

## The Greatest Question

When we gather together on a Sunday, we ask a profound question, one that can only be answered through faith and understanding. It's the question Moses asked in Exodus 3:13, *What is his name?*

For Moses, this question wasn't just about a name. It was about identity. In Hebrew thought, a person's name encapsulates their essence, their personhood. Moses wasn't just curious; he wanted to know who God truly was. Why? Because he needed to know if God could do what He promised. Could He really deliver the Israelites from Egypt? Could He defeat the mighty Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt? And, more personally, could God transform Moses—from a man who had failed monumentally—into a mighty leader? *Who was God, really?*

### 1. God is Self-Existent

In Exodus 3:14-15, God reveals Himself to Moses as the *I AM*. This isn't a title, but an affirmation of God's eternal existence. He doesn't say, "I have been" or "I may be," but "I AM." God is perpetual being, with no beginning and no end. He exists by His own power and doesn't rely on anyone or anything else to sustain Him.

God is not merely the concept of being, but *active being*. There is no past or future with God; there is only eternal present. As Herman Bavinck beautifully put it, "All that God is, He is of Himself." God is self-sufficient, the source of all being, and everything in creation depends on Him for existence.

What does this mean for us? It means that God is always able to fulfil His promises. He will never run out of power or resources to bless His people. He will never grow weary or tired, and He can never fail. For the wicked, it also means that God's justice is certain and unavoidable.

### 2. God is Immutable

God is unchanging. This flows necessarily from His self-existence. The *I AM* cannot change. If He did, He would cease to be perfect, and thus, He would cease to be God. God's love, wisdom, holiness, and goodness are eternal and unalterable.

For us, this means that God is completely reliable. His love and promises never change. James 1:17 says that with God, there is no variation or shadow of turning. What He is today, He has always been and always will be.

But for the unbeliever, this unchanging nature of God means that His justice will not change either. If we oppose God, we stand on the wrong side of His eternal judgment.

### 3. God is Incomprehensible

Moses asked, "What is His name?" because the God who appeared to him on the mountain was beyond his comprehension. The Lord is *transcendent*—above and beyond us in every way. While we can know certain things about God, we will never grasp the fullness of His

being. Romans 11:33-36 tells us that His ways are unsearchable and His judgments beyond finding out.

This truth is humbling and awe-inspiring. Whatever we know of God—whether His power, goodness, or wisdom—there is always more to know, infinitely more. Even in eternity, we will never exhaust the knowledge of God. For the unbeliever, this should stir a sense of godly fear and humility. God is far beyond our understanding, and it is foolish to dismiss Him just because he is beyond our puny minds.

#### **4. God is Covenantal**

The God who is self-existent, immutable, and incomprehensible is also *covenantal*. He is not just a distant, abstract being—He is a God who makes promises and keeps them. In Exodus 3:15, God reveals His covenant name: *Yahweh Elohim*. Yahweh is the name of the God of promise, the God who is faithful to His people.

God's covenant promises were shown through His relationship with Israel, but they are fulfilled for us through Jesus Christ. Just as God sent Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egypt, He sent Jesus to deliver us from sin and death, as Zacharias understood in Luke 1:68-79. This means that God will never fail to save those He has promised to save. His covenant is secure, and because He is the *I AM*, He will fulfil every promise. The cross and the empty tomb prove this.

For the unbeliever, there is still time to come to God, to experience His covenantal faithfulness, and to receive His blessings through Jesus Christ, here and now, John 3:16.

#### **5. God is Immanent**

The God who is self-existent, unchanging, and beyond comprehension is also *immanent*—He is present with us. Though the Israelites may have felt God was distant during 400 years of bondage in Egypt, God revealed Himself to Moses personally, calling him and commissioning him to be their deliverer.

This same God has come to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the *I AM* made flesh, John 1:14. Jesus came to dwell among us, fully revealing the glory of God. In worship, God is present with us through His Word. Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus is the radiance of God's glory, and that glory is shining right now through Scripture. Seven times in John's gospel, Jesus states "I AM the..." He is the God of Exodus 3 made flesh.

Will you come to Him? Will you seek His presence, as Moses did? Jesus is ready to receive you, to bless you, and to reveal Himself to you, even now.

#### **The Greatest Commission**

The greatest question, *Who is God?*, leads us to the greatest commission—to *make His name known*. This is the task Moses received in Exodus 3:14-15, and it is the task carried out most perfectly by Jesus Christ, John 8:58. Jesus came to reveal God to us, and now, we, the Church, have been given the same commission, Matthew 28:18-20.

There is no greater calling than to make known the name of the Lord. Are you ready to go forth and do just that? The Lord has called us to declare His name to the world—let's fulfil that commission with joy and faithfulness.