

VaYera (And I appeared) **Exodus 6:2 – 9:35**

This week we will begin the redemption process of Israel from the bondage of Egypt. These next chapters will tell us much about the Elohim that we serve. To this point in the Torah, we have mostly seen Him as an Elohim who interacts with **individuals**. Now He will introduce Himself as the Elohim who interacts with **nations** and with peoples.

Last week we talked about the revelation of His most holy personal **Name**, יהוה. He always was and always will be. He is the Elohim of the universe. He is also coming to fulfill the promises made to His covenant partners, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He has “**appeared**” for the purpose of revealing Himself as Savior and Redeemer.

Exodus 6:2 And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "**I am יהוה**.³ "I **appeared** to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as El Shaddai, but *by My Name יהוה* I was not known to them.

יהוה

Yud (י) -Heh (ה)-Vav (ו)-Heh (ה) – The personal Name of our creator God. It is not Lord or Adonai. The Name יהוה is used nearly 7,000 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. The very specific phrase “**I am יהוה**” is found 196 times according to my Bible Works program. This is the question. Why is it translated as **LORD** in our English Bibles? Why do most believers not even **know** what His personal name is? The reality is that most of the pagan gods were also called “**lord**”. **Lord** is just a term that is synonymous with “**master**”...a sign of respect, but not an actual name.

So what’s the big deal? Well, we need to know the **Name** of our Elohim these days because the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has a challenger named Allah. Many will tell you that יהוה, Allah, Buddha, etc. are all different names for the same God, but of course we know that is NOT the truth. God or Lord is a word like President. It is a generic **title** of an office, not the **name** of the person in office. יהוה is the Elohim of the Hebrew Scriptures. He is **specifically** the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Isaiah 45:21 ... Who has declared this from ancient time? *Who* has told it from that time? *Have not I, יהוה? And there is no other Elohim besides Me*, A just El and a Savior; *There is none besides Me.*²² "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* Elohim, and *there is* no other.²³ I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, And shall not return, That **to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.**

But isn't it at the **name of Yeshua** that every knee should bow?

Philippians 2:10 that **at the name of Yeshua every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth**, and of those under the earth,

His **Name** is a statement of His character. We learn of His character **through what He does and through what He says**. Scripture teaches that **יהוה** and **Yeshua are one**....they are **echad**.

John 10:30 "I and My Father are one."

Again we see this **oneness** in the prayer Yeshua spoke before His crucifixion:

John 17:11 "...Holy Father, keep through Your **Name** those whom You have given Me, that they may be **one as We are**.

Let's take another look at our beginning verses in our Parashah:

Exodus 6:2 And Elohim spoke to Moses and said to him: "**I am יהוה**".³ "**I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as El Shaddai, but by My name יהוה I was not known to them**.

In the name **El Shaddai** (translated as God Almighty), El is the shorter version of Elohim, which means "mighty one" and emphasizes His power and justice. Shaddai stems from a combination of shad (breast) and dai (enough), emphasizing His sufficiency as our **nourisher**. The children of Israel understood the name El Shaddai by the characteristics of **being cared for**.

Our Creator has been progressively revealing Himself not only through His words, but through His works. As mankind responds to the revelation, the level of intimacy increases. **יהוה** will be revealed through His works as the **compassionate Redeemer**, who sets His people free from slavery. And now, the **entire nation of Israel** will begin to relate to Him in **unity (echad)** as **Father, King, and Husband**...this is **יהוה**. It was not possible for the Patriarchs to intimately understand the Name of **יהוה** as they were not yet a nation.

Even more revelation came through the name of Yeshua. Yeshua made the relationship between the Creator and mankind about as personal as you can get. He became one of us. The death of the Messiah was the greatest picture of the justice of Elohim and the compassion of **יהוה**. In His death, sin was judged and all nations who responded were delivered from their bondage to sin. But it gets better! He became even more known to us...He left us with His Holy Spirit. But wait! There's even more!

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of Elohim and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His **servants** shall serve Him.⁴ They shall see His face, and **His name shall be on their foreheads**.⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp

nor light of the sun, for יהוה Elohim gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Baruch HaShem! Blessed be THE NAME!!

Now, let's look further at the statement in Exodus 6:2...I am יהוה (אני יהוה). We find this exact proclamation in the First Commandment. Did you know this is the First commandment?

Exodus 20:2 " I am יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Actually, the "Ten Commandments" are better translated as the "**Ten Words**". There **IS** a **command** to this proclamation, however. It is to **RECOGNIZE** the fact that **He is יהוה our Elohim...**the Elohim who "**brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**" This is the foundational principle that He is laying down for those who desire to enter into **relationship** with Him. Accept יהוה as your Elohim to enable your redemption!

Now relationship brings about an inner drive to **perform יהוה's** will and thus, a willingness to obey any commandment He may give. Torah is **ONLY** for those who have accepted the **First Word**. To insist that others follow Torah without **FIRST** recognizing that He is יהוה, the Elohim who brought us out of Egypt, is the truest definition of **legalism**. But if you are saved, the normal response is to **want to** follow them because you love Him. Following His commandments because you love Him is **never** legalism.

Now on to Exodus 6:4:

Exodus 6:4 "I have also established My **covenant** with them, to give them the **land** of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers.

Okay, what have we seen in Exodus 6:2-4?

- The Almighty is making Himself known as יהוה
- יהוה has to do with the redemption of a people from bondage
- יהוה has established His **covenant** with Israel
- The covenant promise is to give them the **land** of Canaan

Now all of these points will be inherent in what the **Name** of יהוה represents. Let's move on to see a clearer view of the redemption process:

Exodus 6:6 "Therefore say to the children of Israel: '**I am יהוה; I will** bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, **I will** rescue you from their bondage, and **I will** redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.⁷ **I will** take you as My

people, and **I will** be your Elohim. **Then you shall know that I am יהוה** your Elohim who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

These are the four “**I will’s**” of the Passover Seder. They are the basis for the four Passover cups that we share in the “remembrance” of our **Redeemer**. THIS IS ALWAYS WHAT REDEMPTION LOOKS LIKE:

- I am יהוה (We must recognize Him)
- I will bring you out
- I will rescue you
- I will redeem you with an outstretched arm
- I will take you as My people, and I will be your Elohim

The story is real and took place in **Egypt**, but **Egypt** is also a type. Throughout the rest of Scripture **Egypt** will represent **servitude**...a way of life that is NOT meant for the people of יהוה. It is a place from which we will cry out to be rescued. We were rescued from “**our Egypt**” by Messiah Yeshua, יהוה in the flesh. Therefore the list of “I will’s” in these verses also applies to us. He will bring us out of our place of bondage. He will redeem us, He will take us as a people, and He will be our Elohim.

Once a year, at Passover, **we live out** the entire redemption process through these four cups. Please don’t exchange the Passover Seder for a “Lord’s Supper” consisting of two small elements. And **it is PASSOVER, not Easter, that celebrates our freedom from our bondage to sin**. The enemy does not want us to see the ENTIRE REDEMPTION process...because at the end of redemption comes the final “**I will**” of verse 8:

Exodus 6:8 'And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you *as* a heritage: **I am יהוה** " "

Most believers do not catch this grand finale which will happen in the end times! **He is redeeming us to “TAKE US INTO THE LAND”!!** We are instructed by Messiah to do the feast of Passover as “a remembrance of Him”. **We are instructed to “experience” the past to learn of the future!** This is the teaching tool that He has selected so that we will know what to do!

An important part of faith in יהוה is to believe that **He will bring about everything that He has promised** through His prophets, even if we cannot possibly understand how this may come about. Do you think that the Israelites had trouble believing that the Elohim of the universe was about to move on their behalf in supernatural ways? We tend to look at the redemption process as happening only to individuals. We’ve been obsessed with getting people to “pray the prayer” in order to be saved **individually**. That’s been the grand finale. But Exodus 6:8 tells us that He will bring us **AS A PEOPLE** into the land. The verse says, “I will bring **YOU** into the land”,

but that “YOU” is plural in the Hebrew. Our faith must allow for Him to move in our midst once again!

We can see today that His plan has already been set in motion. As we begin to study our Hebrew roots and our identification with Israel, one of the first things that usually happens is that we become aware of the first Word... “**I AM יהוה**”, the Elohim who has delivered us from the land of Egypt. And I guess to make a long story short...ultimately where all this Hebrew roots movement is taking us is **TO THE PROMISED LAND!** Why is the land the culmination of what we see as the plan? The answer is simple and obvious: the faithfulness of יהוה to His promises demands that Israel possess the Land!

Genesis 12:7 Then יהוה appeared to Abram and said, "**To your descendants I will give this land.**" And there he built an altar to יהוה, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 26:3 "Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for **to you and your descendants I give all these lands**, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

Now back to Exodus for one more insightful verse:

Exodus 6:9 So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but **they did not heed Moses**, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.

The verse seems to beg the question...what exactly of what Moses said did they not listen to? To answer this, we will need to go to the book of Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 20:7 "Then I said to them, '**Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am יהוה your Elohim.**'⁸ "**But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt.** Then I said, 'I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.'

When יהוה told the people that He was their Elohim in Exodus 6:6, according to Ezekiel 20:7 this included **the COMMAND to rid themselves of everything having to do with Egyptian culture.** This is what He wanted them to do to prepare themselves for their **redemption!** We did not read about this in Exodus. But we see here in Ezekiel, that **THEY DID NOT OBEY!** We also see that יהוה was very angry with them and wanted to destroy them! But look what happens:

Ezekiel 20:9 "**But I acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to**

them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.¹⁰ "Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.

Redemption continued despite the disobedience of the people, but it was only **for the sake of His Name!** For the sake of His Name, it was imperative that He follow through with His Promises. And it appears that He was also concerned about the Gentiles who also **HE HAD MADE HIMSELF KNOWN TO!** It seems that they too had the chance to attach themselves to Israel and their Elohim in order to be redeemed. And don't miss that He will take them out of the land of Egypt, to the wilderness in order to teach them. The wilderness, by its very Hebrew meaning is the "place of the Word"!

Now this could go on and on with the Name of יהוה since it is mentioned nearly 7,000 times, but we will end with some **end time verses** from Ezekiel. Notice the same "**I will's**" appear as in Exodus. We have looked at these verses in the past as the New Covenant, but obviously these Promises have a future fulfillment which **includes taking us to the Land.** His Plan will be the same in the **end** as it was in the **beginning** (Isaiah 46:10):

Ezekiel 36:22 " Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Adonai יהוה: "I do not do *this* for your sake, O house of Israel, but **for My holy name's sake**, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.²³ "And **I will** sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and **the nations shall know that I am יהוה**," says Adonai יהוה, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. **24** "For **I will** take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and **bring you into your own land.**²⁵ "Then **I will** sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; **I will** cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.²⁶ "**I will** give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; **I will** take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.²⁷ "**I will** put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.²⁸ "**Then you shall dwell in the land** that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and **I will** be your Elohim.²⁹ "**I will** deliver you from all your uncleanness. **I will** call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.³⁰ "And **I will** multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations.

And just for your encouragement:

Ezekiel 39:7 "So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not *let them* profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that *I am יהוה*, the Holy One in Israel.⁸ "**Surely it is coming, and it shall be done,**" **says Adonai יהוה.** "**This is the day of which I have spoken.**

Baruch HaShem יהוה!

Shabbat Shalom, **Ardelle**

P.S. Just for fun:

י ה ו ה

Yud (י) – hand – symbolizes **power** and **strength**:

1 Chronicles 29:12 Both riches and honor *come* from You, And You reign over all. In **Your hand is power and might**; In Your hand *it is* to make great And **to give strength to all**.

Vav (ו)– nail

Hey (ה)– to reveal, grace. There are two **hey's** in The Almighty's Name. Yeshua was revealed once when He came to do the work of salvation. He will come again as our King!

י ה ו ה

י ה ו ה
(Yehuda, Jews)

Dalet (ד) means door. The tribe Yeshua came from was Yehuda. He was the door (ד) in the holy Name of יהוה.
