

Knowing Yahweh *Elohim*

During the time of the prophet Hosea, the children of Israel found themselves in a completely backslidden state. They had rejected the fellowship of Yahweh and lost the knowledge of God - *Elohim*. They had transgressed the covenant and dealt treacherously with the Lord. The people had turned to harlotry and begun to worship Yahweh the Lord as though He were equal, and even inferior, to Baal. So the prophet declared, 'Come, let us return to the Lord [Yahweh]; for He has torn us, but He will heal us'. Then he implored, 'Let us press on to know the Lord [Yahweh]'. This is most certainly our hope. It is our goal to know Yahweh, our Lord who is One. We can only do this by knowing Yahweh *Elohim* who is three individual and distinct persons in the fellowship of one life. We are included in the fellowship of Yahweh, but our fellowship is with the Father, with the Son, and with the Holy Spirit.

The prophet Hosea continued, 'I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God [*Elohim*] rather than burnt offerings'. We must not assume from this verse that *Elohim* is in any way opposed to offering. It is the essential mode of Their life. Offering is the way that God gives. It is the most fundamental expression of the love of God. Offering is the work of God. It is the bread of Yahweh. Without a true knowledge of the fellowship of Yahweh and the community of *Elohim*, offering is meaningless. They are completely given to each other. Offering is Their way of life. We cannot know the Lord apart from Their offering. The covenant was cut and enacted by the blood of the offering of *Elohim*.

References:

Hos 6:1, 7 1 John 1:3
2 Cor 13:14 Isa 55:11
John 3:13-16 Isa 53:11

Further Study

Hos 6

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 14

Pressing on to know Him

The prophet Hosea said, 'So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord [Yahweh]'. This was the deep cry of the apostle Paul, 'That I may know Him'. The apostle John echoed this same desire, 'That we know Him who is true'. In the same letter he wrote, 'We know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments'. Now concerning the knowledge of God, the prophet Hosea set this over against the corruption of offering and sacrifice. The people transgressed the covenant when they ceased to make offering. The Lord has proclaimed His name and made an Eternal Covenant with the people He has chosen for His glory.

Yahweh is the fullness of *Elohim*, and *Elohim* is the fullness of Yahweh. And I AM proclaims these two things equally. When He is revealing Himself as Yahweh who is One, He is still a community of Three. It is not as if the Father, Son and Holy Spirit lose all distinction of identity in Yahweh. And when He is revealing Himself as *Elohim* who is Three, He is still Yahweh; the fellowship of one life, one Spirit and one name. It is the unity of Yahweh that reveals His diversity as *Elohim*. And it is His diversity as *Elohim* that reveals His unity as Yahweh. This is the mystery of God, which can only be comprehended in the revelation of His name. The knowledge of Yahweh is like the spring rain watering the earth. Isaiah said that this is the word of the Lord. And it does not return to Him without accomplishing the purpose for which He sent it. The knowledge of Him is the certain hope that we will live before Him. 'He will revive us after two days, and He will raise us up on the third day.'

References:

Hos 6:2-3, 6 Phil 3:10
1 John 2:3 1 John 5:20
Isa 55:3

Further Study

1 John 2

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 15

The revelation of His name

The encounter between Moses and the Lord at the burning bush is among the most remarkable of all. With his sandals removed, Moses stood on holy ground. Moses was commissioned by the Lord to return to Egypt and secure the release of the entire nation of Israel. With this task before him, Moses asked the Lord, 'Who shall I say sent me?' And the Lord responded saying, tell them "'I AM WHO I AM" ... you shall say to the sons of Israel, "I AM has sent me to you".' This name can equally be translated, 'I was who I was', and 'I will be who I will be'. It is the essential testimony of who the Lord is. No further explanation is needed. He is I AM, and there is nothing apart from Him. He is 'before all things' and sovereign over all things. We read in the book of Deuteronomy, 'See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life'. And Isaiah said, 'I, even I, am the LORD, and there is no saviour besides Me'.

This is the testimony of the Lord, Yahweh, who dwells in unapproachable light, 'whom no man has seen or can see'. This is the light of *Elohim*. It is the sanctified life of Their individual spiritual identities. They give Their glory to no other. They are unapproachable and unknowable unless They are revealed by name. Hence, the Lord continued with Moses, 'Tell them the Lord [Yahweh], the God [*Elohim*] of your fathers ... has sent Me to you'. 'This is My name forever ... this is My memorial-name to all generations'. It is by this name, the Lord God (Yahweh *Elohim*), that I AM has revealed Himself to every generation that eagerly searches for Him.

References:

Ex 3:14-15 Col 1:17
Isa 43:11 1 Tim 6:16
Deut 32:39-40

Further Study

Ex 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 16

Beginning with Moses

On the day of His resurrection, Jesus walked with two men on the road to Emmaus. Their hearts burned within them, but they did not recognise Him until He 'broke bread'. During this encounter, Jesus explained many things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures, 'beginning with Moses and with all the prophets'. Remember, they only had the Old Testament. The testimony of I AM is most certainly contained in those Old Testament Scriptures. Why did Jesus begin with Moses? Perhaps it was because Moses beheld the pattern of all heavenly things. He constructed the tabernacle of testimony, ordained the priests, and compelled the nation to make offering. And yet, the answer is more basic. Jesus began with Moses because he was the first to receive the revelation of the name - I AM.

Moses was the first person to whom the Lord revealed Himself as Yahweh. All references to Yahweh prior to the account of the burning bush, were inserted by Moses retrospectively when he wrote the Pentateuch; the first five books of the Bible. The Lord Himself bears witness to this by saying, 'I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name, Lord [Yahweh], I did not make Myself known to them'. Before Moses' time, the Lord appeared as *El*; that is, 'God'. He was *El-Shaddai*, 'God Almighty'. Moses received further revelations concerning the tabernacle, the priesthood and the offerings. He received all these revelations as a bondsman and prophet of the Lord. He was receiving the testimony of the Lord. And he was hearing 'the counsel of God'. Indeed, the Lord does nothing 'unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets'. It was as Moses had prophesied concerning Jesus, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren'.

References:

Heb 8:5 Amos 3:7
Acts 7:37 Ex 6:3
Luke 24:27, 30, 44

Further Study

Luke 24

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 17

The testimony of I AM

I AM is the testimony of both One and Three. When I AM reveals His name as 'Yahweh', we behold Him as one Lord. Remember the words of Moses, 'The Lord [Yahweh] is our God [*Elohim*], the Lord is one!'. The apostle Paul said there is 'one Lord'. He is 'one Lord' in the 'fellowship of Yahweh'. Likewise, when I AM reveals His name as the Lord God (Yahweh *Elohim*), we behold the three persons of the Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – in the fellowship of one life. We call this 'the community of *Elohim*'.

We are left in no doubt regarding the authority of His testimony as I AM. When Jesus declared Himself to be I AM in the garden of Gethsemane, all the servants of the priests and the Roman soldiers immediately withdrew and fell to the ground. Perhaps the glory of God struck them as Jesus proclaimed that ineffable and unutterable name. And not only did He utter this name, He also declared that the name above every name was His personal possession. He was, and is, I AM.

Jesus was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. In the mouth of two and three witnesses, the testimony of Jesus as I AM was declared immutable and unchangeable. We know for sure that, because He humbled and emptied Himself to the death to a full end, 'God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name'. Peter declared, 'There is salvation in no-one else; there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved'.

References:

Eph 4:5 Phil 2:9
Acts 2:36 John 5:18
2 Pet 1:17 Deut 6:4
Rom 16:25 Rom 1:4
Acts 4:12

Further Study

John 18

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 18