

Our Father Which Art In Heaven Who Are You?

By

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The Father's Power

It is the best-known prayer in America – “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” (Matthew 6:9) Jesus taught the people who crowded around Him to pray that way. Jesus used the term “Father” dozens of times in the Gospels, so a question for us is - “who is the Father?”

One of the best places to go to learn about God the Father is in the wilderness – specifically the 40 years God spent with the children of Israel between Egypt and the Promised Land. That’s where we see the Father teaching the 12 Tribes of Israel what His being their Father meant.

God is extremely complex – far too complex for the children of Israel to comprehend. Knowing their weaknesses (and ours) God revealed Himself to them in ways they could understand.

God Sends Fire From Heaven

“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. And Moses said to Aaron, ‘This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ So Aaron held his peace.” Leviticus 10:1-3

God the Father introduced “fire” to His children early in their relationship. In fact, He first introduced fire to Abram when He appeared as a smoking oven and burning torch, and later to Lot when He destroyed the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

“And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram.” Genesis 15:17-18

“Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.” Genesis 19:24-25

The Hebrew word for “fire” is *esh*. The Greek word is *pur*. In the Old and New Testaments fire symbolized judgment, purity, holiness and the Presence of God. The first time God spoke to Moses was “in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.” (Genesis 3:2) It was from that holy fire that the Father revealed His Holy Name to Moses – Lesson #1 for the children of Israel.

“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Genesis 3:14

God demonstrated His Judgment of Egypt through fire.



“And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. ” Exodus 9:23-25

God led His children through the wilderness with fire.

” And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. ” Exodus 13:21

“For the cloud of the Lord *was* above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.” Exodus 40:38

God revealed His Holy Commandments for His children from fire on the mountain.

“Now Mount Sinai *was* completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.” Exodus 19:18

“The sight of the glory of the Lord *was* like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So

Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.” Exodus 24:17-18

God revealed the demands of His Holiness and Justice to the children of Israel through the many burnt offerings necessary to appease the fierce wrath of God and receive their Father’s Forgiveness and be at peace with Him.

“And you shall burn the whole ram on the altar. It *is* a burnt offering to the Lord; it *is* a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the Lord.” Exodus 29:18

“*This shall be* a continual burnt offering throughout your generations *at* the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet you to speak with you. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and *the tabernacle* shall be sanctified by My glory. ” Exodus 29:42-43

“ And he shall offer the second as a burnt offering according to the prescribed manner. So the priest shall make atonement on his behalf for his sin which he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him.” Leviticus 5:10

“If his offering *is* a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord. Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will

be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.”
Leviticus 1:3-4

If you ever wonder how serious God was about His children never forgetting the purpose of the fire and burnt offering, read this.

“ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Command Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This *is* the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering *shall* be on the hearth upon the altar all night until morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it. And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen trousers he shall put on his body, and take up the ashes of the burnt offering which the fire has consumed on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar. Then he shall take off his garments, put on other garments, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place. And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.’” Leviticus 6:8-13

God the Father used fire at times to judge and discipline His children.

“Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched. So he called

the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the Lord had burned among them.” Numbers 11:1-3

God the Father used fire throughout the Old Testament both to discipline and protect His children. God does not change. He is today the Mighty God and uses fire to judge and destroy. Is it any wonder that when John the Baptist prophesied about Jesus he said the Lord would punish the wicked “with unquenchable fire”? (Luke 3:17) Is it a surprise that Jesus said, “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!” (Luke 12:49) and “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.”? (John 15:6) How wonderful then for His children to read that the end for all wickedness is the “fire” of God.

“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place

for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:7-15

The “fire” of the Father reveals His Holiness, His Righteousness, and His Justice. The children of Israel have spent thousands of years struggling with that revelation, but the day is coming when they will learn their lesson and receive their great reward.

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:1-4

The Father's Provision

We know from being members of a family that a good father provides for his children in addition to disciplining them. God is a Greater Provider than the best human fathers and revealed that to Israel in the wilderness. Even as He sent fire from Heaven to discipline, God sent food from Heaven to provide.

God Sends Food From Heaven

“And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, ‘Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Exodus 16:1-3

The children of Israel had seen the most amazing demonstrations of God's Power, but just weeks after Moses led them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea to safety the people were complaining to Moses. "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to



the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” They had cried out to God for freedom from the cruelty of slavery in Egypt, but all they could think about after God freed them was being back in slavery and having meat and bread to eat. How ridiculous – how human.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.’” Exodus 16:4-5

God always knows what His children are up to and He has an answer to all their needs. Early in their new relationship with God, the children of Israel were going to learn that Yaweh could and would provide for their every need.

“And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I *am* the Lord your God.’ So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. So when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said to

one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, ‘This *is* the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: ‘Let every man gather it according to each one’s need, one omer for each person, *according to the* number of persons; let every man take for *those who are* in his tent.’”

Exodus 16:11-16

Israel ate much better in the wilderness with God than they had in Egypt. Quail and manna tasted good and met the nutritional needs of the people – “And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it *was* like white coriander seed, and the taste of it *was* like wafers *made* with honey.” (Exodus 16:32)

God was faithful to provide manna for Israel every day for 40 years (Exodus 16:35), but the children of Israel still complained.

“Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: ‘Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!’” Numbers 11:4-6

It’s amazing that with all they witnessed, they would still complain about God’s provision. God taught them another lesson.



“So the Lord said to Moses: ‘Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that *is* upon you and will put *the same* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear *it* yourself alone. Then you shall say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the Lord, saying, ‘Who will give us meat to eat? For *it was* well with us in Egypt.’ Therefore the Lord will give you meat, and you shall eat. You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, but *for a* whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the Lord who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, ‘Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?’” Numbers 11:16-20

The Father's Promise

“Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that *was* upon him, and placed *the same* upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.” Numbers 11:25

What a remarkable thing to see! God took of the Holy Spirit that was on Moses and placed the Spirit upon the 70 elders. The elders prophesied at that moment, although they never did so again. Then, it was teaching time.

“Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quail from the sea and left *them* fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. And the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers); and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp. But while the meat *was* still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.”



Kibroth Hattaavah means “graves of craving.” The lesson? The people of God must crave God alone. The cravings of the flesh lead to death. Craving God leads to life. The sad truth about this lesson is that Israel did not learn it. The fleshly “cravings” of the Israelites led them astray for centuries.

Another lesson from this is that God stays true to His promises. He made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) and kept them, even when Israel didn’t keep their promises to God. The fact is – God loves Israel – and He always will.

“Now this *is* the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said: ‘The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand *Came* a fiery law for them. Yes, He loves the people; All His saints *are* in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; *Everyone* receives Your words. Moses commanded a law for us, A heritage of the congregation of Jacob. And He was King in Jeshurun, When the leaders of the people were gathered, All the tribes of Israel together. ‘Let Reuben live, and not die, *Nor* let his men be few.’ And this he said of Judah: ‘Hear, Lord, the voice of Judah, And bring him to his people; Let his hands be sufficient for him, And may You be a help against his enemies.’ And of

Levi he said: 'Let Your Thummim and Your Urim *be* with Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah, Who says of his father and mother, 'I have not seen them'; Nor did he acknowledge his brothers, Or know his own children; For they have observed Your word And kept Your covenant. They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar. Bless his substance, Lord, And accept the work of his hands; Strike the loins of those who rise against him, And of those who hate him, that they rise not again.' Of Benjamin he said: 'The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him, *Who* shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders.' And of Joseph he said: 'Blessed of the Lord *is* his land, With the precious things of heaven, with the dew, And the deep lying beneath, With the precious fruits of the sun, With the precious produce of the months, With the best things of the ancient mountains, With the precious things of the everlasting hills, With the precious things of the earth and its fullness, And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Let *the blessing* come 'on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him *who was* separate from his brothers.' His glory *is like* a firstborn bull, And his horns *like* the horns of the wild ox; Together with them He shall push the peoples To the ends of the earth; They *are* the ten thousands of Ephraim, And they *are* the thousands of Manasseh.' And of Zebulun he said:



‘Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, And Issachar in your tents! They shall call the peoples *to* the mountain; There they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; For they shall partake *of* the abundance of the seas And *of* treasures hidden in the sand.’ And of Gad he said: ‘Blessed *is* he who enlarges Gad; He dwells as a lion, And tears the arm and the crown of his head. He provided the first *part* for himself, Because a lawgiver’s portion was reserved there. He came *with* the heads of the people; He administered the justice of the Lord, And His judgments with Israel.’ And of Dan he said: ‘Dan *is* a lion’s whelp; He shall leap from Bashan.’ And of Naphtali he said: ‘O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, And full of the blessing of the Lord, Possess the west and the south.’ And of Asher he said: ‘Asher *is* most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil. Your sandals *shall be* iron and bronze; As your days, *so shall* your strength *be*. ‘There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, *Who* rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds. The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, ‘Destroy!’ Then Israel shall dwell in safety, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew. Happy *are* you, O Israel! Who *is* like you, a people saved by the Lord, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places.’ Deuteronomy 33 1-29

The Father's Purpose

When God told Moses to bring Israel out of Egypt, He revealed His purposes. I say **purposes** because He had many planned for Israel.

“And the Lord said: ‘I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.” Exodus 3:7-8

The **first purpose** God revealed to Moses about why He wanted to bring Israel out of Egypt was to **deliver** them out of the hand of the Egyptians. God knew their sorrows. The Hebrew word for “know” in Exodus 3:7 is *yada*. It translates as “to see, to perceive, to recognize.” The word “sorrows” is *makob*. It translates as “to have pain, to be sore, to grieve, to sorrow.” God saw and recognized the pain and sorrow the Israelites were experiencing at the hands of their cruel masters in Egypt. He heard their cries for help. What did God do about it? “So I have come down to deliver them.” Think about the depth of those words. God came down from Heaven to “deliver” His children. What an amazing picture that is of the Almighty God coming from His Throne to His footstool (Isaiah 66:1) to “deliver” His people out of the hand of the Egyptians. The Hebrew word for “deliver” here

is *nasal*. It means “to pluck out of the hands of an oppressor or enemy, rescue, deliver from danger, preserve.” The word implies exertion, tumult, and bursting of bonds with power and courage. That’s a great picture of what God did for Israel.

God told Moses that delivering the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh would not be easy or quick – and that was for another purpose – that Egypt and Israel would see the “mighty hand” of God.

“Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ‘The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.’ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.” Exodus 3:16-20

The method God used to save Israel from the hand of the Egyptians

is the same way He saves people today. Everyone on earth is born a slave to sin (Romans 3:23). They will remain a slave to sin unless God delivers them from sin. How does He do that? Through blood.

“Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.” Exodus 12:13

Only God’s chosen people were saved from the death plague that covered Egypt. The only people who will survive the death plague that covers our world now are those who are covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” Romans 5:8-10

God **delivers** us from the bondage of sin by justifying us through the Blood of Christ and reconciling us through the death of Christ. The **power of deliverance** was in the “blood” and the “death” of Jesus Christ, the Spotless Lamb of God. Praise God for His wonderful gift!

Deliverance also includes **protection**. What happened after Egypt’s



king let the Israelites leave? He changed his mind and pursued the Israelites to bring them back into his service.

“When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, ‘What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!’ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.” Exodus 14:5-9

The people of Israel were not a trained army. They were a slave nation. How could they protect themselves from the elite army of Egypt? God promised Moses that He was going to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Egyptians and bring them up from that land to a good and large land that was flowing with milk and honey – and that’s what He was going to do. Deliverance includes protection.

“Moses answered the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.’ Then the Lord said to

Moses, 'Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.' Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, 'Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.' Then



the Lord said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.’ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.” Exodus 14:13-28

God does the same for us today. His deliverance includes His protection. He delivers us from the penalty of sin and will lead us to the Promised Land.

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died —more than that, who was raised to life —is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I

am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:31-39



The Father's People

The second purpose God revealed to Moses about why He wanted to bring Israel out of Egypt was to **provide** for them as His people.

“And the Lord said: ‘I have surely seen the oppression of My people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.” Exodus 3:7-8

Do you see how tender God was in His thoughts about Israel? He called them “My people”. God **owns** Israel. He owns the people and the land. He called Abram out of Ur and sent him to the land of Caanan. God made this promise to Abram – “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2) The people of Israel living in slavery in Egypt 3,500 years ago was the nation God had promised Abram. God also told Abram, “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3) That is part of God’s protection that we saw in the last part of our study. Egypt cursed Israel, so God cursed Pharaoh and Egypt. That’s how it works. God does what He

says He will do. Even though His cursing of Egypt happened centuries after His promise to Abram, it happened because of the promise. God does not change and time does not diminish His purpose. He keeps His promises.

The purpose of God's deliverance was to **provide** Israel a permanent home. He described it to Moses as "a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey." He also told Moses that it was the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. God, in one sentence, told Moses a remarkable story of **deliverance, protection, and provision**.

One of God's Names is *Jehovah Jireh*, which means "the Lord will provide." That's what Abraham called the place where God provided a sacrifice in place of Isaac (Genesis 22:14). Providing "the" sacrifice is the most important provision God made for Israel. He made that clear to Moses as He spoke to him from the burning bush.

Moses asked God – "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11). Moses was 80 years old when he met God for the first time. He had spent 40 years as a prince of Egypt and the last 40 years as a shepherd in hiding. His question is understandable in light of his history. Moses had inserted himself into the life of his people before and failed miserably (Exodus 2:11-15). Why should things be different this time?

What is interesting to note here is how God responded to Moses' question. Moses asked "Who am I." How did God respond? "I AM

WHO I AM.” Delivering Israel from Egypt and taking the people to a land flowing with milk and honey would not be based on human strength, but on the Power of the Great I AM.

“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ Moreover God said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.’ Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, ‘I have surely visited you and *seen* what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.’ Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, ‘The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.’ Exodus 3:14-18

Service is at the heart of true worship. When God told Moses to go to Pharaoh to bring Israel out of Egypt, Moses asked, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel

out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11) God promised Moses He would be with him – “And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” (Exodus 3:12) The word God used in the Hebrew language for “serve” is *abad*. The word is used almost 300 times in the Old Testament and is translated most often by two English words – “serve” and “worship.” The word means “to labor, work, serve another.” God was not offering Israel a free ride. There was work to be done – the work of serving and worshipping the Almighty God.

Moses then asked God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?” God’s answer was simple – “I AM WHO I AM.” *Ehyeh asher ehyeh* אהיה אשר אהיה. The Bible contains scores of Names for God. Most of them describe Him in some way (e.g. *El Shaddai* – God Almighty, *El Elyon* – Most High God, *El Olam* – Everlasting God, *Adonai* – Master), but the Name God revealed to Moses and Israel did not describe Him in the same sense. *Ehyeh asher ehyeh* is a statement about His Existence. It is the first person singular imperfect form of *hayah* (to be) and translates as “I will be.” *Asher* is a relative pronoun that can be translated as “that,” “who,” “where,” or “which,” depending on the context in which it is used.

Notice that God introduced Himself to Moses as *ehyeh asher ehyeh* – “I will be Who I will be.” Repeating *ehyeh* emphasizes God’s independence from all others. God is dependent on no one for His

existence. God is **Self-Existent**. He is because He is! There is no one else in the universe who can say that. Everyone and everything exists because of cause, except for God Who is “causeless.” No one “caused” God. No one “made” God. No one “created” God. He is the “I AM WHO I AM.”

It’s important to remember what is happening here. God is sending Moses back to Egypt, a nation with hundreds of “gods,” to tell the people of Israel that “God” sent Moses to deliver them from slavery. The Names God gave Moses to give to Israel were the beginning of teaching Israel about God and why He was different than all the gods they had known about since their birth in Egypt.

God continued to reveal Himself to Moses in the next verse: “God also said to Moses, ‘Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ ‘This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.’” (Exodus 3:14) God gave Moses five other Names to give to Israel: “Lord,” “the God of your fathers,” “the God of Abraham,” “the God of Isaac,” and “the God of Jacob.”

Lord – *YHWH*

God of your fathers – *Elohei Avoteinu*

God of Abraham – *Elohei Avraham*

God of Isaac – *Elohei Yitschak*

God of Jacob – *Elohei Ya'akov*

YHWH is thought to be a verb form of the Hebrew word for “to be, to exist” (hyy or hwy). *YHWH* is used thousands of times in the Hebrew Bible. Vowels were added much later so that the spelling became ***Yahweh*** in Hebrew and **Jehovah** in English. The word speaks to God’s Self Existence, His Creative Power, and Redemptive Plan.

Genesis 1 uses the Name *Elohiym* 30 times to describe God creating the heavens and the earth. *YHWH* is added to *Elohiym* in Genesis 2 (e.g. “This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens ...). Eve used *YHWH* when she gave birth to Cain – “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” (Genesis 4:1) The godly line of Seth began to call on *YHWH* when Enosh was born – “And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then *men* began to call on the name of the Lord.” (Genesis 4:26) It’s important to note here that Moses used *YHWH* when he wrote about the redemptive plan of God.

[It's also interesting to note that when Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden he never referred to God as *YHWH*. Satan used *Elohiym* three times instead. Genesis 3:1-5]



The Father's Protection

Moses met God for the first time when he saw a burning bush that was not consumed by the fire. In the first few moments of their encounter Moses learned that the place surrounding the bush was holy. God also revealed Himself to Moses in a unique way.

“I *am* the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.” Exodus 3:6

Moses knew who God was referring to because he knew basic Hebrew history. Moses’ father was a Levite named Amram who had married a Levite woman named Jochebed. Moses spent time with his biological parents as a young child before going to live in the palace of the pharaoh’s family. Moses knew he was a Hebrew (Exodus 2:11), so when God said He was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses knew what that meant. He was face-to-FACE with the God of Israel.

After God told Moses He was going to send him to Pharaoh, “that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt,” Moses said – “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11) God promised to be with Moses. Then Moses asked God what he should tell the children of Israel when they asked who had sent him. God replied – “I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel,

‘I AM has sent me to you.’ Moreover God said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* My name forever, and this *is* My memorial to all generations.’ (Exodus 3:14-15)

We looked at the Names *Ehyeh asher ehyeh* (I AM WHO I AM) and *YHWH* in the last study. Today, we look at the meanings of the other four Names God revealed to Moses and what those Names would have meant to him.

God of your fathers - *Elohei Avoteinu*

God of Abraham - *Elohei Avraham*

God of Isaac - *Elohei Yitschak*

God of Jacob - *Elohei Ya'akov*

Elohei comes from the plural form for *EI* (*Elohim*) and means “God of.” Moses was talking with the Lord God (*YHWH Elohei*) of his “fathers” (*Avoteinu*), which speaks to personal genealogy through the father’s line. God was clear from the beginning of His Personal relationship with Moses that He was the Lord God of Moses’ *Avoteinu* – not of the Egyptian fathers.

Moses’ lineage was through his father, Amram, who was a Levite. That meant Moses was also a Levite – a member of the Tribe of Levi. Moses was raised in the palace of an Egyptian pharaoh and was

named by the pharaoh's daughter who raised him (Exodus 2:10). Even though Moses grew up surrounded by the many gods of the Egyptian people, those were not his gods. Moses was meeting with his God, *Elohei Avoteinu*, the God of his fathers. That's as personal as it gets.

God was also *Elohei Avraham*, *Elohei Yitschak*, and *Elohei Ya'akov*. Moses was speaking to the same God Who spoke to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. How amazing that was! Moses had heard stories from his Hebrew family about the three amazing men who God spoke to and promised great things for their children and children's children. Moses would have understood that meeting the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was even greater than just family – this was the great **covenant** God had made with Abraham, and repeated to Isaac and Jacob. God had promised the Hebrew fathers that He would make of them a great nation and the time had come for Him to do it – through Moses!

God was going to use Moses to bring about freedom for the children of Israel through supernatural deliverance. He was also going to make them wealthy by providing for their needs as a nation on their own.

“And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of

gold, and clothing; and you shall put *them* on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.” Exodus 3:21-22

As we read through the Old Testament we see God’s continual **deliverance**, **protection**, and **provision** for Israel. He promised Moses that He would lead them into “a land flowing with milk and honey,” and did just that through Joshua. God expanded Israel’s borders through King David and his son Solomon, and sent His Only Begotten Son Jesus to Israel as their Suffering Savior. Jesus Christ will return to Israel in the future to establish His Messianic Kingdom, where He will rule the world from His Throne in Jerusalem.

What Moses heard God say on that day, on the mountain from the burning bush that was not consumed, was God showing Israel what it meant to be a child of the Heavenly Father.

“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ‘Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner,

therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Matthew 6:5-13

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