

UNDERSTANDING YAHWEH

(A Study of Leviticus)

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UNDERSTANDING YAHWEH INTRODUCTION

9/28/2010 (Sessions 1-2)

- Yahweh reveals Himself to those who want to know Him.
- Yahweh makes Himself known primarily but not exclusively through the scriptures.
- To understand Yahweh requires knowledge plus first-hand experience.
- God manifests Himself by His grace and mercy.
- Understanding Yahweh is restricted because of our human limitations and His boundless exhaustiveness. He is too big and we are too small.

Yahweh Reveals Himself to Those Who Want To Know Him

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Psalm 42:1 and 2 Water is not a luxury but an absolute necessity. His soul, his very self, his deepest life, was insatiable for a sense of the divine presence. His heart was he must drink or die. Thirst can be temporarily satisfied but it is also a perpetual appetite.

Psalm 63:1-8 You can ask God to give you desire for Him

Psalm 37: 4

Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Amos 8:11-13 In Amos' day this was a just retribution on those who did not want to hear Yahweh's' prophets. Those without desire will never see or know Yahweh.

Our focus determines what we experience and do not experience in any given moment.

Yahweh Makes Himself Known Primarily But Not Exclusively Through The Scriptures.

Everyone has opinions about God. The majority of people come to their conclusions based upon information received from outside the scriptures, which is why precise and accurate understanding is missing. God makes Himself known through the scriptures.

To Understand Yahweh Requires Knowledge Plus First-Hand Experience.

Ephesians 1:16-19 God can give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

Colossians 1:9-12 We read the scriptures and pray for God to enlighten if we want to know Yahweh. We do not do this on our own terms

God Manifests Himself by His Grace And Mercy

No one deserves or earns the privilege to know Yahweh. Whenever someone gains understand it is due to His loving grace and mercy. To know Yahweh is the greatest gift we could ever receive.

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Psalm 34:14-20; 1 Peter 3:12

Understanding Yahweh Is Marginal Because Of Our Human Limitations And His Unlimited Exhaustiveness. He is too big and we are too small.

YAHWEH IS HOLY

The book of Leviticus magnifies the holiness of God.

Leviticus 11:44 and 45; 1 Peter 1:16 The word holy is used 76 times in Leviticus. Your definition of holy or holiness may be dreadfully different from God. All the attributes of Yahweh make Him Who is because He is holy He is loving, because He is loving, He is just, because He is just, He is merciful...

Leviticus 19:2; 20:7, 26 - Because Yahweh is holy he requires holiness. His ways are much different from man's ways. We live in a filthy world tarnished by the devil and sinful men. Are surrounding are so unholy we have difficulty discerning what is holy. We debate what is acceptable in society and pressure acceptance of all kind of unclean behavior as normal. Yahweh has no tolerance policy for many of the same things we accept as normal.

Leviticus 21:8 Because of His absolute holiness He is extremely different from man. What He says and what He does is quite often strange or odd to us because His base of operation is always holiness. If we are to gain insight about Him we must be meek and not make Him what we want Him to be. All idolatry emanates from the mind of man molding a god that fits with their understanding and desires. Idolatry did not cease after the Old Testament. It is just as alive now perhaps in a more subtle way.

Yahweh does not fit into your contrived view of Him. He is not what you make Him to be rather He is Who He says He is. He does what he says he will do and not what you want Him to do. You cannot control God as you may with people.

- Do you have the desire know God as He really is?
- Do you have the meekness to accept Him?
- Do you have the courage to see Him the way He really is?

Leviticus 22:2, 32 Yahweh's name is holy

Exodus 15:11; Psalm 99:5, 9; Isaiah 6:3 and 4; 1 Thessalions 4:1- 7; Revelation 22:11

UNKNOWN GOD

10/5/2010 (Sessions 3-4)

"Yahweh" God's name is used 281 times in the book of Leviticus. "God" ('Elohyim) is used only 46 times. The preference placed on "Yahweh" is consistent with the Old Testament.

Leviticus 11:43-45 - God identified Himself as Yahweh when He brought Israel out of Egypt. While in Egypt, they were exposed to many false gods and needed clear understanding that Yahweh was the one true God.

When Yahweh took Israel out of Egypt, it was a very significant time for a number of reasons, so He often reminded them of the event.

Leviticus 19:36 and 37 They could afford to be honest because the same God who brought them out of Egypt would care for them as they obeyed.

Leviticus 22:32 and 33 ...brought you out to be your God

Leviticus 23:41-43 the feast of booths was set up as a perpetual statute to remind every generation of the Egyptian exodus.

Leviticus 25:55; 26:13 and 45 I brought out ... that I might be their God... I am Yahweh.

Exodus 3:13-15

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM [hayah] has sent me to you.' "God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD [Yahweh], 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, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.](#)

The words "I am" are translated from the Hebrew word *hayah*, which is the "to be" verb associated with God's proper name Yahweh. *Hayah* was translated elsewhere in the Bible, 75

times in total, as: was, come to pass, came, has been, were happened, become, pertained, and better for thee. "I am" is a wise translation in this context because God is indeed always the existing one, the eternal one. "I am" is not God's name; rather, it is what He is. His name is stated in verse 15. The English words "the LORD" are the Hebrew word "Yahweh." God's name is Yahweh which means existing one, eternal one.

Exodus 6:2-8 People are called many things other than their name, such as mother, father, doctor, plumber, Mr., Miss, and Mrs. These titles reveal some aspect about the person but are not the person's name. God is called many things in the Scriptures, such as God ('Elohim), Most High God (Elyon), Almighty God (El Shaddai), and so on. All of these reveal some aspect of His magnificence, though His name is Yahweh. In the English Bible, "Yahweh" was translated "LORD" – with all capital letters.

Hosea 12:5 Ps 83:18; Isaiah 42:8; 51:15; Jeremiah 33:3 [Yahweh] is His name.

Leviticus 18:1-6 "I am Yahweh your God." This phrase is used 283 times in the books of Moses.

Leviticus 18:21 To worship Molech was disgusting because he was a false god requiring the sacrifice of children as part of the worship. Any connection with Yahweh and Molech would be profaning to His glorious name.

Leviticus 19:12 You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God....

Leviticus 20:3, 21:6:22:2, 32 and 24:10-17

Exodus 20:7

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

The substitution of "LORD" for "Yahweh" is believed to be due to the concern not to violate the third commandment, but the practical effect has been the loss of God's glorious name. God gives many instructions and commandments regarding His name; however, He never told people not to use His name. The Scriptures clearly and emphatically communicate the opposite. He wants us to know His name and to speak it with reverence and respect.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he magnified that which was and should always be of concern to those who love God. He said, "[Hallowed be Your name.](#)" Those who came before Jesus also acknowledged the holiness and sacredness of His name.

Isaiah said "Indeed, while following the way of Your judgments, O LORD, We have waited for You eagerly; Your name, even Your memory, is the desire of our souls."

He said O LORD [Yahweh], You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name

Jeremiah said "who shows loving kindness to thousands, but repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great and mighty God. The LORD of hosts is His name"

Ezekiel said, "My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel."

Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

Hosea said "Even the LORD, the God of hosts, The LORD is His name."

Zechariah said "And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one"

Malachi said "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the LORD of hosts."

Psalms 5:11 We are to love His name.

Psalms 7:17 Sing praise to the name of the LORD [Yahweh] Most High.

Psalms 34:3 Exalt His name together.

Psalms 66:2 "Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious."

Psalms 68:4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name.

Psalms 103:1 A Psalm of David. Bless the LORD [Yahweh], O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Psalms 105:1 Oh give thanks to the LORD [Yahweh], call upon His name

Psalms 105:3 Glory in His holy name.

Psalms 7:17 Praise the name of Yahweh

Psalms 45:17 I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations

Psalms 72:17 May his name endure forever; May his name increase as long as the sun shines

Psalms 102:12 O LORD [Yahweh], abide forever, And Your name to all generations.

Psalms 135:13 Your name, O LORD [Yahweh], is everlasting, Your remembrance, O LORD (Yahweh), throughout all generations.

Psalms 30:4 Sing praise to the LORD [Yahweh], you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name.

Psalms 66:2 Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.

Psalms 69:30 I will praise the name of God with song And magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalms 99:3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He.

Psalms 113:1 Praise the name of the LORD [Yahweh].

Psalms 135:1 Praise the LORD [Yahweh]! Praise the name of the LORD [Yahweh]; Praise *Him*, O servants of the LORD [Yahweh],

Psalms 135:3 Praise the LORD [Yahweh], for the LORD [Yahweh] is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is lovely.

Psalms 145:1 I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever.

Psalms 145:2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Psalms 145:21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD [Yahweh], And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.

Psalms 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD [Yahweh], For He commanded and they were created.

Psalms 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.

Psalms 149:3 Let them praise His name with dancing; Let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre.

GOD OF JUSTICE

10/12/2010 (Sessions 5-6)

- 1) Yahweh is just.
- 2) Yahweh always deals justly with humanity.
- 3) Yahweh commands His people to be just in everything.
- 4) Yahweh guarantees that justice will ultimately be achieved.
- 5) Yahweh rewards the just ones and punishes the unjust.

YAHWEH IS JUST

Deuteronomy 32:4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”

Yahweh is righteous and just, the standard setter for righteousness and justice, the guardian of justice, and the ultimate Judge for justice.

Psalms 48:10 Your right hand is full of righteousness.

Psalms 89:14-16 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

Psalms 119:137 Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments.

Psalms 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His deeds.

Psalms 7:11 God is a righteous Judge, And a God who has indignation every day.

Psalms 9:8 And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

Revelation 15:3 Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!

Revelation 16:7 Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.

Revelation 19:2 His judgments are true and righteous.

Yahweh authored laws for humanity that set the moral principles by which actions are determined as just or unjust. Man in a fallen state needs enforceable laws so that light, love, goodness, and righteousness may exist. God supervises enforcement of justice to a limited degree today and to an absolute degree at the end of the age. Yahweh is absolutely qualified to be the just Judge; whereas, man is completely inept.

Man has a minuscule mind compared to the One who created the heavens and the earth. (Romans 11:33 - "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!") We often wrongly interpret what is happening right in front of us. God who inhabits eternity and is everywhere present always rightly understands what is happening. We can only guess what is in the mind of someone else and often do so incorrectly. Yahweh always discerns correctly. (Jeremiah 17:9 and 10 - "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the LORD [Yahweh], search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.")

The depraved minds of godless men think evil is good. (Isaiah 5:20 and 21 - "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!") Today, the lines between good and evil, right and wrong, daily become more ambiguous. Yahweh's standards for righteousness are clear, definitive, and unchanging. Man is barely able to deal in the now; whereas, God remains faithful to the purpose of the ages with eternal perspective. He is the existing One, the eternal One.

We are very incompetent to understand God's enforcement of justice and are insanely foolish to judge it. Review Romans 9 - "Who are you, O man, who answers back to God?"

2 Peter 2:1-22

YAHWEH ALWAYS DEALS JUSTLY WITH HUMANITY

The most important matter taken up in the book of Leviticus is God's atonement for Israel through the sacrificial system. Five major sacrifices are described, which are followed by the regulations for the offering of these sacrifices. The primary point of the sacrifices was that the death of the sacrificial victim provided a substitution for the sinner. As such, the entire sacrificial system served also as a type of the death of Christ that would pay the penalty for our sins. Life was given for life! One cannot help notice the minute detailed instructions that Yahweh provided for the sacrifices and His strict enforcement thereof. We may rightly conclude the specifications are so because there is only one right way to attain forgiveness and atonement, and that is God's way.

The one who obeyed the instructions and trusted in God's substitute for sin was freed from penalty. The books of Romans and of Hebrews especially explain the typology and the results of the sacrifice of Christ.

Romans 3: 25 and 26 [KJV] Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Hebrews 9:1 and 10 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near... By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:19 and 20 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh

The sacrifice of Jesus was God's just way to redeem humanity and to make the believer just. Sacrificial substitution is the scarlet line of redemption that begins with Abel's sacrifice in Genesis and climaxes with the blood of the Lamb slain for all to provide eternal salvation in Revelation.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You (Jesus) to take the book and to break its seals; for You (Jesus) were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

The book of Leviticus, like no other, sets forth that the justice of God requires a payment for sin and that the sacrifice must be carried out exactly as God commands. He sets forth unbending laws, not guidelines, for atonement.

YAHWEH COMMANDS HIS PEOPLE TO BE JUST IN EVERYTHING

Leviticus 19:15, 35 - 37 To deal justly is a big deal to God and should be to us also.

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.
Proverbs 16:11; 20:10 and 23; Deuteronomy 25:13-16

Not only does Yahweh want us to deal rightly with others, He wants us to defend those who are being afflicted.

Proverbs 31:9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Isaiah 1:16-20 Seek justice.

Psalms 82:1-4

Leviticus 5:1 Far from the modern idea, it was the duty of a witness to come forward and give his testimony in the interest of truth and justice. In Israel, all the people were to be involved in seeing that justice was done. Not to witness was a sin.

Leviticus 5:2-6 Our righteous God requires a just response to sin. When the sin involves only the person sinning, the requirements are confession, offering, and the priest making atonement.

Leviticus 6:1-7 When the sin affects another person, God requires confession, restitution plus 20% to the injured party, offering to Yahweh, and atonement by the priest.

Jeremiah 22:3, 13-17

Zephaniah 2:3 Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger.

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

YAHWEH GUARANTEES THAT JUSTICE WILL ULTIMATELY BE ACHIEVED

John 5: 28 and 29

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Matthew 25:31-46

Isaiah 11:1-5 Christ will rule the world with righteousness.

GOD IS OMNISCIENT

10/19/2010 (Sessions 7-8)

Romans 11: 33-36 "Omniscient" means infinite knowledge, all wise, all knowing, all seeing. What kind of intellect is involved in the creation of the heaven and all that is in it and the earth with all that is on it and the sea and all that is in it?

Psalms 147:5 Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

Isaiah 40:12-28 The knowledge, wisdom, and power of God are so huge beyond the collective intelligence of mankind to comprehend. His understanding is inscrutable (which means not readily investigated, interpreted, or understood).

Yahweh Sees:

2 Chronicles 16:9 - For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.

Job 34:21 and 22 - For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps. There is no darkness or deep shadow Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.

Psalms 34:15 - The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry.

Psalms 139:23 - Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

Proverbs 5:21 - For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He watches all his paths.

Proverbs 15:3 - The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Psalms 139:1-24 Yahweh scrutinizes our path and is intimately acquainted with all our ways.

Yahweh Knows

Jeremiah 23:24 - Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him? declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

Hebrews 4:13 - And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

1 John 3:20 - God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

Psalms 44:20 and 21 - If we had forgotten the name of our God or extended our hands to a strange god, would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

Jeremiah 17:10 - I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

One of the very compelling aspects of prophecy is that God tells us what will happen before it happens, so when it does happen, we will believe that Yahweh is God.

Isaiah 46:9 and 10 God knows the end from the beginning.

Isaiah 42:8 and 9 - I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images. "Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim them to you."

Isaiah 48:3-5

Isaiah 14:24-28 In the book of Isaiah, Yahweh revealed His foreknowledge regarding the destruction of Israel, Judah, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, Tyre, and, in the end, the earth.

Daniel 2:22-ff God showed Nebuchadnezzar a vision about the world empires for the ages.

The Bible has countless records of God foretelling the future and the fulfillment thereof.

Genesis 3:15 prophesied about the coming of Christ and man's redemption; in chapter 6, God told Noah about the flood and the destruction of the earth; chapter 9, the curse of Canaan; chapters 12-15 revealed that Abraham would be the father of many nations; chapter 18, the birth of Isaac; 19, the destruction of Sodom; in chapter 25, Jacob would be the head of Esau; and so on.

Genesis 15:13 and 14 God told Abraham what would happen to his offspring in 400 hundred years, which took place to the exact day.

Jeremiah 29:10 and 11 When the Israelites were in captivity, Yahweh told them that in 70 years they would return to Israel.

1 Kings 13:2 and 3 Before Josiah was born, it was foretold what he would do. 2 Kings 22:1 - 23:15 and 16

Isaiah 44:28 This is prophecy regarding Cyrus, the king of Persia and conqueror of Babylon. He was the first ruler of Persia to make a decree allowing the Israelite exiles to return to Jerusalem. This was the first time Cyrus was named expressly and that was a hundred fifty years before the time in 550 B.C. when he began his reign. God is in control of the world not just Israel.

One of the most compelling reasons to believe that Jesus is the Christ is the many prophecies recorded in the Old Testament that he fulfilled. God foretold what would happen years before, which reveals that Yahweh has foreknowledge and Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

Acts 3:8

The things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

The character of God is unchanging, but that is not necessarily so with His will. Foreknowledge does not mean He always has exhaustively settled everything in the future. Without doubt, God determines some, but not all, of the future. Yahweh knows future events when He determined them or because they are an inevitable effect of past or present causes.

God's sovereignty over creation and lordship over history have been established. We understand God predestines and foreknows as settled whatever He sees fit to predestine and foreknow as settled. Future determinism, however, does not warrant the conclusion that God predestines and foreknows as settled everything about the future. The Scriptures depict the future as partly open. The future is literally settled to whatever degree God wants to settle it and literally open to the extent that God desires to leave it open to be resolved by the decisions of His creations.

Genesis 6:6 Could God authentically regret having made mankind if history were exhaustively settled and known by God?

1 Samuel 13:13 God intended to bless Saul and his household for many generations.

1 Samuel 15:10, 35 God changed His mind because of Saul's actions. Common sense tells us that we can regret a decision we made only if the decision resulted in an outcome other than what we expected or hoped for when the decision was made.

If God says He regretted a decision and if Scripture elsewhere tells us that God is perfectly wise, then we should simply conclude that one can be perfectly wise and still regret a decision. Once we understand that the future is partly open and that humans are genuinely free, the paradox (of how God could experience genuine regret over a decision He made) disappears.

Genesis 22:12-19 God did not know what Abraham would do before he did it.

Exodus 4:6-9 God had some uncertainty about how they would respond.

Exodus 32:9-14 Yahweh changed His mind due to the prayer of Moses.

Exodus 33:1-3, 14 Yahweh reversed His plan not to go with the Israelites into Egypt.

Deuteronomy 9:13-29 Moses' forty-day intercession altered God's intention to destroy Israel.

Deuteronomy 8:16 He gave them manna that He might test them.

1 Samuel 2:27-31 Yahweh changed the priestly line which He had planned to follow.

1 Kings 21:21-29 God's plans for Ahab were changed because he repented.

2 Kings 20:1-6 Hezekiah was given 15 years after he had been told that he would die. God changed because of the freewill choice of Hezekiah to repent and ask for help, so the future was not sealed.

Jeremiah 7:31

"They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind.

Jeremiah 19:4 and 5

"Because they have forsaken Me and have made this an alien place and have burned sacrifices in it to other gods, that neither they nor their forefathers nor the kings of Judah had ever known, and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing which I never commanded or spoke of, nor did it ever enter My mind;

Jeremiah 18:7-10 Some may think that God changing His mind denotes weakness; however, it is one of Yahweh's attributes of greatness.

Joel 4:2

He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

Joel 2:12 and 13

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in loving kindness And relenting of evil.

Gregory A. Boyd, author of the book, God of the Possible, on page 130 wrote:

“The problem, as I see it, is that since Plato, Western philosophy has been infatuated with the idea of an unchanging, timeless reality. Time and all change were considered less real and less good than the unchanging timeless realm. Time is simply the “moving shadow” of eternity, according to Plato. This infatuation with the “unchanging” unfortunately crept into the church early on and has colored the way Christians look at the world, read their Bibles, and develop their theology. We have thus been subtly conditioned to assume that possibilities, openness, change, and contingency are “beneath” God. As with Plato, we tend to assume that they are only aspects of the “lower” reality where imperfect humans live. *We* experience the future as somewhat open only because we are limited beings.”

“The Platonic and classical Christian notion that God (and therefore God’s knowledge) must be utterly unchanging contradicts” the Scriptures.

We must read what is written and stop interpreting things based upon our preconceived notions. When God says He did not know, He did not know. When Yahweh states He changed His mind, He indeed changed His mind. We cannot be afraid to believe Yahweh is and does or does not do what He says in His Word. He is who He is! We need to change our minds, not Him. When we accept Yahweh for who He really is, our understanding about everything will open up, and our faith will increase.

YAHWEH IS AWESOME

Deuteronomy 7:21; 10:17

You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.

For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.

Nehemiah 9:32

Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and loving kindness

GOD IS OMNIPOTENT

10/26/2010 (Sessions 9-10)

“Omnipotent,” according to the dictionary, means not limited in authority and power.

1 Chronicles 29: 11 and 12

Yours, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of you, and you reign over all; and in your hand is power and might; and in your hand it is to make great, and to give strength to all.

Genesis 17:1-8 Yahweh initially revealed Himself to Abram as Almighty God in the context of the great Abrahamic covenant.

Genesis 35:9-12 Yahweh, Almighty God once more addressed Jacob as, again with the context related to the great covenant.

Revelation 4:5-11; 15:1-8 A glimpse of the Yahweh’s throne room!

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, said the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments.

Revelation 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunder, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigns.

Revelation 19:14-16 And the armies which were in heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the wine press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his clothing and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 21:21-27 Almighty God in the New Jerusalem

Yahweh at War with Cosmic Powers

Genesis 1:1-10 Yahweh has power to control the waters. The earth was originally completely engulfed by water (the deep), but Yahweh pushed back the waters to make dry land appear.

Psalms 24:1 and 2

Psalms 104:2-13, 24-31

Proverbs 8:27-29

Job 9:8; 38:6-12

The Scriptures paint a picture of a worldwide age's warfare and the world to be inhabited by demons and engulfed by hostile forces that perpetually seek to destroy it. Order and good war against chaos and evil, and the explanation for the imperfect nature of the world and the destiny of an orderly world are determined by this war.

The warfare theme was also common in most ancient near eastern cultures. One prominent combat story has Baal, the chief god in Canaanite pantheon, battling the sea monster Yamm ("yam" means sea). Baal with the help of a sympathetic artisan, who fashions a weapon, is able to defeat and vanquish Yamm. Baal then proclaims, "Sea verily is dead, Baal rules." Britannica – "Yamm, (Hebrew: "Sea") also spelled Yam, ancient West Semitic deity who ruled the oceans, rivers, lakes, and underground springs. He also played an important role in the [Baal](#) myths. One day, Yamm's messengers requested that the gods surrender Baal to be a bondservant to Yamm. El finally agreed, but Baal refused to go and instead engaged Yamm in battle. Wikipedia states Yam is the deity of the primordial chaos and represents the power of the sea untamed and raging; he is seen as ruling storms and the disasters they wreak.

Psalms 29:3 and 10 The point of this statement is that Yahweh and no other god reigns supreme over the proud chaotic waters that threaten the foundation of the earth.

Psalms 74:10-17 The psalmist affirms that God's power is over the personification of chaos but also that the war still rages.

Job 7:12 Job is objecting to being treated like one of God's cosmic opponents, Yamm. The sea monster must be kept under guard.

Habakkuk 3:8-15

Isaiah 51:9-11; Psalms 77:16-20 Yahweh's deliverance of the children of Israel through the Red Sea as a type of Yahweh's cosmic battle with Yamm

Isaiah 27:1; Job 41:1-10; Psalms 74:12-17 Leviathan

Psalms 93

Spiritual War is Real and Still Present

Daniel 10:10-21 Spiritual war is raging!

Jude 1:9

1 Peter 3:18-20; 2 Peter 2:4

Revelation 12:1-17 There was a war in heaven, and there will be a war yet to come.

Until the very end, humans and angels have the freedom to exercise their will against Yahweh.

Revelation 20:7-10

Yahweh of Hosts

Joshua 5:1-9, 13-15 After reconfirming the covenant and participating in the Passover, the captain (ruler or prince) of Yahweh's host appeared to Joshua. "Host" (230 times in OT) means army or multitude. The same Hebrew word is also translated army, war, and battle. Yahweh is at war! Since Genesis 3 when man and Satan rebelled until the end of the age recorded in Revelation, the world is at war – evil versus good.

Joshua 6:1-5 They took the city because Yahweh of hosts battled for them. He is in charge of the armies of heaven and earth.

1 Samuel 17:45-47 David knew the battle was Yahweh's. In order for Yahweh of hosts to be victorious, someone must step up and fight on His behalf. The Israel army was frozen in fear because they did not relinquish the battle to Yahweh. They tried to do it themselves.

2 Samuel 7:18-8:1 Yahweh of hosts caused David His servant to be successful in conquering the nations around him.

1 Chronicles 11:9 - "David became greater and greater, for the LORD of hosts was with him."

2 Kings 3:13-24 By the mouth of Elijah, we are again told that Yahweh of hosts wins the battle. Scores of Old Testament records clearly show that Yahweh is omnipotent as LORD of hosts.

Psalms 24 - Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

Psalms 46:1-11 In the end, the war will end, but now it rages on.

Isaiah 1:9

Isaiah 2:12 For the LORD of hosts will have a day of reckoning Against everyone who is proud and lofty And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased.

Isaiah 9:19 By the fury of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up, And the people are like fuel for the fire; No man spares his brother.

Isaiah 10:26 The LORD of hosts will arouse a scourge against him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and His staff will be over the sea and He will lift it up the way He did in Egypt.

Isaiah 13:4 A sound of tumult on the mountains, Like that of many people! A sound of the uproar of kingdoms, Of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle.

Isaiah 13:13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, And the earth will be shaken from its place At the fury of the LORD of hosts In the day of His burning anger.

Isaiah 14:22 "I will rise up against them," declares the LORD of hosts, "and will cut off from Babylon name and survivors, offspring and posterity," declares the LORD.

Isaiah 14:23 "I will also make it a possession for the hedgehog and swamps of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," declares the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, "Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,

Isaiah 14:27 "For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"

Isaiah 17:3 "The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, And sovereignty from Damascus And the remnant of Aram; They will be like the glory of the sons of Israel," Declares the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 10:5-19 To conclude that every war or battle is under the complete control of the Almighty suited his purpose; yet, it is a wrong conclusion.

Numbers 31:8; Re 2:14

Balaam tried to curse Israel, but Yahweh would not allow it. He figured out another way to attack Israel: by the women of Moab seducing the men to worship Baal.

Even with the undeniable historical evidence that Yahweh of hosts is Almighty and ultimately victorious, a very real war with intelligent opposing powers has been and continues to rage. In this war, evil does exist and prevails at times. The spirit beings and humans conduct evil strategy and counter measures that yield success for themselves.

The commonly accepted world-view is that God Almighty has meticulous, exhaustive control over everything that happens in the world. Classical-philosophical Christian doctrine (non-biblical) regarding God's omnipotence and its relationship to evil causes severe problems. Since we conclude rightly that God is perfectly loving and good and assume wrongly that He is absolutely omnipotent, the logical conclusion arises that a loving and good purpose must exist behind everything that happens even if it is evil. Many sincere Christians firmly believe that all things work together for good no matter how evil they may be. "God has a purpose for everything that happens." "God would not let that happen unless there was some great good in view." The practical ramification, whether conscious or subconscious, is mistrust or fear for Yahweh. We blame God for what His enemy, the devil, does and desperately search for some kind of rational reasoning to avoid doubting God's integrity.

The Bible reveals a warfare worldview in which Yahweh does not have complete control; rather, good and evil are at war with one another. "This assumption obviously entails that God is not now exercising exhaustive, meticulous control over the world. In this worldview, God must work within and battle against other created beings. While none of these beings can ever match God's power, each has some degree of genuine influence within the cosmos.

The third chapter of the Bible already reveals that both humans and angels have the freedom of self-determination. They held the right to exercise free will even with evil as their choice of preference with all the ages devastating consequences. We have no biblical reason to conclude that Yahweh knew before time what they would choose or that He had exhaustive control over them or the power to stop them. We draw these conclusions because of the world-view that has been influenced by the philosophical musing of Plato and Aristotle, climaxing in the Neo-Platonic/Christian combination of Augustine.

James 5:1-ff We must realize God is still at war, and the battles are still going on. Nevertheless, in the end, the victory is assured, so we must be patient.

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

11/2/2010 (Session 11)

Exodus 3:14 The words "I am" are translated from the Hebrew word *hayah*, which is the verb "to be" associated with God's proper name, Yahweh. *Hayah* is translated elsewhere in the Bible (75 times in total) as: was, come to pass, came, has been, were happened, become, pertained, and better for thee. "I am" is a wise translation in this context because God is indeed

always the existing one, the eternal one. "I am" is not God's name; rather, it is what He is. The English words "the LORD" in verse 15 are the Hebrew word "Yahweh." God's name is Yahweh, which means existing one, eternal one.

YAHWEH MEANS EXISTING ONE, ETERNAL ONE.

Jeremiah 23:23 and 24 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD [Yahweh], "And not a God far off? "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD [Yahweh]. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD [Yahweh].

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Omnipresent implies two things – 1) Yahweh is in every location and 2) Yahweh is in every location all the time.

Psalms 139:1-16 God is omnipresent.

The sinful tendency of man, the man of the flesh, is to run from God and hide. Such was the case with Adam and Jonah – the former because of sin and the latter to avoid doing God's will. Yahweh is present everywhere all the time. Even in the darkest hour, we should run to and not away. He is always found if we acknowledge His presence. Our focus determines what we experience and do not experience in any given moment. Right now we can focus on Yahweh and commune with Him because He is present now.

To be conscious of Yahweh's presence in the current moment is the single most important task of the Christian life, and no discipline is more foundational or transforming than this one.

Brother Lawrence, Jean-Pierre de Caussade, Frank Laubach, and Gregory A. Boyd have all written material on this subject. I do not agree with their basic doctrine, but on this subject, they all provide helpful insight.

Frank Laubach suggests a game he called "Game with Minutes." This game challenges us to bring God to mind one second of every minute for one hour. He called it a game because he wanted it to be light and because he found it to be a delightful experience and an exhilarating spiritual exercise.

GOD IS LOVE

10/26/2010 (Session 12)

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 Yahweh chose Israel because He loved them and because He kept His oath to their forefathers.

Deuteronomy 10:14-22 Yahweh's relationship with Israel originated with Him by His choice.

Exodus 34:6 and 7 - "Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving kindness and truth; who keeps loving kindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Numbers 14:18 and 19 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.' "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your loving kindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

Isaiah 43:1-7

1 John 4:9 and 10 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.

We may be unaware of it, but we are all driven by a desperate need to feel like we matter. Gregory Boyd wrote - "One of the most fundamental aspects of the life we long for is our undeniable, universal need to experience worth and significance." Dale Carnegie said - "The desire for a feeling of importance is one of the chief distinguishing differences between mankind and the animals. If you tell me how you get your feeling of importance, I'll tell you what you are. That determines your character. That is the most significant thing about you."

Many things can make us feel worthwhile, at least for a time; our deepest hunger for significance, however, can only be fulfilled in rightly relating to Yahweh. This hunger is common to all and should drive us to Yahweh; nevertheless, far too often for far too many, it becomes the motivation for involvement with false gods. Whatever we try to derive our core sense of worth and meaning from is our god. False gods can be power, possessions, sex, fame, religion,

relationships, family name, ethnic heritage, national identity, sexual gender, profession, rebellion, and on and on.

GOD LOVES YOU IS THE REASON YOU ARE SIGNIFICANT!

Gregory A. Boyd wrote in his book, Present Perfect: “However successful we might be by the world’s standards – through money, wealth, power, fame – we always hunger for more. Regardless of how much we get, sooner or later we want more.

Most of us try to sustain the illusion that we’re self-sufficient by denying our emptiness. Yet, the symptoms are undeniable. For some, this inner emptiness is manifested in anxiety or anger. For others, it’s a gnawing sense of alienation, depression, or frustration. Still others experience it as relentless boredom or apathy toward life.

Some try to distract themselves from this hole-in-the-soul by obsessing about work, sports, politics, or a hobby. Others numb themselves to their inner pain with alcohol, drugs, or sexual addiction. But whatever relief such strategies offer, it’s temporary. Sooner or later, the painful hunger returns.

As long as we refuse God’s invitation and continue to buy the lie that life can be found outside of a relationship with God, we continue to think our problem is that we simply don’t have enough. If we had more of our idol, we imagine, or perhaps if only we tried a different idol, then we’d feel alive. It’s all a grand illusion.”

The true God, Yahweh, lives in the now, whereas the false gods live in the past or the future. Chasing the false gods always takes us out of the present time we can enjoy with Yahweh, our Father. Filling the hole, arriving at home in this foreign world, is realized in accepting and musing God’s love for you.

Ephesians 1:1-ff Tell yourself that you are loved, and provide your mind with biblical evidence:

- You are blessed with every spiritual blessing
- God chose you before the foundation of the world
- God purposed you to be His son
- You have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus
- Your sins have been forgiven
- God revealed the mystery to you
- God wants you to be with Him in the age to come
- You have an inheritance from God
- You are a part of His family
- You are loved

Love others

Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:34 'The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.

1 John 4:7-11 We must accept God's love for us if we are to love others the proper way. If we fail to keep the understanding of God's love for us, our attempts to love others can end up as another false god to fill the emptiness within our own souls.

A GOD OF JUDGMENT

10/26/2010 (Sessions 13-14)

Yahweh is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, always just and merciful; therefore, He is the perfect judge.

Psalms 9:7 and 8 "But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment, And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity."

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (KJV) "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil."

Isaiah 5:16 "...LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment, And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness."

Isaiah 66:15-16 "For behold, the LORD will come in fire and His chariots like the whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire. For the LORD will execute judgment by fire And by His sword on all flesh, And those slain by the LORD will be many."

Yahweh's Eternal Judgment

Genesis 3:14-19 God's first judgment and prophecy about His final one

Your Seed - the serpent's seed, the race of serpents which would include all those connected with him in the spiritual realm (demons) and humans who would connect with him.

John 8:44 “You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and stayed not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

Acts 13:10 “And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, you child of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”

1 John 3:8 “He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

Ephesians 2:2 “Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience:”

Her Seed – the woman’s seed, her offspring; first and foremost, with respect to this context and promise, the Lord Jesus Christ; secondly, all the members of Christ, all believers.

Galatians 3:16 “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He said not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to your seed, which is Christ.”

Galatians 3:19 “Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.”

1 John 3:9 and 10 “No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.”

Bruise Your Head and You Shall Bruise His Heel – the introduction of the great mystery that if Satan knew he would not have crucified the Lord Jesus. God’s plan of redemption is based upon justice and judgment. Satan and His seed will be destroyed.

John 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”

Romans 16:20 “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”

Colossians 2:15 “And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Hebrews 2:14 “For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”

Revelation 12:7-10 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brothers is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

Revelation 20:10-12 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

Yahweh’s righteous judgment as the just judge is that Satan and his seed (demons and humans that follow him) receive eternal destruction in the lake of fire. The guilty suffer the consequence of their transgression. Jesus has already paid the price or suffered the consequence for those who identify with him through faith. The believers because of Christ are acquitted, freed from their transgression and its consequences. In the end, they will receive that which God has always wanted for humanity in the Kingdom of God.

1 Peter 2:21-25 Evil and corrupt men used man’s faulty judicial system to condemn the only perfectly innocent man thereby unknowingly fulfilling the righteous judicial redemption for mankind. Their unjust act brought to pass God’s brilliant, predetermined, eternal justice.

Romans 3:21-26

Yahweh’s Past Judgments

Genesis 3:24 Adam and Eve had to be expelled from paradise because they would have lived eternally in their sinful state. They had to die for their crime so that the human race would not continue indefinitely in the sinful state.

Genesis 4:1-16 With Cain and Abel, we learn that the seed of the serpent (children of the evil one) disregard God’s commands and hold hostility towards those who regard Yahweh. The God

of judgment exercises His right and authority to execute judgment in the present. The unrepentant sinner is excluded from the presence of Yahweh.

Genesis 6:1-8 Sons of God refer elsewhere to angels - Job 1:6,2:1,38:7 and Daniel 3:25. The angels in the time of Noah are locked in prison (1Peter 3:18-20) apparently because they did something of grave significance. Some think that the angels are the "sons of God" and that they had sex and children with women producing very evil beings. Jude 6- " And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." I am not certain if this is so, but clearly whatever went on was very evil, and God judged the world and locked these spirits in prison until the day of their judgment.

Yahweh decided to implement judgment by arresting the demons and killing humanity; yet, both groups still have more judgment to come in the end. If Yahweh had not intervened, the devil and evil may have completely controlled and doomed the human race.

Genesis 11:1-4 They contradicted God's command recorded in Genesis 9:1: "God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." They concerned themselves with making a name, just as the people in the day of Noah did.

These early judgments still have impact on the world. Understanding Yahweh as we now do, we may rightly conclude that these judgments and the devastating consequences were not pre-known or predetermined.

Genesis 19 Yahweh's judgment against Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other cities again reveals that Yahweh discreetly exercises judgment as He determines. This judgment provides a type for the final judgment.

John 5:27-30 Although judgment has come on many in the past, final judgment in the end will come upon every place and every person from all time.

Matthew 10:15 "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city."

Matthew 11:22-24 "Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in *the* day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in *the* day of judgment, than for you."

Matthew 12:41 and 42 "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. "the queen of the south will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

Romans 12:17-21 Righteous people appreciate judgment upon guilty people. The innocent want justice to prevail because it protects their right to be free and righteous. Judgment is not a threat, rather a welcomed friend joyfully anticipated because wickedness ceases.

Isaiah 11:1-5 We long for the day when our King rules the world.

Daniel 12:1-4 All will awake – some to everlasting life and others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

God's Judgments are Relevant Now

Genesis 32:1-55 God's righteousness will ultimately come to pass, and quite often in this life, God's judgment is carried out for His faithful ones. Many are the records of God's intervention into the affairs of man – that is His judgment upon the righteous and unrighteous.

YAHWEH, THE FATHER OF YAHSHUA

10/26/2010 (Sessions 13-14)

The Name of the Son

Luke 1:27-33 Our Lord's name in Hebrew is *Yahshua*; in Greek, *Iesous*; and in English, Jesus. "Yah" represents Yahweh in songs and some compound words. *Shua* is from the Hebrew, which means salvation.

"Hallelujah" means praise Yah; Adonijah, Yah is my Lord; Abijah means Yah is my Father; Isaiah [Yeshayah] means salvation of Yah; and Jeremiah [Yirmyah], Yah has appointed.

Genesis 49:18 18 "For your salvation [shua] I wait, O LORD [Yahweh]."

Exodus 14:13 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation [shua] of the LORD [Yahweh] which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever.

"Yahshua" means Yahweh is salvation. In the 6th century, the masoretic priest changed the tetragrammaton [YHWH] to Jehovah, which also resulted in changing Yah to Yeh, which affected the spelling of Yahshua to Yehshua.

The Encyclopedia Americana contains the following quote on the letter J: "The form of 'J' was unknown in any alphabet until the 14th century. Either symbol (J, I) used initially generally had the consonantal sound of Y as in year. Gradually, the two symbols (J, I) were differentiated, the J usually acquiring consonantal force and thus becoming regarded as a consonant, and the I becoming a vowel.

It was not until 1630 that the differentiation became general in England." Note in the original 1611 version of the King James Version of the Bible there was no "J" letter in this Bible for because it did not exist. Jesus was spelled Iesous.

The Relationship of God and Jesus

Throughout the Old Testament, a definite and often reiterate emphasis is placed on Yahweh as the one true God. Although prophecy regarding the Messiah is also common, comparatively it receives much less emphasis. In the New Testament, Yahweh is still central, but much more

emphasis is placed upon His son as the progression of the Bible reveals God's purpose for the ages which includes redemption for mankind through the sacrifice of the perfect man.

Ephesians 1:1 and 2 - In the New Testament because of the work of the Son, Yahweh is most frequently referred to as Father. We have two separate and distinct beings to relate to: God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:3 - For Jesus, Yahweh is both his God and Father. Notice the very specific wording used in this chapter:

3) - Who [God] has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ

4) - He [God] chose us in him [Jesus]...that we would be holy and blameless before Him [God]

5) - He [God] predestined us to adoption through Jesus Christ to Himself [God] according to the kind intention of His [God's] will

6) - Praise of the glory of His [God's] grace which He [God] freely bestowed on us in the beloved [Jesus Christ]

7) - In him [Jesus] we have redemption through His [Jesus'] blood...according to the riches of His [God's] grace.

8) - Which He [God] lavished on us.

9) - He [God] made known to us the mystery of His [God's] will, according to His [God's] kind intention which He [God] purposed in him [Jesus]

10) - The summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.

11) - In him [Jesus] also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His [God's] will

12) - To the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His [God's] glory.

13) - In Him [Christ] you also...were sealed in him [Jesus Christ] with the holy spirit of promise,

14) - Who [which] is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His [God] glory

Set forth with simplicity and precision, God the Father gives blessings to believers through the Son, Jesus Christ. The holy spirit is an entirely different thing that serves God's purposes.

15) - Faith in the Lord Jesus progresses in the epistle.

16 and 17) - The prayers are directed to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory

18 and 19) - His [God's] calling, His [God's] inheritance, His [God's] power

20) - Which He brought about in Christ when He [God] raised him [Christ] from the dead and seated him [Christ] at His [God's] right hand in the heavenly

21-23) - God placed Jesus in this authoritative and powerful place at His right hand above all in the spiritual realm and the church. "Which is his [Christ's] body, the fullness of Him [God] who fills all in all." God accomplished what He wanted for now and the age to come through Jesus. Until the fulfillment of all things, Jesus remains at God's right hand as the head of the church; therefore, his lordship becomes our primary concern.

2:1-6 We were hopeless, but God being rich in mercy because of His great love made us alive in Christ. We are connected with Christ.

7) - In the age to come, God will show His surpassing riches to us in Christ Jesus.

13) - ...were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:18, 19 - For through him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.... In whom you also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The things that separated man from Yahweh were taken out of the way in Christ Jesus thereby creating a new relationship that had never before existed. We have access to God through Jesus in an unparalleled way. God now abides in us.

Ephesians 3:9-12 - And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Paul refers to himself as the prisoner of Christ Jesus [3:2] and the prisoner of the Lord [4:1], which gives us some insight as to how we should view ourselves in relation to Jesus Christ.

In chapter 4, the emphasis begins to swing toward the lordship of Christ.

7) - The measure of Christ's gift

8) - Christ ascended on high; he led captivity captive and gave gifts.

9 & 10) - He ascended and descended

11& 12) - He gave some...to the building up of the body of Christ

13) - Belongs to the fullness of Christ

15) - Grow up in all aspects into Him [Christ] who is the head, even Christ

4:17-6:23 The Christian's walk is centered in the lordship of Christ.

Christ's Authority

John 5:17-30 The Son gives life to whom he wishes; God has given all judgment to the Son; the dead will hear his voice; God gave to the Son to have life in himself; God gave him authority to execute judgment.

John 6:40, 54 Jesus himself will raise up the believers on the last day.

Trinity [Encyclopedia Britannica]

The Trinity is Christian doctrine, the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead.

Neither the word "Trinity" nor the explicit doctrine appears in the New Testament, nor did Jesus and his followers intend to contradict the Shema in the Hebrew Scriptures: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4). The earliest Christians, however, had to cope with the implications of the coming of Jesus Christ and of the presumed presence and power of God among them—*i.e.*, the Holy Spirit, whose coming was connected with the celebration of the Pentecost. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were associated in such New Testament passages as the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19); and in the apostolic benediction: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Thus, the New Testament established the basis for the doctrine of the Trinity.

The doctrine developed gradually over several centuries and through many controversies. Initially, both the requirements of monotheism inherited from the Hebrew Scriptures and the implications of the need to interpret the biblical teaching to Greco-Roman religions seemed to

demand that the divine in Christ as the Word, or Logos, be interpreted as subordinate to the Supreme Being. An alternative solution was to interpret Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three modes of the self-disclosure of the one God but not as distinct within the being of God itself. The first tendency recognized the distinctness among the three, but at the cost of their equality and hence of their unity (subordinationism); the second came to terms with their unity, but at the cost of their distinctness as “persons” (modalism). It was not until the 4th century that the distinctness of the three and their unity were brought together in a single orthodox doctrine of one essence and three persons.

The Council of Nicaea in 325 stated the crucial formula for that doctrine in its confession that the Son is “of the same substance [*homoousios*] as the Father,” even though it said very little about the Holy Spirit.