

asking the wrong
kind of questions

Are we doing presents for Christmas this year?

Do you want a coffee?

Are you sure it's okay to celebrate our
wedding anniversary on a different day?

Who is my neighbor?

Is it *lawful* to heal on the Sabbath?

Why does He *eat with* tax collectors and
sinners?

Will I go to heaven when I die?

When will Christ come back?

Can I _____ and still be a Christian?

Exodus 3 v 7- 15

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So **I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians** and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.**"

But Moses said to God, "**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God said, "**I will be with you.** And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, '**What is his name?**' Then what shall I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: '**I AM has sent me to you.**'"

God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"**This is my name forever,**
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation."

"**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

"**I will be with you.**"

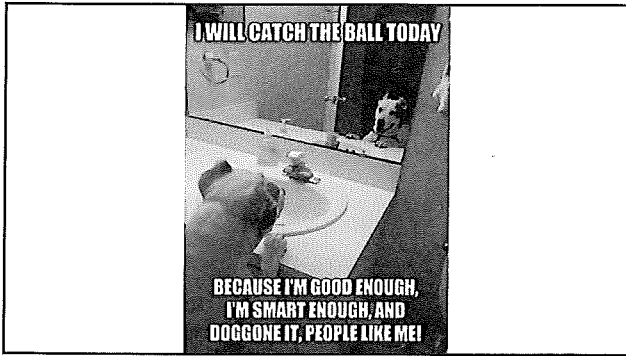
"Moses, you are the one
who **I will be with...**"

Who am I to _____ ???

We ask ourselves, who am I to be
brilliant, gorgeous, talented,
fabulous?

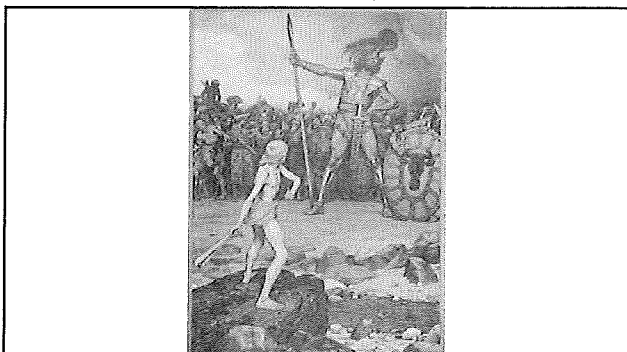
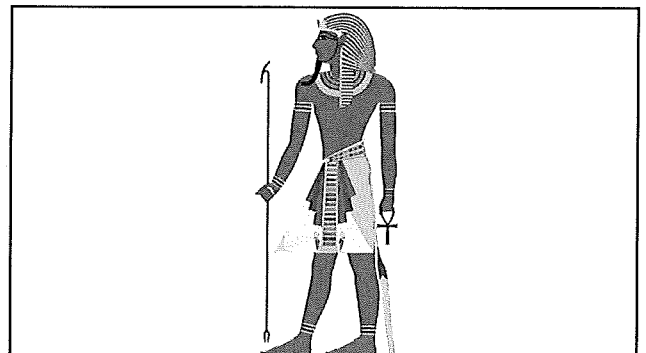
Actually, who are you not to be?

Nelson Mandela



Moses...

- Adopted
- Murderer
- Fugitive
- Foreigner



Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, **'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?**"

God said to Moses, **"I AM WHO I AM.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

"In the world of the Hebrew Scriptures a personal name was often thought to indicate something essential about the bearer's **identity, origin, birth circumstances, or the divine purpose** that the bearer was intended to fulfill."

- Michael Knowles

Okay, so...

God, who are You?

(what's your name... your identity... your nature)

Better question, Moses.

I am who I am.

(whatever I am, I will be)

My name is Yahweh... now and forevermore.

Yahweh...

- YHWH – 'He is'

- 3rd person of 'I am' (*Ehyeh*)

- The title 'Lord' (*adonai*) replaced the name 'YHWH' among the Israelites over time

- Translated "the LORD" in most English translations

Why does God need a name?

Because He is not just *one god (elohim) among many*. He is the **one true Creator God – alone worthy of our worship!**

In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. **Everybody worships.** The only choice we get is *what* to worship.

David Foster Wallace

Jesus is LORD...

Jesus is Yahweh in flesh and blood!

"I am the LORD [Yahweh]. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty [El Shaddai], **but by my name the LORD [Yahweh] I did not make myself fully known to them.**"

Exodus 6 v 3

For Jesus and all the writers of Scripture, the starting point for all theology is the realization that:

we don't know what God is like, but we can learn.

But to learn, we have to go to the source.

*And that means **we need revelation.***

- John Mark Comer

Progressive revelation

It's not until Moses is on top of Mount Sinai that we get **the full, complete answer** to his question about the meaning and significance of God's name.

- John Mark Comer

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and **proclaimed his name, the LORD.** And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "**The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.**"

Exodus 34 v 5-7

“Yahweh, Yahweh,
**the compassionate
and gracious
God...**”

Compassionate (*raham*) = the feeling a
mother has toward her infant child

Gracious (*hanun*) = to help someone out
in their time of need, to show grace

“Be merciful, just as **your
Father** is merciful.”



God's grace and compassion for
us is **the default, the baseline...**

Let us then approach God's throne of
grace **with confidence**, so that we
may receive mercy and find grace to
help us in our time of need.

- Hebrews

“slow to anger...”

- Slow to anger = “long of nostrils”
- Patient, long-suffering
- Isn't volatile, quick to lose control
- Anger is God's *response* to evil in the world
- His anger is from a *parent-like love* for his children and is *completely just*
- e.g. Ninevah – 150 years before 'judgement'

Love – at least the kind of love Jesus talked about – often leads to anger. We get angry about things we care deeply about. Things we're passionate about. This is the kind of anger we see in Yahweh. **Anger that is patient, just, and unselfish – that comes out of a place of love.** Anger that comes from a Father who cares about his kids.

– John Mark Comer

“abounding in love and faithfulness...”

- Love (hesed) = steadfast love, unending love, covenant loyalty
- Faithfulness (emet) = truth, trustworthy
- Together, the two help define each other

Yahweh is LOYAL... He never abandons His people.

The rest of the Old Testament (post-Abraham), really the entire Bible, is about **Yahweh faithfully keeping His covenant** with Abraham's family, and Israel failing miserably on her end.

- John Mark Comer

*Jesus takes all our failure – millennia of broken promises – and he drags it to the cross, absorbing it in his death and then breaking its hold over humanity through his resurrection... **Yahweh made a promise, and he was faithful to the point of death...** And it's because of Yahweh's love and faithfulness that we can look forward to a world set free from the entropy of death.*

- John Mark Comer

God's promise = to bless the world through His people

(not health, wealth + happiness)



"maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

I am not another being among beings. I am the ground – the source – of being itself. I cannot be defined by any earthly labels. I exist outside and beyond all such categories. I am Creator God. Before time and space, I was. And I was perfect and complete as I was. And I will always be. I AM.

- 'God has a Name' (John Mark Comer)
- 'With' (Skye Jethani)

