

The Name and Title of God

International Bible Lesson

Exodus 3:7-17

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“And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations” (Exodus 3:15—KJV).

“God also said to Moses, Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”: This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations” (Exodus 3:15—NRSV).

The official name and title of God, the “LORD,” means “I AM WHO I AM;” however, the LORD was not some new god who had suddenly taken an interest in the Israelites and had appeared to Moses. Rather, their ancestors and the three most important people in their tribal history had all worshiped the LORD and made the LORD their God. However, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob either did not know or did not reveal God’s official name and title, “LORD” or “I AM WHO I AM.” The name and title of God, the “LORD,” are the same, because no titles greater than “LORD” and His name are possible. The Israelites needed to know and learn by experience that the LORD was greater and more powerful than any human ruler and all the idols of Egypt. They also needed to remember that they were not to worship anything other than God, the LORD, Who had been with their ancestors.

The LORD wanted Moses to assure His people that God had observed their misery, had heard their cry, and knew about their suffering at the hands of their unjust taskmasters. In addition and most importantly, God was coming down to deliver them from oppression and lead them to the land that He had promised to give them when He spoke to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Book of Exodus shows that God has the power to accomplish all of His purposes and promises.

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Thinking Further

1. Ancient history records failed slave revolts in various kingdoms, why did the slave revolt of the Israelites in Egypt succeed?

2. The Bible tells us to pray for God to fulfill His promises, relate what you know about prayer to Exodus 3:9.

3. What are you doing or have you done for God and others that you would have never dreamed possible years earlier?

4. How do you think God might have been involved or be involved in what you have done or are doing for God to help others?

5. How would you feel and what would you think if God told you to do something and the sign that He was with you would be the accomplishment of what He wanted you to do? [Think of God’s sign to Moses – that Moses would worship God on the mountain with the Israelites God and he had freed from slavery in Egypt.]