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THE GODHOOD OF JESUS – LESSON 4

“I AM”

We see in Genesis that throughout the day of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Noah, God was known to them as Elohim. He was only first revealed by His name Jehovah, or Yahweh (YHWH), TO Moses.

Moses also knew God initially only as Elohim, but that changed in a single day. That day as Moses was tending Jethro’s flock in the wilderness, a desert area, he saw a bush burning (Ex. 3:23) with fire but never consumed by it. As he drew near it, God spoke and told him to remove his shoes for this was holy ground. (Where God is present, all is holy.)

God again spoke to Moses and said, ***“I am the God (Elohim) of thy father, the God of Abraham...Isaac...and the God of Jacob.”*** God then commissioned Moses to go to Egypt to deliver Israel from slavery and lead them to the promised land.

Moses was very aware that the Israelites did not know who the God of their fathers was. They had 400 years of exposure to the pagan gods of Egypt. Moses asked God that if they question him about God, asking (Exodus 3:13), ***“What is his name?” What shall I say unto them?”*** God reveals for the first time His most holy name. God’s response was, ***“I AM THAT I AM.”*** (Exodus 3:14). God told Moses to tell them ***“I AM hath sent me unto you.”*** God revealed Himself this way as the eternally existent One.

Moreover, in Exodus 3:15 God said to Moses, ***“Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, ‘The LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) of your fathers, the (Elohim) of Abraham...Isaac...Jacob hath sent me.’”*** Some Israelites might have heard the name Elohim in connection with their fathers as passed down by oral tradition, but they did not know Him as Jehovah (Yahweh), the great ***“I AM”*** of all eternity, the creator.

When God revealed Himself as ***“I AM”*** that was the ultimate and most powerful identity of God. It revealed the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the ***“I AM”*** known to us as Yahweh or Jehovah, written in Hebrew as YHWH since their alphabet had no vowels like our alphabet contains.

Tomorrow we will look at the “I AM” statements of Jesus in demonstrating that He was the God who spoke to Moses and continues to speak to us today.