

Theme: God's covenant name of Yahweh reveals that the self-existent, holy One has graciously entered into covenant with His people.

I. Intro – Dances With Wolves

- A. Stands With A Fist - why that name
- B. Name comes from key moment in history
- C. Same is true of God's name - Yahweh
- D. Why this name? What does it mean?
- E. What do we learn about God from this name?

II. Yahweh - The Name of Our God

- A. Moses' question - What is your name?
- B. God's answer - I AM WHO I AM - I AM
 - 1. Possibly I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE
 - 2. LXX - ἐγώ εἰμι ὁ ὢν
 - 3. Points to God as transcendent, eternal
- C. Yahweh - God's name forever (v15)
 - 1. Yahweh, name forever - related to 'to be'
 - 2. Yahweh and Jehovah - how we got them
 - a. Hebrew is יהוה - tetragrammaton
 - b. Hebrews not read name - Adonai or Ha-shem
 - c. Masoretes - Adonai vowels under - יהוה־
 - d. Germans read as Jehovah (no 'y' in German)

- e. English - read from German as 'Jehovah'
- f. We will use Yahweh generally (but might slip!)
- g. Nothing big at stake here....

D. The importance of God's name Yahweh

- 1. Used 6,828 times in OT - Elohim only 2602!
- 2. LORD in many English versions (Ex 3:15)
- 3. Short form **Yah** - 46 times - Ex 17:16 (both)
- 4. Praise Yah - HalleluJah - Psalm 111:1
- 5. Names - Elijah (אֱלִיָּהוּ) and Isaiah (יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ)

III. What We Learn From God's Name Yahweh

- A. YHWH - God is the self-existent, timeless One
 - 1. I AM - Ex 3:14;
 - 2. Was, is, is to come - Rev 1:8
 - 3. Jesus is the I AM - John 8:58
- B. YHWH - God of love and holiness
 - 1. Exodus 34:5-7 - God of love
 - 2. Exodus 34:5-7 - God of holiness
- C. YHWH - Covenant making and keeping God

1. God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - Ex 3:15-16
2. Covenant promise to deliver - Ex 3:17 (Gen 15)

4. In Jesus YHWH gives us covenant blessing

D. Lord's Supper - Our Covenant Meal (Jer)

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we take comfort from YHWH's self-existence & timelessness?

1. YHWH not bound by time & need as we are
2. He is the One truly free Being in universe
3. This can make Him a rich source of comfort
4. He knows, sees, governs all

B. Do we see and embrace YHWH's love and holiness?

1. Temptation to embrace one, deny/ignore other
2. YHWH is holy - sees and punishes sin
 - a. Sin is serious - grave consequences
 - b. YHWH does not wink at sin
3. YHWH is love - provides forgiveness for sin
 - a. He does not just condemn - merciful
 - b. Love to a thousand generations
 - c. Does not forget covenant promises of mercy

C. Jesus - YHWH makes and keeps covenant

1. In Jesus YHWH took flesh
2. In Jesus YHWH keeps the covenant for us
3. In Jesus, YHWH bears covenant curse for our fall

Yahweh - The Name of Our Covenant God

Exodus 3:13-17
Isaiah 44:6-8
August 2, 2009
Communion led by Jer
Numbers 6:24-26

He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."
Exodus 17:16

Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.
Psalm 111:1

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "**who is, and who was, and who is to come,** the Almighty."
Revelation 1:8

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**"
John 8:58