**God Is Government - Tony Evans Teaching - God's Names(2)**

A little boy in school was drawing a picture and the teacher came over to him and said, son, what is that that you are drawing? The boy said, well, I'm drawing a picture of God. She said, you can't be drawing a picture of God because no one knows what God looks like. To which the little boy said, well, they will when I'm finished.

Everybody has their view of what God looks like. And if I were to hand each of you a sheet of paper and you tried as best you could to draw his identity, there would be a whole bevy of various expressions of what we perceive God to be and how we perceive him to look. One of the things God did not allow his people to do was draw any images of him.

He would not allow any image of him to be drawn because any picture you draw is going to be bad. I don't know if you've ever gone to the mall when they used to have those photograph machines and you walk in and pull the curtain and sit down. Don't show those pictures to anybody because those typically were poor renditions of how you really look and who you really are.

Any picture you draw of God will be a poor rendition because of his very being in nature our minds cannot conceive of his being in nature except that he tells us. Today I want you to look at a second name for God in the Bible. That is a name that all of us are familiar with from one way or another.

That is the word Jehovah. Jehovah. Jehovah is the most frequently used name for God in the Old Testament.

It is used 6,823 times. It is God's favorite name for himself. It is God's most famous name.

Remember the word God, just saying God can be somewhat vague because a lot of religions can say God but we need to know who we're talking about. Through the names of God, God clarifies his own identity. In Exodus chapter 3 Moses is being sent to Pharaoh to say let my people go out of Egypt.

Moses through a series of events in his life has become a very insecure person. He had blown it in the past by committing murder. He had been reduced to be a sheep herder because of his past mistake and sin.

And 40 years later he comes smack dab into an experience with God. God says Mo I want you to go down to Egypt and I want you to tell Pharaoh let my people go. Now that's a very intimidating request.

He's been running from Pharaoh for 40 years. He's been running from Egypt for 40 years. God says I want you to go down and I want you to tell Pharaoh go back to that regime that was out to get you to let my people go that they may worship me.

Now this is another sermon for another day but let me clarify something just in all of our hearing. God never frees you simply to be free. He says let my people go that they may worship me.

It was never let my people go. So whatever you want God to deliver you from you have to answer the second half of the equation and that is what worship and glory is God gonna get now that you have been let go. God didn't let you go so that you could forget his name.

He says well now you want me to go down here and they're gonna ask a question. When I go down here and tell them that I'm supposed to set you folks free from Pharaoh then they're gonna want to know who sent me. Who died and made me boss.

They're gonna want to know under whose authority am I exercising this role of deliverer. Those folk aren't gonna believe me just because I show up. So they're gonna want to know who signed off on this job description and under whose authority am I operating.

In fact they're gonna want to know in verse 18 the last sentence what is his name. So what am I supposed to tell them? God says to Moses in verse 14 of Exodus 3 I am who I am and he said thus shall you say to the sons of Israel I am have sent you. He ends verse 15 by saying this is my name forever and this is my memorial name to all generations.

What kind of name is that? I am who I am has sent you. I am is made up of four consonants. It's made up of a Y H a W and an H. Y H W H. To this date nobody knows how to pronounce it.

When God said I am in the Hebrew Y H W H. That was the name he gave. It is derived from a word that means to be or to become. He told Moses you tell them Y H W H I am sent you.

And then he says it a second time Y H W H. I am who I am or that I am has sent you. Now this name is important not only because of the many times it's used but this name is important because it is God telling you his name. He says who shall I say sent me and God says you tell them this Y H W H however that is pronounced has sent you.

So sacred was this name because God declared it as his own name that the Jews would not speak it because that would be to speak the name and they would be too afraid that they would misspeak. Because this name was viewed as the highest expression of the name of God. These four letters are called the Tetragrammaton.

The Tetragrammaton. It was the holy designation of who God was. When the scribes were writing or copying the Bible and they came to that name when they would read over what they had copied they would not pronounce that name just write it lest they say it wrong.

When it came to helping us pronounce it some verbs were added to help us pronounce it in a way that wouldn't mispronounce what God had declared to Moses. That gave us the word Yahweh. When you hear Yahweh you're hearing Y H W H with some vowels.

In order to be able to pronounce a name that we could not pronounce with just the four consonants then when it was flipped over to English it became Jehovah. So let's back up. Jehovah, English is from the Hebrew Yahweh which is Y H W H with vowels.

So in Exodus 3 it's Y H W H. They couldn't pronounce that and didn't want to make a mistake they added vowels so you could call it Yahweh. Then when it became English it became Jehovah. So when we hear Jehovah we're referring to Yahweh and Yahweh is referring to I Am.

I Am is Yahweh, Yahweh is Jehovah so it all comes back to Exodus 3. You with me? How do you know when you're reading your Bible you're reading the word Yahweh as opposed to Elohim or some of the other names that we're going to go over in this series? Because when you read your Bible you will see Jehovah or Yahweh written in all caps L O R D and all four are capitalized. When you read your Bible and you see that all four are capitalized like in verse 16, go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them the L O R D the God of your fathers that is the Jehovah or Yahweh of your Elohim. So when you read L O R D and they are all capitalized because sometimes you will read L O R D and they are not all capitalized only the L is capitalized cause that's a different word for God.

So when you read the Bible and they are all in all caps in the Old Testament you know we're talking about Jehovah as opposed to God as Elohim. Am I going too fast? Am I? Stay with me. So now when you read your Bible and you come to capital L, capital O, capital R, capital D you know you're talking about Jehovah and you are to relate to that name.

Now if Elohim is God's power name Jehovah, Yahweh, is God's personal name. It is God's self-revealing name because this name comes off of a question who do I say sent me? The answer to the question is I am has sent you. I am who I am have sent you.

So God now personally reveals himself. So when we are talking about Jehovah when I say God but I'm referring to the L O R D capitalized I am referring to God in his personal self revelation to his creation. When I talk about Elohim, the God who is the creator I can talk about his power but when I talk about God as Jehovah I'm talking about his character.

Elohim creates. He's powerful in the beginning God Elohim created the heavens and the earth but Jehovah is the God who relates to his creation personally. You can believe in Elohim but not know Jehovah.

Plenty of people believe in God. That's Elohim but plenty of people don't know the God they believe in because that's Jehovah. Jehovah is the God who personally reveals himself to us whether or not you believe that he is Elohim this powerful creator God.

There are a number of concepts in these four letters. He says I am that I am. This tells us a number of things.

Number one it tells us that God is a person I am. That he exists as a person. This is very important because that means that we do not live in an impersonal universe.

See evolution puts you in an impersonal universe. You are subject to the forces you are subject to things that have no life in them that you are moved about. In fact you become reduced as an individual through evolution when you remove the fact that our cosmos is personal and not impersonal.

God is talking to Moses and he says I am. So God is a person who exists not just a force who moves. It is not the force be with you He is a person that means he has emotions, intellect and will.

But he is a self-existed person. See nobody in this room can say I am that I am. All you can say is I am.

In other words all you can say is I exist. But he told Moses don't just tell him I am. You tell him I am that I am.

In other words I exist within me nothing outside of me contributes to my existence nobody in here can say that. You only exist because you were preceded by a mother and a father in other words a mother and a father contributed to your existence. So I am because they were.

Because of them I exist. So I am not that I am I am because they were. If there was no them there would be no me So I am not I am that I am.

I am because they were Not only is my existence dependent upon them my existence is dependent upon external things outside of me that allows me to be me. I am existing right now because oxygen contributes to my existence. If there were no oxygen I would not be me because I would not be here because my ability to exist depends on something providing me the sustenance for me to function oxygen.

If there were not for vegetables growing. If there were not for chickens being raised I wouldn't be here but what God tells Moses is that you tell them that the one who sent you does not have to go outside of himself to be himself for he is complete within himself. You tell him I am that I am has sent you.

So his self existence also indicates his self sufficiency in other words God is the only truly independent person in the universe he is the only truly independent person because his being is self generating much like the sun you don't have to fire it up you don't have to reheat it. The construction of the sun is that it keeps itself hot. You don't have to go out there and pour some more oil on it, relight a match reheat it.

You don't have to do that because its construction God has given us in creation as an indication of what self generating looks like it has built into it all that it needs to be all that it was designed to be and to do all that it was designed to do because the sun is self generating what God is saying is that his being is self generating therefore his self existence also includes his self sufficiency which then reminds us that he is eternal. He is eternal and in his eternality since he is self generating see the reason why you and I aren't eternal that is on earth we're not eternal is because we're dependent. Because he's independent and he can generate his own self in the dimension in which he lives.

He does not have to go outside of himself he is everlasting and in his eternality he is equally immutable. Immutability speaks to the changelessness of God. That he does not change in his essence.

We are forever changing we are forever changing. We are getting older. We are our hair is graying.

We struggle with with wrinkles as age sets in. We are ever changing. God doesn't go through that process he is who he was and he will be who he is because I am never steps out of the present tense.

In other words he's always now. So God can never become irrelevant because he's always right now. A billion years from now will be now.

Okay I know this is deep Now you and I will get to experience this in heaven because time will be no more you know there will be no night no day. There will be no point of reference for time as far as our existence is concerned. So you and I will live in the eternal now that doesn't make sense to us because we are linear creatures.

We go from one year to another year to another year to another year we go from here to there. God exists in the I am. I am that I am.

Not I am what I will be because everything is right now for God. That's why he can't make a mistake. The reason why he can't make a mistake is a hundred billion years from now is now.

This also relates to his self revelation I am who I am therefore I am not necessarily what you want me to be I am who I am I am not how you define me unless you define me as I am. So if you're gonna know who I am and what I am I am's gotta tell you. You can't tell him.

See we like to tell folk about themselves we always tell them folk what we think about him and how we feel about him and all of that well you can't do that with God because he is who he is. He is who he was although he doesn't have a was. He is who he will be although he doesn't have a will be because he's immutable there is no change in the essence of who he is and therefore he cannot be informed on how to change you cannot help him become better you cannot make him worse because he is who he is now some of you who are theologically minded I'm sure raising a question particularly when I use the word immutability that is the changelessness of God you say but wait a minute I can show you many places in the Bible where God changed where God repented like with Jonah he repented the Bible says God was going to destroy Israel Moses prayed the Bible says when God heard Moses prayer he repented he changed.

The word repentance means to change so if God does not change by the way the Bible says Jesus doesn't change either he's the same yesterday today and forever and forever well that's good and true because he's God so he would be changeless. Look very quickly at James chapter 1 verse 17 every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the father of lights with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow let me read that again. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the father of lights referring to God with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow let me help you help us understand the changing of the changeless God he tells you in that verse he talks about the father of lights okay that's the creator of the sun and the stars the lights of above he talks about from above okay that's the sun and the stars so let's take the biggest star in our solar system the sun and he's the father of that that means he's the source of it so the reason the sun stays the sun is because it gets its source from the father so the sun stays hot has never become dimmed because the father has created it to self-generate itself being as his own that's his own nature in whom there is no shifting shadow but wait a minute there is a shifting shadow cause night time when night time occurs there is a darkness over half the earth half the earth is lit experiencing day the other half around half is dark the shadow of darkness because it's experiencing night every 24 hour cycle we go through the day and the night the dark and the light but he says with the father of lights the one who created the sun and the stars there is no shifting shadow yet you and I deal with shadows every day but the reason you and I deal with shadows every day is not because the sun is changed but because the earth is turning and the earth is turning and the earth is turning and the earth is turning it is the turning of the earth that creates the shadow not the turning of the sun the sun is consistent constant regular always doing its thing never adjusting itself it's just being what it is cause it is what it is it's full of fire and full of light but the reason there is a shadow that you and I have to deal with every 24 hours is cause the earth keeps moving one might look at it and say something wrong with the sun 12 hours a day nothing wrong with the sun if you stop turning you'll stop being dark I'm going somewhere the Bible says God is that he is he continues to be what he is there is immutability he's the same yesterday today and forever so how can God change his mind he changes his mind without changing his mind cause we stop turning in the same way that the earth turns creating a shadow we turn and we create spiritual shadows thinking God has turned but God's like the sun he hasn't changed he's just adjusted to your turn and when you turn this way toward him shadow comes not cause he moved cause you moved he repented of destroying Sodom and Gomorrah cause they stopped turning and turned back to him he repented of what he was going to do to Moses because of Moses adjusting to God's character and when he adjusted to God's character light came where darkness would have been so don't try to get God to change you stop turning and you'll see the sun hasn't stopped shining Jehovah reveals himself personally to his creation and it is progressive in nature we call this as I mentioned last week the progress of revelation in other words God doesn't tell you everything about himself at one time he unfolds himself in fact if I would describe heaven and eternity to you I would define it as the uninterrupted knowledge of God God will continue to unfold himself to forever and watch this it will take forever to discover all of him that's how incomprehensible he is because he is infinite and we are finite we live in limitations he has no limitations and that's a dimension we cannot fathom so it's beyond our ability to explain but know that there will be this constant unveiling so if God could create the universe in six days just by talking okay and we are still discovering the universe we have barely made off of planet earth okay a couple people have been to the moon and a machine has been to mars okay we have barely in all these thousands of years made miniscule discoveries of what God created in six days simply by his words now can you imagine can you imagine how long it's going to take to fully discover who he is forever but he doesn't want us to wait to eternity for him to unveil himself as Jehovah we're going to see some of those unveilings and some of the compound words you got to pray for me because there's so many of these compounds you know Jehovah this Jehovah that Elvis that is Elohim this Elohim that I mean there are three three primary words for God we've discussed two of them then they start becoming compound words to show how he's unveiling in a specific situation see and that that's when it gets good because then you see him exposing himself in your drama see so you ain't seen nothing yet all this is introduction but when Jehovah exposes himself it's always in somebody's drama it's always in a situation a circumstance whenever you see him come up with a new name is actually not a new name is we in a new situation and he comes up with a name for it when God wants to make a special point about himself he is Jehovah unveiling himself in the context of the creation of his people that's Jehovah it is the self-revealing one that's what he did here notice you turn back to chapter three of exodus verse one now Moses was pastoring the flock of Jethro his father-in-law the priest of Midian and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came the horror of the mountain of God the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst the angel of the Lord that's Jesus Christ in the Old Testament appeared to him notice the word Lord capital L capital O capital R capital D so now we're talking about Jehovah appeared because he's the self-revealing God Jehovah appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush and he looked and behold the bush was burning with fire yet the bush was not consumed so Moses said I must turn aside now and see this marvelous light which the bush is not burnt up when the Lord capital L capital O capital R capital D Jehovah Yahweh saw that he turned aside to look God called him from the midst of the bush and said Moses Moses and he said here I am then he said okay let me tell you see don't tell nobody I told you this you know when God is ready to expose something new about himself to you you know when God is ready to expose something new of himself to you when he puts you in a contradiction between a rock and a hard place up a creek without a paddle out on a limb he allows or creates a situation that confuses you contradicts you messes over you you want to know why this why now why then why Moses sees a bush burning Moses looks over I say I see a bush on fire and it's still green he says that makes no sense that is a contradiction you can't have a bush that's on fire and still being green he says that doesn't make sense he says let me go over here and check this out it says when Jehovah saw that Moses when he saw the contradiction went to investigate it the Lord said to Moses Moses Moses take off your shoes this ground is my territory now and then he unveils to Moses the purpose for Moses's life what I'm trying to tell you is that the contradiction you're in right now the conflict you're facing right now don't just look at the bush that's burning look at the God who wants to talk to you through the burning bush the God who's got some new information for you some stuff you haven't thought of first all you see is the problem God told Abraham go up we'll talk about that that's and sacrifice your son your only son that doesn't make sense that's child sacrifice that's not fair to ask a parent to do that it doesn't make sense but on that mountain that day the Bible says Jehovah unveiled himself to Abraham when God wants to show you a new side of God you've never seen before is usually because you're in a problem so when you are in your mess your problem your circumstance don't just look at it look for him because he's about to call your name and introduce you to another dimension of Jehovah the self-revealing God exposing himself to you he says take off your shoes why does he tell Moses to take off your shoes when I was in Israel and I went to the mosque you had to take off your shoes it was a sign of homage it was a sign of respect it was a sign of holy recognition you see when God created man he created him from the dirt from the dirt taking off your shoes means you're now standing on the dirt which means whatever length of leather is on your shoes has got you standing too high in the presence of God God wants you to go back to being a creature in the presence of a creator you see we want to come before God with our shoes on we want to elevate ourselves off the ground God says take off your shoe because even though you only got a quarter inch of leather in my presence you're still standing too high when you're in my presence don't forget your creatureliness in the presence of my creator-ness that is if you want me to call your name because he said he didn't do anything till Moses turned aside to see what was going on and what did he do he revealed the next stage and plan of Moses's life watch this a plan Moses never thought about it or could consider he said well you want me to do that you talking about me he said I can't talk God said who made your lips it was an experience with God with Jehovah let me show you something turn back to Genesis 1 Genesis 2 rather that's like after Genesis 1 first book of Bible remember all through chapter 1 to 2 verse 3 all you see is G-O-D that's Elohim that's all you see you don't see any Jehovah or Yahweh beginning in chapter 2 verse 4 we're introduced to Yahweh this is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created in the day the Yahweh Elohim made heaven and earth oh wait a minute I thought Elohim made heaven and earth but verse 4 says in the day that Jehovah Elohim made heaven and earth why does he begin now introducing the term Jehovah to us in chapter 4 in chapter 2 verse 4 because in chapter 2 verse 4 he's going to do something that he didn't do in chapter 1 to chapter 2 verse 3 in chapter 2 verse 4 he's going to interface personally with his creation in chapter 1 1 to 2 3 he creates but in chapter 2 verse 4 he's going to interact with his creation the interaction with the creation is him getting personal with his creation when he gets personal with his creation that's Jehovah not just Elohim as Elohim he can make it back off but as Jehovah he makes it and interfaces with it as the self-revealing God so from here you see Lord God Lord God Lord God Lord God every time you can't even find Elohim by itself it's verse after verse of Lord God verse 8 the Lord God planted a garden why did he plant a garden that was that was the homestead for Adam and Eve he gave him their personal home because he's interacting personally he created all the vegetation as Elohim but when he made somebody's personal home in the garden that was Jehovah Elohim because he's interacting with them he comes over and then he uh verse 15 the Lord God took man put him in the garden now God is introducing him as a realtor to his personal home because he's involved as Jehovah in the relationship the Lord commanded man he gives now guidelines for how man is to operate because he's interacting with his creation verse 18 the Lord God said it is good for man not to be alone I will make him a helper suitable for him now he's Cupid he's creating a match then becoming matchmaker because he's interfacing with his creation you don't want to just know God as Elohim because then you can say he's big he's powerful you know he can do a lot of stuff you want to know Elohim also as Yahweh or Jehovah because you want to know that the powerful God is talking to you he is personally interfacing with you now why did I take you all the way back to Genesis chapter 2 because I want to show you something in Genesis chapter 3 in Genesis chapter 3 verse 1 now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God Jehovah Elohim had made and he said to the woman indeed hath God said you shall not eat from any tree of the garden the woman said to the serpent from the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden God said you shall not eat from it or touch it or you will die the serpent said to the woman you surely will not die for God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be open and you will be like God knowing good and evil why am I reading you this because when the devil shows up he drops Jehovah and only wants to discuss Elohim up until that time when he talked about man and woman it was the Lord God but when the serpent came in the garden he says let's talk about Elohim but we don't have to bring in that Jehovah stuff let's just keep God way out there we don't have to deal with this personal side he duped the lady into dealing with Elohim and not wanting to deal with Yahweh or Jehovah which means I can just deal with the God out there and not the personal relationship see the devil wants you to have religion he wants you to come to church to meet Elohim he wants you to have talks on your job about Elohim as long as you don't bring in Jehovah because the moment you bring in Jehovah you got to relate to Elohim the moment you bring in Jehovah you got to relate to the true God and the reason the devil can trick us is he keeps us worshiping God without knowing Jehovah and if he can keep you worshiping Elohim but keep you from not discussing Jehovah he can keep God out there and never have God dealing with you in here but that leaves one final question you say okay I'm not gonna be satisfied with Elohim how do I get to know Jehovah flip over to chapter 33 of Exodus thus the Lord capital L capital O capital R capital D that's Yahweh or Jehovah used to speak to Moses face to face just as a man speaks to his friend when Moses returned to the camp his servant Joshua the son of Nun a young man would not depart from the tent then Moses said to the capital L capital O capital R capital D Jehovah Yahweh see you say to me bring up this people so we deal with the same issue but you yourself have not have not let me know whom you will send with me moreover you have said I have known you by name and you have also found favor in my sight okay so now he's talking to him verse 17 the Lord the capital L capital O capital R capital D Yahweh or Jehovah said to Moses I will also do this thing of which you have spoken for you have found favor in my sight and I have known you by name verse 19 and he said I myself will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show compassion on whom I will show show compassion you cannot see my face for no man can see me and live and then the capital L capital O capital R capital D Yahweh or Jehovah said behold there is a place by me and you shall stand there on the rock and will come a pass from my glorious passing by that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you by my hand until I have passed by then I will take my hand away and you shall see my back but my face you shall not see now watch this Moses says I want to know your name he says I want to know your name but wait a minute I thought he knew God's name in chapter 3 I thought God told him I am that I am God introduced him to his name in chapter 3 but having been introduced Moses says I want to know more I want to know more about Jehovah show me more you know why we don't know God's name is Jehovah we too busy and too distracted to want to know more we are satisfied with an introduction we got saved one day we met Jesus and we satisfied I'm going to heaven one day and we are satisfied with an introduction Moses was not satisfied with an introduction Moses said having been introduced to the I am that I am and have discovered what he could do with the little I've already seen I need to see some more so he took time made time to get into the presence of Jehovah and to say Lord capital L capital O capital R capital D Jehovah I want to know who you are he says show me your glory he says you have found favor in my sight that is you are living life to know me and to please me you have prioritized me you've turned your tv off some you've turned your radio off some you've moved away from your friends some you've removed from distraction some because you want to get to know me see a lot of us say I want to get to know you but I don't have time right now I can't schedule it right now I can't focus on it right now but I want to get to know you God said you don't want to get to know me because people you want to get when a guy want to really get to know girls if God says I want to get to know you but he never calls if a guy says I want to get to know you but he never offers to see you if a guy says I want to get to know you but he never wants to take you out that brother is lying he don't want to get to know you because if he want to get to know you he gonna find time make time he gonna stay up late and get up early and he gonna get on the phone and talk when he don't feel like talking because he want to get to know you Moses says I want to get to know you he went to the tent of meeting he spent time in his presence so the l-o-r-d that is the Yahweh and the Jehovah could reveal himself God says you found favor in my sight so I'm gonna put you in the cleft of the rock I can't let you see all of me because it'll kill you but I'm gonna let you see enough of me that you'll know I have so much more to offer he put him in the cleft of the rock it says his hinder parts it's translated back it says his hind parts passed by passed by and then God removed his hand when God removed his hand guess what Moses saw the exhaust you know when a plane goes by and you can't see the plane but you see the hinder parts you see that a plane was there because you see the exhaust even though you can't see the plane God let Moses see the exhaust what did Moses do when he saw the exhaust I'm gonna tell you what Moses did and then we gonna call it a day when Moses saw the exhaust when he saw the hinder part that is the back part of God he picked up a pen and he picked up some paper and he wrote in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth the earth was not void a form of void and darkness was upon the face of the deep in the spirit of God and God said let there be light and it was light the Bible says Moses wrote Genesis but Moses wasn't alive in Genesis so how did Moses know what happened in Genesis because God let him see Jehovah he let him see some stuff he hadn't seen before so he can write some information that he didn't have cognitive knowledge of he can write some things down that he didn't know in advance and God wants to show you some stuff you ain't seen before he wants to give you an experience you never had before but that won't come because you know he's Elohim that will come because you know Yahweh is Jehovah he is the self-revealing God let's give him some praise