

Who is God?



FINDING SECURITY, CONFIDENCE, &
COURAGE IN GOD'S NAME

B1 Study | Who is God?

Finding Security, Confidence, & Courage in God's Name | Exodus 3:10-20



INTRODUCTION

Picture with me one of the oldest weapons for fighting and hunting: The bow and arrow. Now, before you think of a prehistoric caveman aiming at his lunch, picture yourself drawing an arrow from your very own quiver and lifting up a bow towards a target. Imagine what it would be like to carry it with you always. What if you had a quiver of arrows and a precise way for using those arrows to obtain victory over the obstacles along your path? What if, when you faced danger you had the courage and wisdom to come out of the other side triumphant? What if, when you had a need, it was met? What if.

While we don't have a bow and quiver full of arrows to give you (how epic would that be?), this study will equip you with effective weapons for overcoming obstacles and satisfying needs that come into your view. In this B1 Study, you'll find security, confidence, and courage for the battles ahead in **God's name**. God has many different names— each like an arrow we can pull out from our Bibles and use for whatever life throws at us. When we speak of who God is, we are declaring victory over fear, pain, anxiety, our needs, and thoughts of failure. With something as strong and secure as the Gospel of Jesus (the message of hope!), we have a sure-fire way to align with the truth of **Who God Is**. But who is God? Take heart. We are not the only ones who ask this question!

PAUSE AND REFLECT: What are you hoping to take away from this study?

SECTION ONE | I AM WHO I AM

In Exodus 3:13, Moses asks the God of the universe His name, and God replies with the most astounding answer, "I AM WHO I AM." Instead of answering with His name, God answered with the meaning of His name. Maybe because He knew that's what Moses and his people needed to know most. God's answer was the fullness of the verb form "to be." More than just saying "I AM," God was also conveying, "I WAS, and I WILL ALWAYS BE." Interpretation of the ancient Hebrew language (the original language of the Old Testament) tells us that these words also indicate an "active" existence. God was telling Moses, "I not only exist, but I am actively working and moving."

Moses inquired of God's name just after expressing uncertainty in his ability to be the person God was calling Him to be. God's answer reassured Moses that what God was calling him to do wasn't dependent on his own ability. Just as God was with the men and women of old, God was with Moses, and that is all he would need. God is also with you and me when we are

nervous about a seemingly small thing or a big, risky thing that requires tremendous faith and courage. The God who was, is, and will always be is present, active, and working regardless of the circumstance or size of our situation.

DIG DEEPER: Read Exodus 3:10-20, the key scripture for this study. What stood out to you in this passage?

Jehovah Names of God

The name most used for God in Scripture is Yahweh. Translated today as Jehovah, it means “the existing one,” or “the Lord.” In this study, we are going to examine four instances in Scripture where Jehovah is paired with a specific characteristic of God:

Jehovah Jireh – the Lord is my Provider (Genesis 22:14)

Jehovah Shalom - the Lord is Peace (Judges 6:24)

Jehovah Rapha – the Lord is my Healer (Exodus 15:26)

Jehovah Nissi – the Lord is my Banner/Victory (Exodus 17:15)

Although these four names appear in the Old Testament, each of these aspects of God's being is fulfilled and granted to us in and through Jesus' death and resurrection. In John 8:58, Jesus declared that He is “I AM.” Jesus was, is, and will forever be Our Provider, Our Peace, Our Healer, Our Banner (Victory). He is the firm foundation upon which we can stand secure and strong. This view of God gives us the confidence and courage to be all He made us to be.

PAUSE & REFLECT: Consider each of the above names of God. Which one are you most looking forward to understanding better? What is it about that name that makes you want to learn more?

SECTION TWO | Jehovah Jireh

One of my favorite parts of history to learn about is the era of “hunting and gathering.” During this time, a tribe consisted of two groups: one that would “gather” their needs by hand and the other that would set out and hunt (usually with a bow and arrow!) Both would come back with provisions, food, and supplies for their family! I can't express enough how dire the need was for the hunters to always be equipped with their weapons. The accuracy of their shots and the consistency of their hunting were necessary for survival.

When you think of “needs,” what comes to mind? Maybe it’s the essentials: food and water. Health? Shelter? Education? Money? What comes to mind when you think of *generosity*? A generous person is a humble person; someone who does not think only about themselves and their needs but looks out for the needs of others. When it comes to generosity, we can think of many different types of people. Maybe you can think of people you know who have been generous to you. When it comes to generosity, do you consider the Creator of the world? The One who owns it all? The Richest One? God’s divine royalty makes his generosity miraculous. He is not far off. He is near and aware of our needs. Not only does he know about them, he longs to meet them. If “generous” is not an adjective you use regularly to describe the God of the Bible, let’s change that.

PAUSE & REFLECT: In what ways have you seen God provide for your needs most recently? In what ways do you struggle to believe that He will provide for your needs?

God gives generously to all and does not rebuke us for asking for anything (James 1:5). This is a truth we need to know, like the words of our favorite song! But “giving” is not just something he does. “Providing” is not just a chore he sets out to do when he sees a need.

Providing is a part of who God is. It’s his identity. We can call him Jireh, which means “The Lord will provide.” Where did this name come from? When God is introduced in the Bible as **Jehovah Jireh**, it’s not in the context of food, cars, or money. It’s actually in the context of one of the deepest needs a person can face: life in the face of death.

In Genesis 22, a man named Abraham is commanded by God to take his son, Isaac, to Mount Moriah to make a sacrifice to the Lord. (Sacrifices and the shedding of blood in the Old Testament were common for the forgiveness of sin and worship) “By faith Abraham, when God tested him, was willing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises of God spoken over Isaac was about to sacrifice *his one and only son*, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ (Hebrews 11:17-19) Abraham had faith that God would *provide* a miracle of some kind, and He did— God provided a ram caught in a thicket as a substitute sacrifice and saved Isaac’s life. Abraham named the mountaintop where this took place **Jehovah Jireh - the Lord is my Provider**. He did not make his trial, his need, or his obedience the focus of his worship. He wanted God’s character to be remembered. What if, when we were face to face with a trial or need, we pulled out Genesis 22:14 and declared, “Jehovah Jireh. The Lord will Provide.”

Let’s return to our key scripture for this study and look at Exodus 3:17 ESV. Fill in the blank.

Jehovah Jireh told Moses he would provide for the Israelites “a land

This shows us that the Lord cares for our physical needs, like food, water, and the essentials of life. It's also important to point out that sometimes things we deem as "needs" don't align with what God believes are "needs." Jehovah Jireh is not a name we use to get what we want. It's a name we rely on to meet our needs. It's the name we speak to glorify God above our struggles and lack. It's the name we declare when we are fearful, anxious, lonely, weak, or discontent. It's the name we say to remind us that our deepest need in this life is Jesus' sacrifice. "For God so loved the world that *He gave* His only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Every bow has an arrow rest. Jesus is where our arrow of God's provision rests. If we attempt to say "the Lord will Provide," apart from remembering and honoring Jesus, our weapon is useless. We will always miss the mark. But with the hope of who Jesus is, God, our Provider, has fully equipped us!

DIG DEEPER: Read the story of Abraham & Isaac in Genesis 22:1-18. What stands out to you in this passage?

What has the potential to become an idol in your heart, something you're tempted to love more than God? What does it look like to love God more?

SECTION THREE | Jehovah Shalom

Have you ever felt small, insignificant, or incapable? Throughout the Bible, we can find person after person who could empathize with those kinds of feelings. One of those people was a man named Gideon. You can find the story of God calling him to courage in Judges 6: 11-24. The Israelite people had been under the oppression of the Midianites for some time when an angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon to inform him that He was God's chosen instrument to deliver the people.

Gideon saw himself as the least in his father's house and part of the weakest clan in Israel. Maybe you can relate to feelings of thinking you lack in significance and importance. What's remarkable here is that God did not see Gideon the way Gideon saw himself. He did not recognize him as "weak and small," quite the opposite. He addressed him as a "mighty man of valor." Upon realizing who was speaking to him, Gideon built an altar and called it **Jehovah Shalom, the Lord is Peace.**

Let's return to our key scripture for this study and look at Exodus 3:11 -12 ESV. Fill in the blanks.

But Moses said to God, " _____ to Pharaoh and bring the children out of Egypt. He said, " _____, and this shall be a sign

for you, that I have sent you when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Just as it was with Moses, it also was with Gideon, and it also is with you. It didn't matter who Gideon thought himself to be. What mattered was what God thought of Him and that God would be with him and for him. The Lord gave Gideon peace over his fear. This peace became the source of his courage to walk in God's plan for him. When you need peace, remember that *the Lord is Peace*. Pull out the arrow named “Jehovah Shalom” and aim it at your fear.

DIG DEEPER: Read the story of Gideon's call in Judges 6:11-24. What stands out to you in this passage?

Where is a place where you need courage? Ask God to show you how He sees you and give you peace in place of your fear.

SECTION FOUR | Jehovah Rapha

Part of being alive means that there will be times when we experience physical ailments, emotional wounds, and relational difficulties. Maybe you are experiencing something like that right now and have sought out the help of a physician or therapist. It's likely that when you decided to seek the knowledge of this person, you trusted they would have answers for you and entered their office with hopeful expectations. During your visit, you likely described what was bothering you. They listened to you, and you listened to them. As you left, maybe they even gave you instructions to follow. Perhaps you have heard that God is a healer, but you aren't sure what it means to experience His healing. Similar to when you seek the help of a professional, it starts with time in His presence, telling Him what's bothering you, and listening to His answers.

PAUSE & REFLECT: What in your life needs healing? Tell God how you are feeling. Sit quietly in His presence. What is God saying to you about this?

In Exodus 15:26, The Lord declares, “**I am the Lord who heals you.**” In Hebrew, these are the words “**Jehovah Rapha.**” Just before this, He instructs the Israelites to “listen carefully to His decrees and do what is right.” Sometimes, to heal, we need to walk away from something

harmful, set a boundary, or put in the work to experience healing. He does not offer us a trade of obedience in exchange for good health, but He offers us Himself to us as our Healer. Time in His presence is healing. And He guides us and instructs us in what is good and right through our relationship with Him and through encouragement and instruction found in His Word.

Throughout the Bible, we see that it is God's character to heal. He cures disease (Psalm 103), mends broken-heartedness (Psalm 147:3), and saves us from our sin (Psalm 41:4). Jehovah Rapha heals the faithless (Jeremiah 3:22), our wounds (Jeremiah 30:17) and our land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

With a longing to see us made whole, God gave us the ultimate healing in Jesus. 1 Peter 2:21-25 tells us that Jesus suffered for us so that by His wounds we would be healed - physically, emotionally, spiritually, and relationally.

Let's return to our key scripture for this study and look at Exodus 3:16-17 ESV. Fill in the blanks.

The Lord, Father, and God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob says to Moses, "I have _____ and what _____ and I promise that _____ of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey."

God declares in Exodus 3:16-17 that He promised to bring the Israelites out of their misery. God had been watching over them and saw what was done to them. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He continues to watch over His people. He sees the things that have been done to us, and His promise is true: He brings us out of our affliction and into healing. When you see a need for healing, pull out the arrow named "Jehovah Rapha," and aim it at whatever is troubling you.

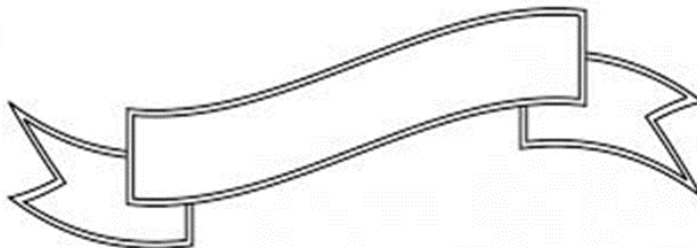
DIG DEEPER: Read Exodus 15: 22-27. What stands out to you?

In this passage, God makes bitter water sweet. What is something in your life that is bitter? What might God be asking you to do to help make it sweet? Ask God this question. Sit quietly with Him for three minutes. Set a timer. Write down what He puts on your heart.

SECTION FIVE | Jehovah Nissi

Banners have historically been used during battle to direct troops, identify friends and foes, and show allegiance to a particular cause. Today, banners can show loyalty to sports teams, political parties, causes, identity groups or advertise products or services.

Before we dig into more Scripture, design the banner that represents your life.



Read Exodus 17:15 ESV and fill in the blank.

“And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, _____.

After witnessing the Lord help Joshua defeat the Israelite’s enemies at Rephidim, Moses gave God the name **Jehovah-Nissi**, the **Lord is my Banner**. Although Joshua fought the physical battle on the field, Moses fought from a different position – atop a hill in prayer, where he raised the “staff of God” like a banner over his head. Whenever his hands were lifted, the Israelites prevailed, but when he lowered them, the enemy prevailed. When Moses’ hands grew weary, friends positioned at his side helped to keep his arms in the air.

We raise banners to remember victories. Maybe you have a banner of your favorite sports team winning a championship, and you’re reminded of their victory whenever you catch a glimpse of it. Moses called God his banner to remember that God was and will be his Victory. He’s ours, too. Being under His banner means we don’t fight our battles alone. He fights with us and for us. When you see your need to overcome, pull out the arrow named “Jehovah Nissi” and aim it at your circumstances.

PAUSE & REFLECT: Do you believe you are under God’s banner of Victory? Why or why not?

The fullness of God’s victory was secured for us in Jesus’ death and resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 says:

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let’s return to our key scripture for this study and look at Exodus 3:15 ESV. Fill in the blanks.

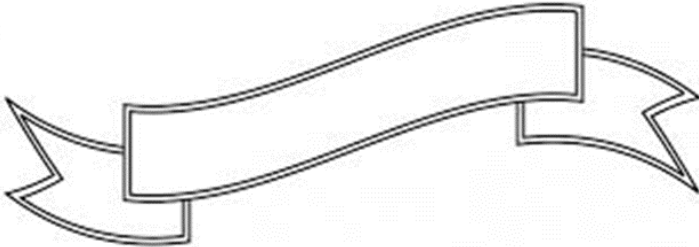
God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name _____, and thus I am to be remembered throughout _____ generations.

His name is a banner of Victory that stretches through the generations. To be “in Jesus” is to be covered under this banner. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the same God of victory who fights on your behalf today.

DIG DEEPER: Read Exodus 17:8-16. What stood out to you in this passage?

What battles are you currently fighting? Are they battlefield battles or hilltop battles? Who is fighting alongside you? How does your battle look different knowing the Lord is your Victory.

Now, design the banner below based on it would look like to declare that the Lord is your banner.



TAKEAWAY

We want to walk away from time in God's Word. What are you taking away from this study that you need to remember in the days ahead?

What is a step God is asking you to take?

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