

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE The Name of the Lord

SERIES

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KEY SCRIPTURE Exodus 3:13-14; 6:2-3; John 8:28

SYNOPSIS God has a name and it reveals a lot about him.

HIGHLIGHTS Closing song: What a Beautiful Name



☞ The Name of the LORD

The name of the Lord is referenced frequently in Scripture. Here are a few examples.

Genesis 13:4 (*Upon arriving in Bethel*)
There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Exodus 20:7
You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

1Samuel 17:45 (*David versus Goliath*)
“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

1Kings 18:24 (*Elijah versus the prophets of Baal*)
“Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Psalms 113:2
Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore.

Proverbs 18:10
The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Joel 2:32
And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved;

--Spurgeon... *"Now, by the word 'name' we understand the person, the character of the Lord. The more, then, you know about the Lord, and the better you know his name, the more intelligently will you call upon that name."*

Did you know God has a name? There are many descriptions of God in the Bible and there are many titles as well. He is described as healer, provider, and protector. He is called the Creator, our Father, and Redeemer. But what is his name? What does God call himself?

☞ In **Exodus 3:13-14** Moses asked God his name and the Lord replied by saying, **"I am."** In the Hebrew, this is simply "haw-yaw." Then, in Exodus 6, the Lord elaborated a little more on his name.

☞ **Exodus 6:2-3**
2 God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them.



Here, the word LORD is built upon the word “haw-yaw” used in chapter 3. When you see the word LORD in the Bible in all caps, it is literally “**YHWH**.” This word is used approximately 7000 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. It is also referred to as the “Tetragrammaton,” which means “The Four Letters.” This is the Hebrew proper name of God. This is more than a title for God. It is his name, and it is an interesting name!

--From Christianity.com... In written form, ancient Hebrew was a consonant-only language without any vowels, thus leading to the name of God being spelled “YHWH.” Because of this, the word itself gives no indication of actual pronunciation.

Though the pronunciation of YHWH would have originally been known, after the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century B.C., the Jews began to use the name Elohim more than YHWH. Due to a fear of accidentally taking God’s name in vain (Leviticus 24:16), the Jews basically quit saying it out loud altogether. Instead, when reading Scripture aloud, the Jews eventually substituted the tetragrammaton YHWH with the word Adonai (“Lord”).

*In the 6th through 10th centuries, the Masoretes, who worked to reproduce the original Hebrew text of the Bible, inserted the vowels from Adonai or Elohim into YHWH to get YeHoWeh or YeHoWaH. However, “Y” doesn’t exist in Latin, so Latin-speaking Christian scholars replaced the “Y” with “I” or “J” to get “JeHoWaH,” which became “**Jehovah**” as it spread throughout medieval Europe.*

*Christian scholars continued to refer to the Tetragrammaton as “Jehovah” until 19th and 20th century scholars returned to “**Yahweh**,” a form of which dated back to early Christian writers such as the 2nd century Clement of Alexandria.*

*In English translations of the Bible, the Tetragrammaton is usually rendered LORD, with all caps. YHWH can be interpreted in multiple ways, from “**He who will be, is, and has been**” to “He Who Is” to “He Brings into Existence Whatever Exists” to simply “I Am.” It is perhaps this multiplicity yet cohesion of meanings that most powerfully points to who God is. God is the unchanging, everlasting, all-powerful, undefinable Creator of all. We have so many names for Him, from the Almighty, to Father, to the Lord of Hosts, but none can truly sum Him up. Thus, when asked to name Himself, God simply replies, “YHWH” — “I Am.”*

YaHWeH emphasizes God's absolute being. He has life and being inherent in Himself. Everything else derives its being from Him. The Lord is the source of all being, all existence and all reality. He is without beginning and without end because He always was, He is, and He always will be.

When YaHWeH is replaced with the word Adonai, it is often combined with other words which emphasize God’s character and his attributes.

☞ **Adonai Elohim** - Lord God (Genesis 2:4): This is a powerful revelation of God as the **Strongest One** who is the totality of all being, reality and existence. He is the Mightiest One who has all



the power He needs to do whatever He wills. He has all the resources to meet all of mankind's needs.

☞ **Adonai Tz'vaot** - The Lord Of Armies (1 Samuel 1:11): He is the most powerful being in the universe. He is the greatest of all warriors and the **Supreme Commander** in Chief of His forces in Heaven and on Earth.

☞ **Adonai M'kadesh** - The Lord Who Makes Holy (Ezekiel 37:28): God is holy - different from everything else that exists, **unique**, special, **one of a kind**. There is one God and there is no one and nothing like Him. He is infinitely pure and separate from any hint of evil. He sets apart people, places and things to accomplish His purposes. The closer we get to and the more we become like the Holy One, the holier we become.

☞ **Adonai Jireh** - The Lord Who Sees and Provides: (Genesis 22:14): God **sees all and knows all**. Since He is omniscient, He is aware of all our problems and needs, and he is committed to provide for all the needs of His people.

☞ **Adonai Neesee** - The Lord My Miracle, or The Lord My Banner (Exodus 17:15): If we need a miracle, God is able to do one for us. In the midst of life's raging battles, the One who is our Banner, is always able to be seen, high and lifted up and greatly exalted, leading us to victory.

☞ **Adonai Shalom** - The Lord Of Peace (Judges 6:24): "Shalom" means peace in the sense of wholeness and completeness. The Lord is complete in Himself. The Self-Existent One needs no one and nothing to make Him complete. His purpose is to restore peace and wholeness to His creation that was fractured by sin.

☞ **Adonai Rapha** - The Lord Who Heals You (Exodus 15:26): The Lord is the **Great Physician** and the ultimate source of all healing - spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, societal, environmental. If you are in need of any kind of healing, He is the first One to turn to.

☞ **Adonai O'saynu** - The Lord Our Maker (Psalm 95:6): God made us by giving us existence and life. Since He is our **Creator**, we must follow His plans and designs for us. Since He is our **Maker**, He deserves all that we are and all that we have.

God, Adonai, Yahweh is so much more than we can fully comprehend. He is the source of all life and reality. Nothing can exist without him. He always was, he is, and he always will be.

☞ **JESUS IS YaHWeH**

☞ **John 8:58**

58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

The same Lord who revealed Himself as YaHWeH in the Old Testament is revealed as Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus shares **the same attributes as YaHWeH**. He has life in Himself (John 5:26). He gives existence to and sustains all other things: John 1:3 says, *"All things came into*



being by Him.” Colossians 1:17 says, “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of all life. He is the LORD.

--Sandra Thurman Caporale from the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston...

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Over time we’ve arbitrarily added an “a” and an “e” in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels. But scholars and Rabbi’s have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.

YH (inhale): WH (exhale).

So a baby’s first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God. A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words. Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God.

Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God’s name is no longer filling their lungs. So when I can’t utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name?

Being alive means I speak His name constantly. So, is it heard the loudest when I’m the quietest? In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs. In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst. In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down. When we’re about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.

When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments! This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God chose to give himself a name that we can’t help but speak every moment we’re alive. All of us, always, everywhere. Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips.

What a Beautiful Name