

Bible Study: The Character of God

XVII. God is One Jehovah

Passages to read:

Exodus 3:14-15, 15:2 (“Jah”), 34:6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:1-3, 8:58, 10:30; 1Corinthians 12:4-6

Related passages for personal study: Isa. 43:10-11, 44:6; Zech. 14:3-9; Mark 2:5-12; John 10:33-39, 14:9, 17:5,11,21-22; 2Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 1:15-18, 2:9; 1Tim. 3:16; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:3, 8-12

Signification of “Jehovah” or “Yahweh”

- “(the) self Existent or eternal”³
- “He that always was, that always is, and that ever is to come.” (Rev. 1:4) ²
- Linked with the covenant promise of the divine presence ¹
- First mention: Genesis 2:4; “Jehovah” occurs over 6500 times in the Old Testament

Signification of “Jah” or “Yah”

- 1st and last letters of “Jehovah” with middle vowel
- “The infinite and eternal God”²
- “Hallelujah” means “Praise ye Jah”
- “The simplest form of speech which infant lips can try...the highest form of heavenly adoration in Alleluiah” ²
- First mention: Exodus 15:2

Aspects To Consider:

- Doctrine of the “Trinity”
 - Really unexplainable, but some try to use illustrations for 3 Persons, 1 God.
- Relationship between, and roles of, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - Father is the Appointer, Giver, Originator
 - Son is equal to, yet subject to and serving, the Father (Phil. 2:5-8). Given by the Father. Testified of the Father.
 - Holy Spirit testifies of the Son (John 15:26). Given by the Father & sent also by the Son (John 15:26, 16:7). The Son and Holy Spirit are each referred to as “Comforter” (John 14:16).
 - All three seen working in Creation (Gen. 1), Salvation, Gifts (1Cor. 12:4-6), etc.
- “I am that I am” (“I continue to be, and will be, what I continue to be, and will be”) ²

Questions for Discussion:

- In John 17:21, how is the church “one” in the Father and Son?
- Is the Trinity revealed in the Old Testament?
- How do we understand that those *subject* to another are not inferior to them (as the Son was *subject* to the Father)?
- What answer should we give to those who deny the deity of Christ?
- Is it proper to refer to the Godhead as “Persons”?

¹ International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

² Thomas Newberry

³ Strong's Hebrew Dictionary