

Lesson 1

I AM

WHO I AM

Before looking at the statements/claims of Jesus in the New Testament, let's examine an Old Testament statement made by God. Perhaps when one reads "God" in the Old Testament, his mind automatically thinks of God the Father. However, when one reads the term "God," it may also refer to God the Son or God the Holy Spirit. Each person in the Godhead is "God" and possesses the attributes of the Divine Nature. So, as one examines this term "I AM," he should not exclusively think of the Father, but also of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

1. God speaks to Abraham in Genesis 12:1ff, but the Bible does not tell us what term Abraham uses to refer to God. In Genesis 17:1, how does God introduce Himself?
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The Bible uses the term "mighty" to describe God and man. It uses the word "Almighty" only in reference to God. Job and his friends, who probably lived around the same time as Abraham, use this term 31 times. It is used 48 times altogether in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, it is used ten times: once in 2 Corinthians 6:18 in a quote from an Old Testament prophet and nine times in Revelation. In Revelation 19:6 (in the KJV and NKJV), the term is translated "Omnipotent." It is translated "Almighty" all other times.

2. What does the combination of terms, God Almighty, emphasize about the character/attributes of God and why is this important for Abraham to know (Gen. 17:1-8)?
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3. By what term is God known to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and what term do they not know (Exo. 6:3)?
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4. By what term does God want the children of Israel to know Him (Exo. 6:7)?
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5. When Moses encounters God on Mount Horeb, how does God introduce Himself (Exo. 3:6)?
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- A. Why is this identification important to Moses?
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6. God tells Moses He is sending him to Egypt to deliver His people Israel; what question does Moses say the children of Israel would ask (Exo. 3:13)? _____

7. What is God's answer (Exo. 3:14)? _____

8. What connection does God make with their past to help the children of Israel understand Who He is (Exo. 3:15-17)? _____

Note: the term "God" is from the Hebrew word Elohim. It is used 2,601 times in the Old Testament. "El" (means God) and "him" (makes the word plural) was used of the true God, false gods and judges. The term "LORD" is from the Hebrew word YHWH. It is used 6,521 times in the Old Testament. The Bible only uses this term to refer to the true God. Some translations (KJV, NKJV, NIV, and NASB) use the word "LORD" (all caps) to translate this term. The ASV uses the word "Jehovah" to translate this term.

9. What does the term "LORD" emphasize about the character/attributes of God and why is this important to the children of Israel? _____

10. How long is this term to be used by the children of Israel (Exo. 3:15)? _____

11. What is the 3rd of the 10 commandments (Exo. 20:7)? _____

Thought Question:

Why has the pronunciation of the term YHWH been lost? _____
