

July 20th 2008: Names of God: Jaweh Exodus 3:1-15. Isaiah 6:1-8

Some years agolittle bookI am David

It contains the story of a little boy who escapes from a concentration camp and makes his way to Denmark. All he has is a compass and a place name to aim for.

The trip is tough and at one point he loses his compass

" Then David decided that he must have a God: It might help. But which God should he choose? It was important to find the right one...What Gods did he know of?"

Then he thinks back to the stories his old protector in the camp had told him. Stories of another David.....Who had said of his God: ***"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, He leadeth me beside the still waters."***

"God of the green pastures and the still waters, I am David and I choose you as my God!"

- **Of course we recognize that as coming from the 23rd Psalm**

Psalm that begins.....The Lord is my shepherd

And the reason that I mention it.....that word Lord.....is in fact the very next name **We find for God** in the Bible...after Elohim(translated as God)

Last week we looked at Elohim

And after Elohim we find in **Gen 2:4**...the addition of the title Lord.....**Jehovah/Jaweh**

- **And of all the names.....**God gives us for Himself....This is the name of relationship **This is** the name of love and of caring

And little David was very much on track....when in his time of greatest need He chose the God who reveals Himself by this name.....as his God

The most interesting thing about this Name for God...is connected....way it's written There are some Bibles...ASV...actually use the name Jehovah everytime it occurs...6,823 →But with the AV and the NIV...**it always presents.....in upper case →LORD**

The reason for this relates to the reverence with which the Jews treated this name They saw it as a very special name for their very holy God

So holy that they made a decision some centuries before Christ.....

That this name could never be pronounced.....or written

Previous to this time.....the Hebrew writings had characters but no vowels

When they added the vowels.....they deliberately choose not to add the right vowels
Instead whenever it was written.....they gave the characters the vowels of another
Adonai.....Lord.....**In fact it made a no name**...sounds like Jehovah

But the real pronunciation was deliberately lost
Definitely wasn't Jehovah.....may have been Jaweh

- **This shows something** about God that none of His other names show
His holiness.....His purity and separateness from imperfect and impure people

So in Isaiah chapter 6.....we read

" In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple."

And then follows the cry of the mighty angels in v3

***"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."***

Note the upper case letters for LORD

This is Yaweh.....and his holiness is so great that Isaiah...a good and religious man
Falls to his feet and cries out:

***"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips,
and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes
have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."***

So God's holiness....His unapproachability to God...is revealed in the name Yaweh
As used here

But then we also see the other characteristics
The characteristics that little Daviddesired so much

The personal God who reaches out to broken man
The God who cares.....The God who loves

- **For here we have Isaiah on his knees**

A wretched and broken man.....conscious of his sinful state and that of his people

Aware of the holiness and perfection of Almighty God.....Waiting for judgment

- **And what does Jaweh do?**

He sends an angel to cleanse the his lips.....To give him cleansing...renewal

Then this great holy God speaks to Isaiah....to a man

***"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?
And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"***

- **For Isaiah this would have been absolutely amazing**

To first see the holiness of Jaweh.....and to be completely terrified by it

And then to see this Yaweh reaching out to Him.....To cleanse Him

With the desire to use him as His special servant....to His people

I remember a story about the Queen when she was at her Balmoral country retreat. Out on a walk she got caught in a rain storm and called in at a house to borrow an umbrella. The lady said after: "Well it was not the type of thing you would expect a Queen to do".

I get the sense with Isaiah....that after seeing God in all His holiness....what the LORD went on to do.....Was not the type of thing.....expected such a holy One to do...

Such was a lesson that God always worked hard at convincing His people of:-

- **Indeed.....It wasn't until His people cried out to Him**.....aware of their need
That God was able to introduce this Holy....yet Merciful and loving..
aspect of His character to them

- **Turn to Exodus 3**

- **God first addresses Moses using His name Elohim**

And Moses is very afraid....for this is the title that means the Powerful Creator God

But then in v7 God uses for Himself the name **Yaweh**....and the tenderness of God

7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—

This was a new side of God that Moses had to discover

It would also be so newso different....for those Israelite slaves

So Moses says to God in v13

"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?"

14 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.' "

Here God Himself explains His name

- **He is the ever being one**....the never changing one.....The personal God
Who covenants to be their God

He is dependent on no other.....He has chosen them as his people.....He will save ..

Then God went on to say 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 by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

**This Name Yaweh.....the Lord in capital lettersbecame so important for....
They saw in it their Personal God.....who was so holy.....
and yet had committed Himself to their deliverance.....their perseverance**

So we find that most beautiful promise in Isaiah 43:1-3:

***1 But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
3 For I am the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;***

**But you know...the most wonderful thing about this so special name for God
Is that it is the name that God the Son claimed for Himself**

- **Remember** how God told Moses to say to the Israelites in Exodus 3:14
This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'

**Well when Jesus was arrested...recorded in John 18....He asked...who is it you want
And then responded with the words: I AM.....this name of God**

And John 18: 6 says:

When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

**That was not the only time Jesus used that name for Himself
For He is Yaweh..... He is the Lord come to earth to be our saviour**

He is...as Hebrews 13:8 proclaims:- the same yesterday and today and forever.
Therefore every promise of the Lord.....such as that beautiful promise we saw in Isaiah
Has it's fulfillment in Him

And He too is that Holy One that is full of love and mercy

And He demands our worship.....our reverence.....our praise...and our love
For He died for us.....Rose again....And is now preparing

- **There is no doubt that** we see Jesus as Saviour.....and we love Him for that
- **See** God as our Father.....our Rescuer.....and we approach Him daily... needs
- **See** the Holy Spirit as our Counsellor....Comforter...to whom we constantly turn

But let us also come often....to God the Father....Son....Spirit
As our Lord who is holy

.For cleansing....for renewal.....
and give to Him

Even as Isaiah gave.....Our surrendered...obedient.....hearts