

Who is God?

“The LORD, the LORD”

Exodus 34:6

INTRODUCTION:

☐ This week I did a little research on icebergs:

- Over 40,000 icebergs break off from glaciers each year
- Northern Atlantic Ocean has the most icebergs (*this is the ocean where the Titanic struck an iceberg and sank in 1912*)
- Average weight is 100,000-200,000 tons (*size of a 15 story building*)
- The largest iceberg in the Northern Hemisphere was 8 miles long and 3.5 miles wide and weighed 9 billion tons (*enough water for everyone in the world to drink a liter of water a day for four years*)
- 7/8 or almost 90% of icebergs are underwater

☐ As I thought about this information, I thought about what Paul writes about God in a letter to the church at Rome:

*“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”
—Romans 11:33*

- “Oh” (ω) a note of exclamation—*an abrupt excited utterance from surprise or strong emotion*; Oh!
- “depth” (βαθος) deep, depth, distance beneath the surface; metaphorically meaning greatness, immensity, profundity (profoundness), inscrutability—*the quality of being impossible to fully investigate or understand*
- “unsearchable” (απεξεραυνητος) marked by being impossible to find or discover the depths or the end of; therefore incomprehensible; compound word: *without + to search out*—not capable of being searched out exhaustively
- “inscrutable” (ανεξιχνιαστοι) compound word: *without + explore*—*impossible (without the ability) to be explored completely*

“People are starving for the greatness of God. But most of them would not give this diagnosis of their troubled lives. The majesty of God is an unknown cure. There are far more popular prescriptions on the market, but

the benefit of any other remedy is brief and shallow.”—John Piper, The Supremacy of God in Preaching (p.9)

☐ Last weekend we began a series seeking to answer the question: **Who is God?** *The reality is that the deepest longings of our heart and soul will be satisfied as we pursue the wonder and the knowledge of God!*

☐ In Exodus, we find a man named Moses who is seeking to discover the answer to that question. Moses has the audacity to ask God, “Show me your glory?” Show me who you really are? And surprisingly God answers Moses’ question

*“Short of the incarnation itself, this is perhaps the high point of divine revelation in all the Bible...time and time again the prophets who followed Moses draw on these two verses from Exodus to affirm who God is.”
—Dane Ortlund (Gentle and Lowly, p. 146)*

☐ **READ TEXT—Exodus 34:6-8**

“The LORD, the LORD”—YHWH

- Ancient Jews considered this name to be so holy and mysterious that they would not even pronounce it so as not to misspeak the ‘divine name’
- We pronounce it *Yahweh* and it comes from the Hebrew root *haya* which means ‘to be’...

☐ Three things we learn about God from His name:

I. GOD IS

- “Lord” (YHWH) comes from the root ‘to be’ most scholars agree that its primary meaning reveals truth about God’s existence
- **Illus.**—I love a good origin story...Marvel has made \$\$\$ telling the origin story of superheroes like Ironman, Captain America, the Black Panther and most recently Shang-Chi and the legend of the Ten Rings

- Did you know that God's name has an origin story? It's the name that God revealed to Moses in **Exodus 3:14**

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

- His name reveals His eternal existence—*there has never been a time when God was not!*
- You can travel back through history and at any point **"GOD IS...!"**
- You can go all the way back to the first four words of the Bible: **"In the beginning, God..."—Genesis 1:1** **At the beginning of beginnings, when THE beginning began, He already AM!**
- Before the first second expired off time's clock, before the first ray of sunlight ever broke across a horizon, before the first bird ever sung from a treetop...when there was no earth, no galaxy, no sun, no ocean, no human race, no nothing...there was God! **When the beginning began He already am!**
- Have you ever tried to wrap your mind around the concept of eternal?

"The attribute of eternity means that God exists endlessly. His existence extends endlessly backward and forward."—Charles Ryrie

- I can't think of another word in the English language that will express the concept. Every word I can think of implies no ending: *everlasting, never-ending, perpetual, forever, endless...*but eternal means no beginning or ending!
- (Mind blown) Wait a minute...how long did God exist before He created the world? **FOREVER!**
- Listen to how God describes himself in the last book of the Bible:

"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

- Why did God describe Himself *"present, past future" and not "past, present, future"*? Because He is describing Himself in relation to time:

Who is—He existed in eternity past outside the parameters of time

Who was—thru the person of Jesus at a point in time He entered the time that He created

Who is to come—one day He will bring all time as we know it to an end

LIFE APPLICATION: God is always!

- Has it ever occurred to you that nothing has ever occurred to God? He has never said *"uh oh"*
- Sometimes we think our circumstances are unique...nobody has ever faced what I'm facing...BUT:
 1. God has seen it all
 2. God has sustained His people thru it all
 3. God has led His people out victorious on the other side of it all

II. GOD IS UNCHANGING

- This name *"Yahweh"* speaks to the unchanging nature of God. It can literally be translated *"He who is"*
- That's why when He spoke it to Moses He said, *"I am who I am"*

"For I the LORD do not change..."—Malachi 3:6a

- Listen to the way another Psalmist describes this:

"Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end."

—Psalm 102:25-27

"What we are dealing with here is the dependability of God. He will be the same tomorrow as He is today. He will act as He promised."

— Millard J. Erickson

LIFE APPLICATION: God is always God!

- Today I have good news for you...
 - ...if you need the grace of God—I AM!
 - ...if you need the faithfulness of God—I AM!
 - ...if you need the forgiveness of God—I AM!
 - ...if you need the protection of God—I AM!
 - ...if you need the power of God—I AM!
 - ...if you need the strength of God—I AM!
 - ...if you need the comfort of God—I AM!
 - ...if you need the provision of God—I AM!

III. GOD IS RELATIONAL

- **Reality:** This eternal, unchanging, ever-present, sovereign God can be known personally—*you can have a relationship with God!*
- Two things in verse 6 communicate the truth that God is relational:
 1. “*proclaimed*” (Heb yiq-ra) to call, to declare, to proclaim, to invite (it’s a relational word)
 2. “*Lord*” (Heb YHWH) only used in the Bible when describing God’s relationship with people (*Elohim is used to describe God’s relationship to the material world*)
- We often think of God like the force in Star Wars (cosmic energy) or some distant, far off other worldly being...but God is a person, with a name, who desires to know you and be known by you!
- How does a person experience a relationship with an Eternal, Unchanging, and Ever-Present God? That’s the whole story of the Bible! **(Share Gospel)**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” — John 3:16

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” — John 17:3

LIFE APPLICATION: God desires to know me and be known by me

- A. If you don’t know Him, today you can!
- B. If you do know Him, He’s inviting you to know Him more!

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD: