Now, as to how **Yahweh's** role as our **Adonai** crosses over with our personal sovereignty and our ability to choose or to reject Him, we addressed this in the **3-Things** episodes. But to summarize, being outside of time, **Yahweh** knows exactly how we will react, how we will choose, given each scenario that He presents to us in our lives. And therefore, He has ordered, or predestined, all things according to His foreknowledge and He has purposed all things in accordance with our choice.⁸ After all, it is our choice, and He never takes that right away from

⁵ See **1 Peter 2:9**

⁶ See **Psalm 139:1-16; Ephesians 1:4**

⁷ See **Isaiah 46:9-10**

⁸ See **Romans 8:28-29**

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us. He never violates our personal sovereignty. He just precisely orchestrates all that is needed for us to make that choice.

The point is that we are not robots programed to obey. Accordingly, He invites us and even commands us to believe in Him, to choose Him, to come to Him, to trust Him, to eat of Him and drink of Him, etc.⁹ Thus, it is something that is within our province, our wheelhouse, and our responsibility to do. With that said, however, even our ability to choose to believe in Him and choose to partake of Him comes from Him.¹⁰ In fact, no one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws (or literally drags) them, and no one can come unless it has been granted them from the Father. With that said, all whom the Father gives to Jesus will come to Him.¹¹ And it is the Spirit's job to cause us to be believing if we are **willing**.¹²

Therefore, it is all symbiotic, but it is also relational. Both His role as **Adonai** and our ability to choose are symbiotically tied together and connected in a way that only **Yahweh**, God, can fully comprehend. Hence, He tells us that His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts.¹³

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 **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.

By the way, I naturally substituted “the mind of the Lord” for “the mind of **Yahweh**” as the underline text that it quotes from **Isaiah** utilizes His name, **Yahweh** and not His role as our

⁹ **Matthew 11:28; John 5:40, 6:51-58, 7:37**

¹⁰ **Philippians 2:13**

¹¹ See **6:37, 44, 65**

¹² **Romans 10:10**. Note, “believes” and “confesses” are both rendered in the *passive* voice

¹³ **Isaiah 55:9**

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Adonai—our Lord.¹⁴

Adonai, the implications of this name are staggering, astonishing, and mind-bending. Being sovereign, the Master, the Despot, the Absolute Ruler, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and so on (all synonyms for **Adonai**), means that we have never actually been victims of the devil, of the demons, of circumstance, nor of the people in our lives who hurt us, used us, abused us, rejected us, abandoned us, and so on. We addressed this in both the **3-Things**, the **Triple Catch** Episodes, and in our earlier episodes on **Call Upon His Name**.

As **Yahweh Adonai** would say, “the buck stops with Him.” He is the one who caused it all. The devil, the demons, people, and circumstance were all just tools in **Adonai’s** hands to accomplish **Yahweh’s** good purposes. We may not like the means He chooses to accomplish His purposes in our lives, we may even hate it, but there is no escaping the fact that it is all from Him as He uses each tool in accordance with its nature.

Therefore, our complaint is never truly with people, nor the devil and his demons, nor our unfortunate circumstances, but it is always with **Yahweh Adonai**, the one who reigns supreme.

Just think about how much energy, emotion, time, and weariness we have given up living as the victims of people, circumstance, and the evil one. This name tells us that it was all for nothing. He is the one with whom we must settle our accounts. He is the one to whom we must bring our angst and our pain. He is the one to whom we must complain. He is the one to whom we must bring our fight, and anger, our cry, our sadness, and our lament. Everything and everyone else are just distractions.

Ironically, that is why the evil ones work so hard to convince us that we are victims. They want our focus to be on the scary invisible ones and upon all the bad and selfish people in our lives so we will not focus on **Yahweh Adonai** and by chance come to live free from the victim mentality that has dominated much of our lives.

After all, everything in our lives was appointed for us with the intention of making us **Yahweh’s** possession and His completing in us the *Design Point*: His life in ours. It was all an answer to our

¹⁴ *Isaiah 40:13*

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prayers for more of Him, to know Him better, and to have intimacy with Him. It has all been about transforming us into the image of the Son. Simply said, we were not victims of anyone!

Now, there is a natural tendency to want to think that **Adonai** is the Lord of some things, but not everything. Everything is a bit too much, for it addresses, well, everything. Therefore, just to make the point of **Yahweh Adonai** being the absolute monarch, in control of all things all the time, I want to look at an interesting passage where God addresses the king of Assyria who thinks that he himself is the one who has been responsible for all his success and all his military and political victories. **Yahweh** puts him in his place.

Isaiah 10:12-16

After **Adonai** has used the king of Assyria to accomplish his purposes on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, he will turn against the king of Assyria and punish him—for he is proud and arrogant. He boasts, "By my own powerful arm I have done this. With my own shrewd wisdom, I planned it. I have broken down the defenses of nations and carried off their treasures. I have knocked down their kings like a bull. I have robbed their nests of riches and gathered up kingdoms as a farmer gathers eggs. No one can even flap a wing against me or utter a peep of protest."

But can the ax boast greater power than the person who uses it? Is the saw greater than the person who saws? Can a rod strike unless a hand moves it? Can a wooden cane walk by itself? Therefore, **Adonai, Yahweh** of Heaven's Armies, will send a plague among Assyria's proud troops, and a flaming fire will consume its glory.

I shudder to think of how much we have, on-the-one-hand, taken credit for and, on-the-other-hand, blamed others for what has occurred in our lives. Clearly, based on how **Yahweh** addressed the King of Assyria, He takes His name—**Yahweh Adonai**—seriously.

By the way, I believe that taking the name of **Yahweh** in vain is not about using it as a cuss word; rather, we take **Yahweh's name in vain** when we call Him and worship Him as our **Adonai**,

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our Lord and God, but still ascribe responsibility, blame, and ownership to others instead of to Him. That is the ultimate insult and blasphemy. It is, in effect, saying that something else has more power, authority, right, and control than does **Yahweh Adonai**. Beyond blasphemy, it is also idolatrous.

Therefore, what does it mean to live by faith and bet our lives upon this name?

The elimination of fear and victimization.

When we bet our lives on **Yahweh Adonai**, when we come to believe His name in our heart, mind, soul, and strength, we will come to a place where we stop being fearful of all that we think might hurt us. We will come to understand that He has it all under control and nothing, absolutely nothing has happened or is going to happen that our **Adonai** did not appoint for our lives. And if He appointed it, then we can be assured that it is to accomplish His good, pleasing, and perfect will in our lives: that we may become like Him—transformed into His image.

Accordingly, we will stop blaming others, stop being the victim. We will have no need to be building our own artificial “boundaries” to keep the “bad” people out, and we will stop quitting on others who have failed us, and we will stop quitting on ourselves when we fail.

All those dynamics, and there are so many more (but I think you get the point) are built on the lie that we are not safe, that our life is out of control, that people are out of control, that random and arbitrary events happen to us, and we have something to fear.

Thus, when we are **willing** (our part always starts with willingness) to begin to see all things through the lens of God working His good, pleasing, and perfect purposes in our life, which is to conform us into the image of **Yahweh** the Son, and we choose to **agree** with His goal, we will have no need for the lie, and fear will no longer exert its fierce power in our lives.

365 times in the Bible we are commanded to not be afraid or to fear not. But the avenue for us to live without fear is through our learning **WHY** we can trust in His name (**Yahweh Adonai**) and **HOW** to trust in His name. Our instruction in fearlessness starts when we can accept that everything **Yahweh Adonai** has appointed for our lives was for this grand and glorious purpose—to teach us how to be in relationship with Him.

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Therefore, it all starts with our **willingness to agree** with His purposes, and our willingness to consider that however He must accomplish His purposes, it is good. Keep in mind, all I am talking about right now is our **willingness**, not our ability. If we are willing, then the Holy Spirit will make us able. If we are willing to stand in our faith, the Spirit will make us stand.¹⁵ He will cause us to be believing.¹⁶

Over time, as we come to terms with the name **Yahweh Adonai**, we will be known by various expression of our faith that will play out in our relationships (our fruit of now and continually believing in the name **Yahweh Adonai**).

Being freed from victimization, we will be known as those who freely **forgive** others their sins and their trespasses which they have perpetrated against us (technically, which God perpetrated using them, but you know what I mean). We will be known as those who are **merciful** and **kind** to others who are broken, desperate, needy, and striving in their own *flesh* to be significant, to be known, to be loved, and so on (just like us). We will be known as those who dispense **grace** in every relationship, making allowance for the weaknesses of others knowing that it is **Yahweh Adonai** who wounded them, it is **Yahweh Adonai** who caused their pain, and it is **Yahweh Adonai** who must heal them.

We will begin to deal with people based on the reality that **Yahweh Adonai** is the one who must transform them, for they cannot transform themselves, and we most certainly cannot transform them no matter how hard we try. Only the Holy Spirit can do that work. In His grace, we will point others not to ourselves and to our wisdom or our abilities, but to **Yahweh's** wisdom and **Yahweh's** abilities. And we will be those who start doing only what our **Adonai** wants us to do, leaving behind all we do and have done out of guilt, obligation, duty, fear, and pride.

In addition, we will be known as those who **stand confident** in every step we have taken, whether for good or for evil (no matter how embarrassing and disgraceful), as the name **Yahweh Adonai** sets forth the truth that there actually never was a “should have” or a “could have”, and there will never be a “next time I will.” It has all transpired as He, **Yahweh Adonai**, has determined

¹⁵ See *Isaiah 7:9*

¹⁶ *Romans 10:10*. Note: “believing” is rendered in the *passive* voice

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working in parallel with all our choices.

Isaiah 46:9-10

For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.'

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He **predestined**, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 11:36

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

The name **Yahweh Adonai** should cause each of us to take a deep breath, smile, and relax. Betting our lives on this name should cause years of burdens to fall from our back, the ones we carry for all our failures and sins and the ones we carry for the failures and sins of others.

Yahweh Adonai, it is a beautiful name that speaks of His detailed management of our lives. And by this name He wants to remove all our fear of man, fear of ourselves and our failures, fear of the devil and his demons, and fear from wherever it is rooted in our lives.

Simply said, He is in control. He already knows our choices, and armed with that foreknowledge, He determines our paths and the steps we walk. And everything is aimed at teaching us **WHY** we should stand in faith believing in His name and **HOW** to stand in faith

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believing in His name.¹⁷ Therefore, we can rest and stop trying to desperately control the outcomes of our lives. It only makes us sick, miserable, and ages us way too fast.

Yahweh Adonai, Yahweh the Sovereign, Yahweh the Lord. Since He has got all the details covered, we can begin to focus less on trying to manage and control the events of our lives and more on our willingness to live with the emotional and mental belief that He gets to do what He wants with us, whenever He wants, because He has a goal, and it is a good goal.

Personally, I have found it such a relief to accept the truth that nothing happens to me that He did not determine was necessary for my life. And even though, as I have admitted, I have really struggled with the goodness of it all, thinking, there must have been a better way, an easier way, like Jesus realized in the garden, there was only one way, **PLAN-A**—that came from the mastermind of **Yahweh Adonai**.¹⁸ And on that truth, I am betting my life.

¹⁷ *Acts 17:26; Proverbs 16:9, 33*

¹⁸ *Matthew 26:36-46*