

The Story–Week #14
What’s in a Name?
YHWH/Jehovah Jireh
The Pattern of God’s Provision

Rules for the Road

1. The Bible was written for me but not to me.
2. The Bible is a library with different literary genres (**Narrative, Poetry** & Discourse)
3. The Bible must be read in Context (Ancient, Situational & Biblical)
4. The Bible must be read with an understanding of language and words (Repeated words drive dominant **patterns & themes**)
5. The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus

We have looked closely at the first two biblical Narratives of Genesis.

1st Narrative Genesis 1:1-2:3: The Creation Story

2nd Narrative Genesis 2:4-3:24: The Eden/Fall Story

The first and most noticeable difference in the Two Creation stories (that we have not yet processed) is the **name change** from **Elohim** to **YHWH/YAHWEH** (Which is referred to as the Covenant Making God)

In the Creation Story, *Elohim* occurs 35 times. In the Eden Story, YHWH (*YHWH Elohim*) occurs 20 times, and always in conjunction with Elohim (*YHWH Elohim*).

Let’s look at both briefly to be clear:

Elohim

“Elohim” was not the name of any one God/god in the Ancient context but a title for spiritual beings. The Biblical authors use it (2,000+ times in the OT) with an understanding that there were other spiritual beings that did exist.

The purpose for using a title that was also used widely in the culture was to enlighten any people group (especially the Hebrews/Israelites) that their God YHWH was the supreme **Elohim, the maker of heaven and earth.**

Examples:

Genesis 35:2 “So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, ‘Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves...’”

Joshua 24:2 “Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, “From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods (elohms).”’”

YHWH

Although we meet YHWH in Genesis 2:4, we do not know what the name YHWH means until we get to Exodus 3:13-15. There, we see (the human author of Genesis) Moses' first encounter with YHWH.

Exodus 3:13-15 *"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?' 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.'" 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."*

YHWH = "I am who I am," which means one who is without beginning or ending because he has always been.

Adoni

Later, because they held such reverence for YHWH, the ancient Israelites stopped pronouncing it aloud and instead when they came to YHWH would replace it with **Adonay (Adoni)**, the Hebrew word for "Lord."

Later, European Christians learning Hebrew didn't know this was simply a visual reminder to not say God's name aloud, and translated it as another name for God. "Jehovah" entered Christian history, and is still used today.

Jehovah

Genesis 22:14 *"So Abraham called the name of that place, 'The LORD (Jehovah Jireh) will provide; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'"*

The God (YHWH Elohim) who Provides (Jehovah Jireh) The Pattern of Provision

The Covenant-Making God Provides:

1. Our Purpose

Genesis 1:27-28 *"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.'"*

- To **Represent** Him. (Image Bearers/Partners)

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 (MSG) “**We’re** Christ’s **representatives**. **God uses us** to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right...”

2. Our Peace

Genesis 2:1-3 “By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he **rested** from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he **rested** from all the work of creating that he had done.”

- To **Rest in Him**. (Sabbath Keepers)

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest**. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**.”

Hebrews 4:9-11 “So there is a **special rest** still waiting for the people of God. For all who have entered into **God’s rest have rested** from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. **So let us do our best to enter that rest**.”

3. Our Promise

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel**.”

- To Be **Reconciled** to Him.

1 John 3:8 “The reason the **Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work**.”

Colossians 1:20 “And through him (Jesus) to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

4. Our Protection

Genesis 3:21 “The LORD **God made garments of skin** for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”

God provides a sacrificial system (for all who look to him), throughout the OT, as a covering for sin.

Isaiah 61:10 “I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has **clothed me with garments of salvation**, He has **wrapped me with a robe of righteousness**...”

- To Be **Righteous** in Him. (Covered By Him)

2 Corinthians 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him **we might become the righteousness** of God.”

Romans 13:14 “But *put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*”

Ephesians 4:24 “[You were taught] to **put on** the new self, created after the **likeness** of God in true **righteousness** and holiness.”

5. Our Place

Genesis 3:24 “After he drove the man out, he placed on the **east side** of the Garden of Eden **cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.**”

- To be in **Relationship** with Him. (Abiding in Him)

Matthew 27:45-46 & 51 (MSG) “From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around mid-afternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?’... At that moment, the Temple curtain was ripped in two, top to bottom.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NIV84) “Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...”