

MESSAGE TWO: JEHOVAH AND ADONAI

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Exodus 3:10-15 (NASB)

10 Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain."

13 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" 15 God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons 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 forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

Genesis 15:1-8 (NASB)

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." 2 Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir." 4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." 5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it." 8 He said, "O LORD GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?"

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on God's names Jehovah and Adonai

is to help you understand that He is the eternal, unchangeable, and sovereign Owner of everything and to help you trust that His will for you is good.

INTRODUCTION:

A little boy in school was drawing a picture, and the teacher came over to him and asked, "Son, what are you drawing?" The boy said, "Well, I'm drawing a picture of God." She said, "You can't draw a picture of God, because no one knows what God looks like." And the little boy said, "Well, they will when I'm finished."

Everybody has their view of what God looks like. If I handed each of you a sheet of paper, and you tried as best you could to draw His identity, there would be many different expressions of how we perceive God.

In the Old Testament God prohibited His people from drawing or carving any images of Him because people have a tendency to misrepresent Him. Any picture you draw of God will be a poor rendition. And the many pagan people surrounding Israel not only created poor images of their gods but also worshiped them. So God, desiring His people to be holy and completely different from their pagan neighbors, prohibited them from trying to represent Him in visual form.

In this message, as we look at two more of God's names—Jehovah and Adonai—I would like to help you understand the nature of God and His true identity, not so that you can draw a picture of Him but so that you can worship and trust Him.

SERMON POINTS:

1. UNDERSTAND THAT JEHOVAH IS PRESENT WITH YOU IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE.

- The name Jehovah, which means He is, reveals that God is eternal (Exodus 3:14).
 - God has always existed because He is the eternal Creator who created time itself.
 - The tense of the verb am is present tense, which shows that Jehovah will be with you at all times, always ready to help you.
- The name Jehovah shows that God is a Person who

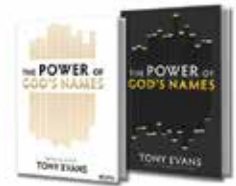
our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



wants to relate to His people.

- When God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and to bring God's people out of Egypt, Moses wanted to know God's name (Exodus 3:13).
- In revealing His personal name to Moses, God proved that He wanted to build a relationship with Moses and with the Israelites.
- The name Jehovah proves that God is self-existent.
 - God revealed His name to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14).
 - God's existence doesn't depend on anyone or anything else. He doesn't owe His existence to parents or another creator, but He exists in Himself.
 - God is the only completely self-sufficient and self-generating Being in the universe.
- The name Jehovah illustrates that God doesn't change.
 - If God is self-existent and eternal, then His essence and being must also be changeless over time. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
 - God's character and attributes are the same at every point in time, from eternity past to eternity future.
 - God, who is the Creator and Sustainer of the stars and galaxies, doesn't change. Even though we experience shadows as Earth rotates, God's character and essence remain consistent outside Earth's change in position (James 1:17).
 - Even the Bible verses that say God repented or changed His mind don't mean that His essence or character changed but that God adjusted His actions (for example, His judgment) to the sin or rebellion of the people He created (Genesis 6:6).

2. REALIZE THAT BECAUSE JEHOVAH IS THE SELF-REVEALING ONE, HE WANTS TO MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN TO YOU.

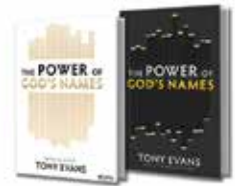
- Jehovah often reveals Himself in the midst of confusing or challenging circumstances.
 - When Jehovah appeared to Moses in a flaming bush that did not burn up, Moses probably felt confused (Exodus 3:1-2).
 - Moses' curiosity caused him to stop and look at the bush. That's when Jehovah called Moses'

name and told him it was time to lead His people out of Egypt (Exodus 3:3-4).

- Jehovah told Moses to take off his shoes and respect the holy ground he stood on to remind Moses that He was in control (Exodus 3:4-5).
- When Moses turned to Jehovah in the burning bush, Jehovah gave him a new plan and purpose for his life.
- Jehovah revealed Himself personally when He created in the beginning (Genesis 2).
 - By planting a garden for Adam, Jehovah revealed Himself as a loving provider (Genesis 2:8).
 - By providing a companion for Adam in Eve, Jehovah revealed Himself as a caring God (Genesis 2:18).
- Satan doesn't want people to know God personally as Jehovah.
 - Even though the LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, when the serpent tempted Eve, he dropped God's personal name Jehovah (Genesis 3:1-4).
 - Satan wanted Eve to forget that she had a relationship with Jehovah, because then it would be easier for her to disobey Him.

3. MAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW JEHOVAH.

- Getting to know Jehovah takes time.
 - After spending lots of time with Jehovah in the tent of meeting, Moses wanted to know God more (Exodus 33:7-11).
 - Moses asked to see God's glory, so Jehovah revealed His name and His character to Moses (Exodus 33:18-23).
- To get to know Jehovah better, we have to make our relationship with Him our priority.
 - The apostle Paul made his relationship with Jesus Christ his top priority in life (Philippians 3:7-11).
 - Paul willingly walked through suffering and difficulty in order to get to know new facets of Christ's character as the sovereign, caring, loving Jehovah.



4. UNDERSTAND THAT ADONAI IS THE OWNER OF EVERYTHING YOU POSSESS

- Adonai reveals Himself as the Owner of everything.
 - The psalmist acknowledged that the entire earth belongs to Adonai (Psalm 97:5).
 - Adonai owns everything on earth, from the cattle and the birds to you and me (Psalm 50:10-12).
- Because Adonai owns everything, He is responsible for everything.
 - When we submit to Adonai as the Owner of our lives and of everything we have, we can trust that He will take responsibility for it.
 - Adonai expects us to take responsibility for our lives too. For example, when Sarah called her husband, Abraham, adonai (lord), she acknowledged his responsibility over their family (1 Peter 3:6).

5. TRUST IN ADONAI'S TIMING.

- Abraham had to trust that Adonai, the Owner and responsible One, could fulfill His promise to build a great nation through Abraham's offspring.
 - God promised Abraham that He would make of him a great nation (Genesis 12:2).
 - But 10 years later, the aging Abraham still didn't have any children (Genesis 15:1).
 - Though Abraham trusted God's promise, he didn't understand His timing since Abraham and Sarah were both beyond their childbearing years (Genesis 15:2).
 - Adonai reaffirmed His promise to Abraham. Abraham believed His word, and as a result of his faith, God considered Abraham righteous (Genesis 15:4-6).
- Moses trusted Adonai to equip him to carry out his task.
 - When God called Moses and commissioned him to deliver Israel from Egyptian slavery, Moses felt inadequate to face Pharaoh (Exodus 4:10).
 - Adonai promised to take responsibility for His plan to deliver His people through Moses (Exodus 4:11-12).

6. REMEMBER THAT ADONAI IS SOVEREIGN IN YOUR LIFE, AND HIS WILL REIGNS.

- Adonai, the Owner and responsible One, has the power to accomplish His will.
 - Adonai told Gideon to go and defeat Midian

with an army of only three hundred men to prove that He had the sovereign power to accomplish His will (Judges 7).

- Gideon chose to trust God, and as a result, his faith grew (Judges 8:23).
- Adonai is the Ruler who reigns over all human authorities.
 - When Judah's human king, Uzziah, died, Isaiah mourned and probably wondered where God was (Isaiah 6:1).
 - Adonai graciously revealed to Isaiah His sovereignty not only over Judah but also over the entire earth (Isaiah 6:1-4).
 - Faced with Adonai's sovereignty and holiness, Isaiah realized his sin, received forgiveness, and agreed to share God's message of judgment and restoration (Isaiah 6:5-8).
- Adonai is in sovereign control and will fulfill His will as He sees fit.
 - King David made plans to build God's temple in Jerusalem, but Adonai told David that his son, not David, would build the temple (2 Samuel 7:1-17).
 - David recognized Adonai as the Sovereign One, so he remained humble before Him and submitted to His will (2 Samuel 7:18-29).
- Whenever Adonai wants to claim ownership in our lives, He holds something back in order to teach us to trust Him.
 - God told Adam and Eve they could eat from any tree in the garden except one—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17).
 - God commands Christians to give to Him financially in order to remind us that He owns everything and that He will provide for us (Matthew 6:25-33; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

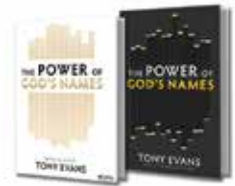
7. CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS ADONAI IN YOUR LIFE.

- Jesus Christ is Lord, Adonai, over everything (Psalm 110:1).
- Jesus revealed Himself as Adonai to Paul as he traveled on the Damascus road, on his way to persecute Christians (Acts 9:1-6).
- The apostle Paul submitted to Jesus as Adonai in his life, and Paul's entire life testified to Jesus' sovereignty and grace



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- Christians must not only believe that Jesus is the Son of God but also submit our hopes, dreams, finances, relationships, and plans to Him (Romans 10:9).
 - When we surrender to Jesus as Adonai, we will begin to see Him carry out His will for our lives.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

MAKE GETTING TO KNOW JEHOVAH A PRIORITY: When a guy really cares about a girl, he makes getting to know her a priority. He calls her, takes her out on dates, considers her likes and dislikes, and expresses his feelings for her. But if a guy says, "I want to get to know you," but he never calls and never spends time with you, that guy is lying! In the same way, if Christians say they want to get to know Jehovah, but they don't spend time with Him, talk with Him, worship Him, and obey Him, they are lying.

SUBMIT TO ADONAI'S WILL: Everybody believes in God and recognizes His creatorship, but many don't submit to His lordship. It's like a cowboy breaking a wild stallion. He buys the wild stallion, so he owns it. The only problem is that the stallion doesn't want anybody on its back. So the cowboy gets on the horse's back to tame it. But the rebellious horse doesn't want anybody telling him what to do, so it bucks until it throws the cowboy off. You know what the cowboy does? He gets right back on its back until the stallion submits. Many of us can't hear a word from God because every time God wants to get on our back, we try to buck Him off. We try to hold on to the reins of our lives. But because He owns us and because He loves us, He won't leave us alone until we learn to surrender to and trust Him.

DEED YOUR LIFE TO ADONAI: If you own your home, you have a deed showing that the house belongs to the bank until you pay for the house. Because Adonai owns everything, including you and me, let's deed our lives, our relationships, our finances, and our futures over to Him and trust that He will lead us according to His will.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

WORD STUDY ON ADONAI: It's found over three hundred times in the Bible, and its meaning is very interesting. The word "adonai" means to own or to be the master of. The background of the word adonai was a master who had a slave or slaves. He not only owned them but also bore responsibility for them. He was to provide for them, protect them, and guide them. So what he owned, he took responsibility for. That meant the slave had somebody, if he was a good adonai on the human level,

who would take responsibility for the servant. In fact, when you read the Bible, particularly in the New Testament, the apostles called them bond servants or bond slaves of Jesus Christ. That is, Jesus Christ owned them.

YAHWEH, OR JEHOVAH, IS THE EVER-PRESENT HELP TO HIS PEOPLE:

Although the name Yahweh refers to God's eternal existence, in Exodus 3 Yahweh wanted to help Moses understand that He would be present as Moses stood up to Pharaoh. God sent Moses in response to His people's anguish as they cried out to Him from under Egyptian oppression (Exodus 3:7-8). Wanting to help and deliver His people, Yahweh promised to be Moses' ever-present help as he led the Israelites out of bondage. So Yahweh is not only the everlasting God but also the ever-present God who desires to help His people.

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you understand that Jehovah is the personal, eternal, and unchangeable God.

This sermon will help you entrust your life to Adonai's hands.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"When God wants to make a special point about Himself, He is JEHOVAH—the Self-Revealing One!"

"When you're in your mess, ... don't just look at it, look for Him because He's about to call your name and introduce you to another dimension of JEHOVAH."

"You want to know Elohim also as Jehovah because you want to know that the powerful God is talking to you. ... He is personally interfacing with you."

"The devil wants you to have religion. He wants you to come to church, to meet Elohim as long as you don't bring in JEHOVAH. The moment you bring in JEHOVAH, you've got to relate to the true God."

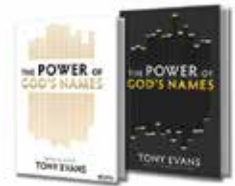
"You know why we don't know God's name as JEHOVAH? We're too busy and too distracted to want to know more. ... We are satisfied with an introduction."

"[Jehovah] wants to give you an experience you never had before. But that won't come because you know He's Elohim. That will come because you know [Him as] JEHOVAH, the Self-Revealing God."



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"When the Bible talks about God as Adonai, it's talking about the fact that because He owns everything and everybody, He is responsible for that which He owns."

"If God is the Owner, you are not!"

"We want God to do what the Word says He can do without giving Him the right to own. God's not going to give you more of JEHOVAH if you're not willing to confess more Adonai."

"Our problem today is we've got Christians who want God to get them to heaven, who do not want Him to own them on earth."

"Unless there is an Adonai confession of God, then your JEHOVAH experience of His self-revelation will be limited."

"Adonai has the ability to reach into a situation and flip it, twist it, turn it because He created mouths and noses and eyes and ears and intellect."

"You have not begun to see what God can do if He ever becomes your Adonai."

"He doesn't just want to be in your life; He wants to own your life because the Owner is ultimately responsible."

"Everything is on loan; you are a borrower, so God expects you to recognize Him as Adonai."

"There's only one response you give to Adonai, and that is surrender. It is surrender of your will to His will, your way to His way, your self to His self."