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I AM Has Sent Me to You

3: 13-22

I AM has sent me to you DIG: What reassurances did ADONAI give Moses? How does I AM uniquely designate God? How does Jesus take on that name for Himself and with what implication (Yochanan 8:58-59)? Who is responsible for carrying out God's plan?

REFLECT: Do you think YHVH will come through for you as He promised to Moses? Why or why not? God is *Ehyeh*, the Becoming One. What is He Becoming to you? Is He Becoming your savior? Is He becoming your best friend? Is He becoming the One on whom you trust and rely upon?

Moses thought that **the Israelites** would not believe **him** because **they** would want to know the name of the **God** who sent **him**. **He said to the LORD, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what shall I tell them" (3:13)?** This would have been a natural question in ancient times because **the name** of a person expressed that person's character, nature and qualities, since **a name** in biblical days was much more than simply a label; for example, the name Abel means *a vapor or fleeting*, and it reflects his life. **Yeshua's name** means **He** is the *one who brings salvation*.



Then **the LORD** responded to **Moshe** and said: **Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh [I AM/will be what I AM/will be]. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you (3:14).** ADONAI identified **Himself** to **Isra'el** with the covenant name **YHVH (Yud-Hay-Vav-Hay)** known as **the Tetragrammaton, or the Name** (see [Ac](#) - The Book of Exodus

From a Messianic Jewish Perspective: *The Use of the Hebrew name ADONAI for YHVH* for a further explanation). *The Name* is related to the Hebrew verb meaning **I AM** and refers to **God's** self-existence. There are two different interpretations of this name in Hebrew and both are true. One translation is: **I AM Who I AM**. The other translation is: **I AM the Becoming One**. The words **I AM** translate a first person form of the Hebrew verb *to be*. The meaning is that **ADONAI** is the self-existent **One**. **His** existence depends on nothing or no one except **His** own will. So when **God** said **I AM**, **He** was referring to **His** active, life-giving existence.

So there is no mistake on the part of **Moses** regarding who is speaking to **him**, **God** added more detail. Then **He** also said to **Moses His** prophet: **Say to the Israelites, "ADONAI, 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, the name by which I AM to be remembered from generation to generation**", or eternity (3:15).

Therefore, **I AM** and **ADONAI** make up the most intimate and personal names of **God** in Scripture. We can easily understand why **the Jews** of **Jesus'** day thought **He** was blaspheming when **He** said to the Pharisees: **Before Abraham was I AM (John 8:58)!** Today there are cults that claim **Christ** is not **God**. However, there was no such confusion with those confronting **Yeshua** in **His** day; *their reaction* was to pick up rocks in order to **stone Him (John 8:59)**. However, *our reaction* should be to fall at **His** feet to worship **Him**.⁵¹

Then in verses 16 to 22, God spells out the program of redemption. The **LORD, the Covenant Keeper**, talking to **Moses**, said to **His** prophet: **Go, assemble the elders of Isra'el and say to them, 'ADONAI, the God of your fathers - the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob - appeared to me as said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.** This would no longer be a revolution of his own initiative. **Moses** would have to get **the elders of Isra'el** on board. **And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites - a land flowing with milk and honey' (3:16-17).** When **ADONAI** appeared first to **Abraham**, and later also to **Isaac** and **Jacob**, **He** promised in each instance that **He** would give them the land of Canaan. Now **He** appeared to **Moshe** with the same promise. This proves that **Moses** was a true prophet.⁵²

The elders of Isra'el will listen to you. After speaking to **the elders**, or bearded ones, of **Isra'el**, **he** is to go with a message to **Pharaoh**. **Then you and the elders are to go to**

the king of Egypt and say to him: ADONAI, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Moses identified God as the LORD of the Hebrews, a power greater than Pharaoh. Then, Moses would say: Let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to ADONAI our God (3:18).

*This **three-day journey** was not the ultimate purpose of **God**. The ultimate purpose was to bring Isra'el permanently out **of Egypt**. But **ADONAI** wanted **Moses** to keep the request at the minimum. Because if **Pharaoh** wouldn't allow even this minimum departure, then that would show that **he** was worthy of all the judgments of **God** that would come upon **Egypt**.*

But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a Mighty hand compels him. So I will stretch out My hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will send you out (3:19-20). There is a play on words here where the phrase: **I will stretch out My hand**, literally means **I will send out My hand**, using the same verb as the later statement that **he will send you out**. The idea is that **God** will stretch out **His hand** so that **Pharaoh** will stretch out **his hand**. The first action is the cause of the second.⁵³ **God warned Moses not to be discouraged in his mission by Pharaoh's refusal to agree to his request. He would let Isra'el go only under pressure from the LORD.**

When **the exodus** did come, **Isra'el** would not leave empty-handed. **And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians (3:21-22).** This **plunder** was used later in **Exodus** for both good and evil. Some of it became part of the materials for the Tabernacle (**25:3-8**), while some of it was used to make the golden calf (**32:2-3**).

This is the fulfillment of a promise that **God** made to Abraham in **Genesis 15:14** (also see **Psalms 105:37**). And speaking of the nation of **Isra'el**, **God** said to **Abraham His** servant: **I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out of Egypt with great possessions.** But **Moses** is still not satisfied and raised a third objection.

In the middle of the eighteenth century in America, a certain young man was attending Yale University as a full-time divinity student. His desire was to be trained to be a pastor. He was an excellent student and after a few years of hard study he was close to completing his work. However, one day something bad happened. He was talking to some friends and gossiped about one of his teachers. He said, "That man is about as spiritual as the chair I'm sitting in." The student was expelled from Yale, never to be readmitted. No doubt it was a

sinful remark, and the student later repented and asked for forgiveness from the teacher. Later, David Brainerd began the lowest, most depressing and discouraging period in his life.

But the Scriptures call us to understand that **God** uses even our most wicked acts to bring about **His** good purposes. For example, in the story of **Joseph**, when the patriarch confronts **his** brothers about the wickedness they had done to **him**, he says: **You intended it to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives (Genesis 50:20).**

And so, in the same way, **YHVH** worked **His** good pleasure in the life of David Brainerd. After his expulsion from Yale, Brainerd agonized over his calling. But **God** opened up a service for him on the mission field to the American Indians. That had not been the ministry that Brainerd had chosen, but **God** gave him the desire for those people and **God** blessed his ministry with great revivals among the Native American tribes.

The life of **Moses** provides a good illustration of this biblical principle: **ADONAI** even uses our misdeeds to bring about **His** purposes. So, even though **Moses'** sin caused **him** to flee **Egypt**, **God** made use of it in **His** redemptive plans for **His** people.⁵⁴