

### ***I Am All That You Need!***

*A meditation on the seven compound names of the Lord  
"Jehovah" = "Lord" = "I AM..."!*

The Bible can be thought of as a progressive revelation of God. From *"In the beginning God..."*, the book is an unveiling of God in His character, His personality, His purposes, and His promises. The Bible reveals God to be exactly who He says He is, and His Word always fulfills what He says. He is longing that we know Him -- as He is.

To know God is to know Him according to His own revelation of Himself. We do not come to know Him by private and strange revelation, or by our opinions of Him, but by Biblical revelation which proves Him to be what He says He is. Satan's chief aim is to distort the reality of God, lying to us through the trials of life, trying to paint an untrustworthy picture of God, so that we stay away from Him and live in spiritual darkness. Let it not be!

In the Old Testament there are several names of God, each revealing God in some distinct way. Adonai, El Shaddai, Elohim, are examples. The name that shows clearly His covenant-keeping, redeeming nature is the name Jehovah, or as some say Jahweh. In Hebrew it was written as JHWH, for no vowels were present. It was the proper name of God, so reverent that the Jews did not actually pronounce the name. It means "the existing One", since it is taken from the root verb "to be". The name Jesus, Greek equivalent of "Joshua", means "Jehovah is salvation".

Though the name Jehovah first appears in Genesis, God first reveals the significance of this name in Exodus 3. From within the burning bush, God called Moses to be a deliverer for Israel:

*Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 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 for ever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."*

Jehovah (LORD in the above verse) is the name God gave as the foundation of His personal redemptive identity. It is from the root Hebrew word "hayah" meaning "to be". When God said "I am who I am", it could also be translated "I will be who I will be." It could be interpreted as "I am all you need!"

The name Jehovah appears in seven special places in the Old Testament as a compound name, connected to a word which declares a certain quality of God's person or character. In each of these seven special covenant names, God has revealed an aspect of himself. These names of Jehovah are revelations of His unchanging person. What He declared Himself to be in each of these names, He still is! They are foundations for our faith in the One who never changes. Furthermore, they are all fulfilled in Jesus Christ. All of these characteristics are found in Christ, and are confirmed widely in the promises of the Word. Remember, Jesus is *"the same yesterday, today, and forever."* (Heb. 13:8) If He has ever been like what these names describe — and He always has! — He is also the same today and tomorrow. Also remember that Jesus said: *"He who has seen me has seen the Father."* (John 14:9) These are the covenant, unchanging qualities of God — Father, Son, and of course the Holy Spirit, for the Spirit *"proceeds from the Father, and testifies about (Jesus)."* (John 15:26)

With these names, God named Himself. With these names, He declared His eternal nature. In all cases, it is not that He will do things like these at times; rather, it is that He can do no else for those that trust Him. In these names, He is declaring, "I AM — exactly and always — what these names say that I am"!

#### **1. Jehovah-Jireh: The Lord Our Provider**

*"Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place **The LORD Will Provide**. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."* Genesis 22

The reality of this name of the Lord comes from the ram being provided as a substitute for Isaac. This ram speaks of Jesus. He is the One who was provided to die in our place. The resulting reality is found in Romans 8:32:

*“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?”* In other words, since the Father has already given His greatest gift to us, how will He NOT provide everything else we need?

Or, as it is said in 2 Corinthians 8:

*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”*

If you read the context, you will see that the Scripture is speaking, not only of spiritual riches, but of material riches, for the discussion is about taking up offerings for material needs of the saints in Jerusalem. Then comes a description what it is to be rich:

*“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

Jehovah Jireh is just that: our Provider. He exists to provide...everything. To be rich is to have all our needs met, and an abundance available for good deeds – for “*gifts the poor*”, and allowing us to be “*generous on every occasion*” — resulting in “*great thanksgiving to God*”. He blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others.

## **2. Jehovah-Raphah: The Lord Our Healer**

*He said, “If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am **the LORD, who heals you.**”* Exodus 15:26

It is significant to realize that divine healing was available long before the cross. It was promised in the Old Covenant, and actually before the law was given. God revealed Himself as our Healer almost immediately after Israel crossed the Red Sea. From the incident of the bronze serpent on the pole (in which all sick people who looked at the bronze serpent — a type of Christ on the cross – lived!) to the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53, we see clearly that the Lord took our sicknesses as well as our sins. It was confirmed by Jesus nearly every day of His earthly ministry, of which the record says over and over “...and He healed them all.” Matthew 8:17 records Jesus having healed Peter’s mother-in-law, then healing “*all the sick*” who came to the door later that day, “*to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: He took our infirmities and carried our diseases.*” Jesus is indeed our Jehovah Raphah. He turns no one away who comes to Him for healing.

## **3. Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord Our Banner**

*“As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up— one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” Moses built an altar and called it **The LORD is my Banner.** He said, “For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD..”*

Exodus 17

The incident giving rise to this wonderful name was a classic experience of spiritual warfare. Moses raised his hands, and there was victory in battle. Hands down, there was defeat. His arms got tired, so Aaron and Hur held them up through the day, and they overcame. We raise our hands in praise and worship for the exact reasons Moses did: to honor God and proclaim His victory. The Lord is our victory banner in the midst of any battle. When we stop honoring Him as our victory banner, we experience defeat. Sometimes we need our brothers and sisters to help hold up our battle weary hands, in order to see the victory. But the victory is assured. He has won it! (See Heb. 2:14.15 and Col. 2:15) Satan is been most

certainly defeated by the death and resurrection of Christ. Jesus, risen from the dead, is our Banner of Victory!

One song says this: "Victory, Oh Victory is mine! If I hold my peace, let the Lord fight my battle, Victory, Oh Victory is mine!"

Jesus said, "If I by the finger of God cast out demons, know that the kingdom of God has come upon you." He clearly demonstrated His victory in every spiritual battle that he faced, whether in the wilderness facing Satan, or casting out demons, or refusing to yield to Peter's intimation that He should avoid the cross. "Get behind Me, Satan..." He said to Peter. Jesus transferred His victory to his followers. He did it first in those sent out by Him, such as seen in Luke 10. "Even the demons are subject to us", they said. Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven..." This authority was also imparted to those He left behind (Mark 16), and promised to all believers who would resist the devil. (James 4) Jesus is our Banner of Victory Assured!

#### **4. Jehovah-Ra-ah: The Lord Our Shepherd**

*"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want..."* Psalms 23

Jesus proclaimed Himself as the Good Shepherd. (John 10) It is obvious He is the same Shepherd of Psalm 23, for He said "I am come that you might have life, and life abundantly." He is the one who, as Psalms 23 says, "makes us...leads us...restores us...and guides us", who is with us even "in the valley of the shadow of death". What would we do without the Shepherd's faithful leadership, guidance, protection, and provision in our lives? He is the Shepherd who "lays down His life for the sheep.", and who does not, like a hired hand, abandon the sheep when the wolf attacks. (also in John 10) Jesus is certainly our Good Shepherd! He has already laid down his life for us, defeated the "wolf" who attacks, and always leads His sheep to the abundant life.

#### **5. Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord our Peace**

*"When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he exclaimed, "Ah, Sovereign LORD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!" But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it **The LORD is Peace.**"*

Judges 6

Jesus is our Prince of Peace, as foretold in Isaiah 9. He said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

He also said in John 16:33: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Peace is the Hebrew word "shalom", which means peace, security, wholeness. More than restful emotions, it is a condition of protection and health and strength and blessing.

In Ephesians 2, we read, "for He Himself is our peace..." Jesus Himself is our peace. Like all the other names and attributes of the Lord, we are not called to produce this peace, but to receive!

#### **6. Jehovah-tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness**

*"I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD. "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: **The LORD Our Righteousness.**"*

Jeremiah 23

Jesus has become our "wisdom, our righteousness, our holiness, and redemption." (I Cor. 1:30) Were this not true, there would be no hope for us in getting along with God, for He has put all the world under the judgment of sin. (Rom. 3:20) What greater gift can there be than the gift of righteousness? How can it be that righteousness comes to us **only** as a gift?! Like Abraham, what a glorious mystery it is that our "faith is reckoned as righteousness"! Satan batters us deeply over this issue if we let him, yet the truth stands. He, Jesus Christ, is our righteousness. He is our **breastplate** of righteousness (God's armor is Christ!). This righteousness is not our own. It is God's righteousness, made available by blood of Christ. It is more than Him giving us a gift of "something" called righteousness; it is that He gives us **Himself. He Himself is our righteousness.** Our righteousness is His presence within us. His life in our inner man is our righteousness.

## 7. Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord is There

*“And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.”* Ezekiel 48

At first glance, this name may not seem to have as much meaning as the others. Yet it may be the most powerful of the seven, because it is a statement that He — **in all that He is** — is there. “There” means “there with you”. All the other names are found inside this one! This name establishes His existence as relevant to yours, present in your present, involved with you in your time and space. And no greater need do we have than His presence.

Jesus was called “Immanuel”, as in Matthew 1:23: *“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”— which means, “God with us.”*

God’s presence is a major theme of the Word: *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”* Psalms 139

Consider this promise first spoken in Deuteronomy, then quoted in Hebrews:

*“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”* Deuteronomy 31:8 *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”* Hebrews 13:5

And Jesus said, *“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him.**”* John 14:23 He is the Lord Who is There – with you — always.

### Jesus takes this a step farther...

Jesus also displayed seven new testament names for Himself, using the words “I am.” (Identifying Himself with Jehovah) Sometimes, He just said “I am.” So was the case when He was betrayed by Judas and arrested in the garden.

*“So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “I am,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, “I am,” they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” “I told you that I am,” Jesus answered.*

(Note: most translations add “he” after “I am”, but it is not in the original text.) Just think of it: Jesus just said “I am” and they all fell to the ground under divine power!

Here are seven “I am’s” of Jesus, all in the gospel of John.

1. Then Jesus declared, **“I am the bread of life.** *He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”* John 6:35

2. When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, **“I am the light of the world.** *Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* John 8:12

3. Therefore Jesus said again, *“I tell you the truth, **I am the door** for the sheep.”* John 10:7

4. **“I am the good shepherd.** *The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”* John 10:11

5. Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life.** *He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”* John 11:25,26

6. Jesus answered, **“I am the way and the truth and the life.** *No-one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6

7. “***I am the vine***; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

***Now receive the Lord’s nature as expressed in these names...***

Receive the divine nature of the Lord, as expressed in these covenant names. In 2 Peter 1, we read: “*He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.*” All that God is — as expressed in these covenant promise names, as expressed in Jesus Christ — we are to receive. Through faith in His own declarations about Himself we can partake of His very nature. Like Mary said, “*Let it be done to me according to Your word.*” Ask the Lord to make these covenant names real in your heart, and that He will fulfill them in your life!