

# שְׁמוֹת

## Shemot

(the names)

### Shemot [Exodus] 1:1-6:1

#### Who Is YHWH?

*Shemot (Exodus) 5:2*

***And Pharaoh said, "Who is YHWH, that I should hear and obey His Voice to let Israel go? I do not know YHWH, and moreover I will not let Israel go."***

YHWH spoke to Moshe and sent him into the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt to deliver a message. The message was simple, "Let My people go." The response from Pharaoh was clear and to the point. Pharaoh stated that he did not know YHWH. In fact, he even asked Moshe who He was that he, Pharaoh, as king of Egypt should hear and obey His Voice. And because Pharaoh did not know YHWH or even know who He was, he was not going to let Israel go or even consider letting them go.

This is the very same mindset that those in the world possess today. The mindset of: Who is YHWH that they should want to hear and obey His Voice? When we examine the answer of Moshe to Pharaoh we find something quite interesting. In the delivery of the original message, Moshe informed Pharaoh that YHWH was the Elohim of Israel. We see this in verse one. Along with this, Moshe also states that YHWH wants Israel to go forth out of Egypt to celebrate a feast to YHWH. It was at this point that Pharaoh raises the question of who YHWH is that he, Pharaoh king of Egypt, should listen and obey Him.

After Pharaoh posed this question Moshe restated what he had already told Pharaoh with some additional information.

*Shemot (Exodus) 5:3*

***And they said, "The Elohim of the Hebrews has met with us; please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to YHWH our Elohim, lest He fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword."***

It would seem that the proper understanding of what Moshe spoke to Pharaoh in this instance should be that those included in being struck by plagues would be all Egyptians. The "us" here should not be understood to mean only the Hebrews, but rather all those who were represented in the room, namely, both Hebrews and Egyptians. And surely we see that this is exactly what happened for the first three plagues. However, beginning with the fourth plague the Hebrews no longer suffered from the plagues as YHWH made a distinction between the Hebrews and the Egyptians.

**Shemot (Exodus) 8:23**

***“And I will put a division between My people and your people; by tomorrow shall this sign be.”***

The ability to make this distinction is a wonderful truth, that YHWH the Elohim of Israel is able to perform His wonders in such a way, that His people will not suffer His plagues if He so chooses for it to be that way. As YHWH set this pattern in place there in the land of Goshen, so will He do again during the great tribulation in which He will pour out His wrath upon all those who have not accepted Yeshua as Mashiach and refuse to obey His Torah.

This alone is a pretty compelling reason for us to want to know who YHWH is and that we should hear and obey His Voice. But there are other reasons as well. Let us examine a few of them.

**Divre HaYamim Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles) 32:13-16**

***13 “Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the lands? Were the gods of the nations of the lands in any way able to deliver their land out of my hand?***

***14 Who was there among all the gods of those nations which my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of my hand, that your Elohim should be able to deliver you out of my hand?***

***15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you after this manner, neither believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of my hand, and out of the hand of my fathers; how much less shall your Elohim deliver you out of my hand?”***

***16 And his servants spoke yet more against YHWH Elohim, and against His servant Hezekiah.***

Please note that this message came from Sancheriv (Sennacherib), the king of Assyria. The message that this king is giving to the people of Jerusalem is that he as king of Assyria has conquered many people and taken many captive, both him and his fathers before him. What he is doing is making fun of YHWH our Elohim and declaring to the people that their endeavor to hold out against him is futile, that he will prevail against them. Please note what this Sancheriv also said concerning YHWH our Elohim.

**Divre HaYamim Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles) 32:19**

***And they spoke of the Elohim of Jerusalem, as of the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men's hands.***

Now notice what YHWH did to Sancheriv and all his armies and commanders with him who were fighting against Jerusalem.

**Divre HaYamim Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles) 32:21**

***Then YHWH sent a messenger, who cut down the valiant warriors, the leaders and the officers in the king of Assyria's camp, so that he had to return shamefaced to his own country. When he entered the house of his god, his own sons, whom he himself had fathered, put him to death with the sword there.***

Surely this king had to learn the hard way who the Elohim of Israel is!

**Yeshayah (Isaiah) 50:2**

***“Therefore, when I came, was there no man? When I called, was there none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, at My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; their fish stink, because there is no water, and die for thirst.”***

YHWH certainly has the power and the authority to deliver or to punish according to His will. Certainly Sancheriv learned this truth at the cost of his own life and the lives of his entire army.

When Pharaoh asked this question, he really did not think that YHWH the Elohim of Israel would answer him with a show of great, mighty and awesome power. However, through a series of events YHWH would clearly demonstrate His power to Pharaoh and Pharaoh would come to know who He was even though Pharaoh would not come to know Him personally.

Not only did both of these rulers come to understand who YHWH was, but they also came to understand that these men were servants of His as well. When someone delivers a message from YHWH our Elohim, we had best check it out carefully to see if this is true or not. If it truly is a message from YHWH our Elohim, then we had best take careful heed of what the message is saying to us.

***Ivrim (Hebrews) 10:31***

***It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim.***

All that happened to these two kings, Pharaoh king of Egypt and Sancheriv king of Assyria, happened to them because they did not know YHWH. To know Him is to fear Him and they feared Him not. This resulted in their deaths. Likewise, any person today who does not know YHWH will not fear Him and those who do not fear YHWH will die.

Who is YHWH? He is also Creator. But once again many do not acknowledge this truth either.

***Romans 1:20-21***

***20 For the invisible things of Him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even His everlasting power and divinity; that they are without excuse;***

***21 because that, knowing Elohim, they glorified Him not as Elohim, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened.***

When a person refuses to acknowledge YHWH as Creator, then YHWH will give him over to a reprobate mind and he will pursue wickedness and all sorts of evil without so much as a thought. It is at this very point that much of society has gone astray from truth as they hold to the religion of evolution, when everything in creation testifies to the reality of a Creator. When we look upon any aspect of His creation, do we give Him thanks and worship and praise Him? If a person looks upon His creation and does not acknowledge YHWH as Creator, nor give Him glory and honor for His creation, then such a person is in danger of walking down the path of a reprobate mind.

Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov all knew YHWH and because they knew Him, served Him with the greatest of love and devotion. These men each knew that YHWH was and is worthy of one's worship and service. May each one of us know YHWH in this same fashion, that we too might lovingly worship and serve Him with the deepest of devotion.

***Tehillim (Psalm) 14:1***

***The fool has said in his heart,***

***There is no Elohim.***

***They are corrupt; they have done abominable works;***

***There is none that does good.***

Perhaps you have heard the expression, "Give a man enough rope and he will hang himself." YHWH often does this very thing. If a person desires to go his own way, YHWH will not stop Him. In fact, YHWH will allow Satan to bless such a person right along into the depths of deception. Such people as this often are anything but pleasant to be around. Such people often do what they want and desire all the while hurting others. But not to worry: when we step back and allow YHWH to take His own vengeance, He will not only do it, but His vengeance will be far more terrible than any human can put upon another.

The way of Babylon and those in Babylon is not to know YHWH and not to care who He even is. The primary concern of one who is in Babylon is getting his own way and doing so in such a way as to appear righteous if at all possible. But make no mistake about it, YHWH knows!

***Tehillim (Psalm) 10:3***

- 3** *For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire,  
And the greedy curses and contemns YHWH.*
- 4** *The wicked, in the pride of his haughtiness, says,  
"He will not require it."  
All his thoughts are,  
"There is no Elohim."*

Those who live in this world, who are of this world, and pursue the things of this world, think that they can do anything they desire and it will not be required of them. Such a person often thinks that he will not have to answer for all that he does. A person can appear righteous before other men, but YHWH knows the thoughts and the intents of the heart. YHWH knows just how honest and truthful we are to one another. A person may think that they are getting away with something as far as other men are concerned, but YHWH is not fooled; He will require it from that man's hand! If he does not require it of a man in this life, then He will require it of him in the next.

***Ivrim (Hebrews) 4:12-13***

**12** *See, the Word of YHWH is alive! It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged sword - it cuts right through to where soul meets spirit and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

**13** *Before Elohim, nothing created is hidden, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must render an account.*

Brothers and sisters in Mashiach, YHWH is Creator and Sustainer of this world that we live in. It is only by His grace and mercy that He gives to us another breath and another heartbeat. He does not owe that to you or me, but He gives us these blessings hoping that we will choose to serve Him with each beat of our heart and that the words that come out of our mouth will bring glory and honor to Him and Him alone. YHWH has come to this world and manifested Himself in the form of a man, Yeshua our Mashiach. If a person rejects the Person He sent to save us from ourselves, then what hope does he have? None!

Let us determine that we do not have to learn who YHWH is, like Pharaoh had to learn it or like Sancheriv and like many other rulers and men of renown had to learn it. Let us choose to enter into a personal relationship with YHWH our Elohim through Mashiach Yeshua that we might learn to walk in

His Spirit and that the image of His Son might be perfected in us as we continually yield to Him in all things great and small.

ABBA YHWH, teach us about Yourself that we might know You, the Creator and Master of the universe. In the name of Your Son, Yeshua our Mashiach we pray. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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