

# *Theme: If Christ is not Risen*

**1 Cor. 15:14**

**And if Christ be not risen, then  
is our preaching vain, and your  
faith is also vain.**

# *Theme: If Christ is not Risen*

Judaism was the only ancient religion that believed in a resurrection event [reuniting of the body and spirit]. Many believed in a reincarnation event where the personhood of a spirit would be lost in the process of being born as a new person. Other religions believed in a spiritual existence or even a spiritual transcendence [unification with the spiritual force of the universe] following death.

For other religions the Jewish belief in resurrection of the physical body was somewhat creepy as they viewed it as the reanimation of a corpse rather than a transformation of the person's very being. The Christian view of salvation comes from the Jewish belief in resurrection. We believe that Jesus Christ was the first to experience this physical resurrection God promised to humanity. But unlike the Jewish faith we believe that the resurrection is accomplished in a through Jesus Christ.

# *Theme: If Christ is not Risen*



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to our Christian faith. Primarily it verifies his claim to divinity. But in addition, it provides...

- ...an anchor in the midst of doubts
- ...hope in the most hopeless of situations
- ...recognition of God's power within us
- ...a full understanding of the meaning of salvation
- ...an understanding of who Jesus really is
- ...the purpose of Christ's suffering
- ... the goal God has for all creation.

# “The One Who Is”

Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

Our name is our most prized possession. It is a dynamic part of our identity. We choose a name for our children and hope they will grow into it.

The name “Yahweh” that God identifies Himself with is a difficult word to translate. The form of the word is unusual. In addition, following the Exile period the Name was unspoken.



This is the sacred name of God “YHWH”, while Hebrew has no written vowels it is believed to have been pronounced “Yahweh”. The “Hebrew letters” below are a misnomer. They are actually Aramaic letters. Original Hebrew letters are closer to the Greek alphabet in appearance.

# “The One Who Is”

Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

When read aloud in the Synagogues the title “Lord” [Adonai] was substituted for YHWH. By 800 AD when the Masoretic scribes attempted to put vowel codes [points] in the text to indicate pronunciation, the pronunciation had been lost. The vowel code for Adonai was applied to YHWH giving the pronunciation, “Yehovah” which was anglicized to “Jehovah” adding more confusion.

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## Exodus 3:13-15 [ESV]

13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

14 God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" [*This is the verb "to be"*] And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I **AM** has sent me to you.'"

15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The **LORD [YHWH]\***, 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, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.**

*\* YHWH is believed to be a nominative future reflexive construction of the Hebrew verb "to be" – As a name it is believed to be translated "I am who I will be" .*

# “The One Who Is”

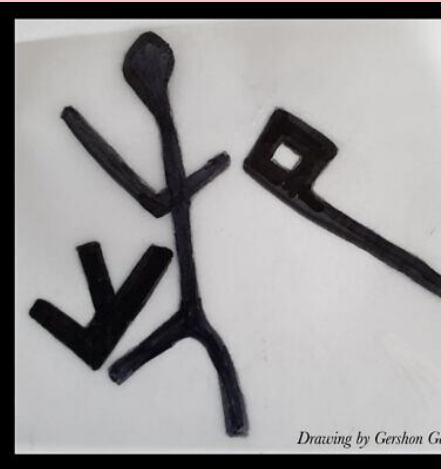
## Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

For nearly 2 centuries “Higher Biblical Criticism” Has taught that prior to Hezekiah’s time there was no name of God. They attributed all portions of scripture with YHWH to scribes writing after the time of Hezekiah. They also believed that Hebrew writing did not develop until after the time of Solomon so the Israelite people would not have been able to record historical information before 1000 BC. In 2019 this view was completely repudiated. With an archeological discovery.



This alphabetic script for YHWH predated the Exile.

The divine name YHW from Mt. Ebal proto-alphabetic script



*Drawing by Gershon G.*

# “The One Who Is”

## Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

The small folded lead tablet was immediately recognized as a “curse tablet”. Metallurgical tests identified the lead as coming from a Greek lead mine active from 1400-1200 BC. When the tablet was scanned and reconstructed they found the oldest Hebrew writing ever found, predating Phoenician and containing both the Hebrew name YHWH [Yahweh] and Elohim [God]. This placed the name of God in the time of Joshua and proved the Israelite people had a written alphabet and worshipped Yahweh.



Below is the Ebal cruse tablet found in 2019 on Mt Ebal.





## Genesis 32:27-31 \*29-30 [ESV]

27 And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

28 Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

# “The One Who Is” Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

“Jacob Wrestling With The Angel” by Alexander Louis Leloir [1865] depicts the scene in Genesis 32. Interesting the person wrestling with Jacob is described as a “man”. Jacob calls Him God.



In Genesis 32:24-32 Jacob has his name changed from Jacob to Israel. In this account Jacob wrestles all night with God and God gives him a name that means, “he who wrestles with God”. God asks Jacob his name, which means “heel-grabber”. It points to Jacob’s inherent weakness of character.

# “The One Who Is” Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

“Jacob Wrestling With The Angel”  
by Alexander Louis Leloir [1865]  
depicts the scene in Genesis 32.  
Interesting the person wrestling  
with Jacob is described as a  
“man”. Jacob calls Him God.



God desires more for this man Jacob. He wants him to be a man who has confidence, character and a sense of purpose. The only way that can happen is for Jacob to wrestle with who God is. The cost is that Jacob is lame and can never run away again.

## Exodus 3:3-6 [ESV]

3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."

4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

## “The One Who Is”

### Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

Some famous people have changed their names because they wished a different identity. We don't even know most of them by their birth names. Few of us would know who Marion Robert Morrison is, yet most of us know the iconic movie legend, John Wayne.

John Wayne as a stage name was actually assigned to Marion by the director of “the End of the Trail” [1930]. He felt John Wayne had better box-office appeal. The movie spectacular costing 35 million flopped, nearly destroying John Wayne's career. It would not be until “Stagecoach” in 1939 that the 32 year old actor would become a successful movie idol.



John Wayne, 1940. He was born Marion Robert Morrison [1907]. His name changed in 1930 as part of his starring role in “The Big Trail”. The movie flopped nearly destroying his career. It was 1939 before he made a come back.

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# “The One Who Is”

## Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

The comedic actress Caryn Elaine Johnson would be unknown, except as Whoopi Goldberg. As a young comedian she changed her name to be more accepted in the comedy field. While “Whoopi” derived from “whoopee cushion” her selection of “Goldberg” has several explanations. By changing something about us, our name, clothes, backstory, we try to change our identity. Jacob had changed his location, his status and his culture but he was still the cowardly “heel grabbing” cheater that had run away from his brother Esau. In Genesis God tries to give him a new vision of himself.

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Whoopi Goldberg was born Caryn Elaine Johnson. Whoopi comes from “Whoopee cushion”. The origin of Goldberg is murky.

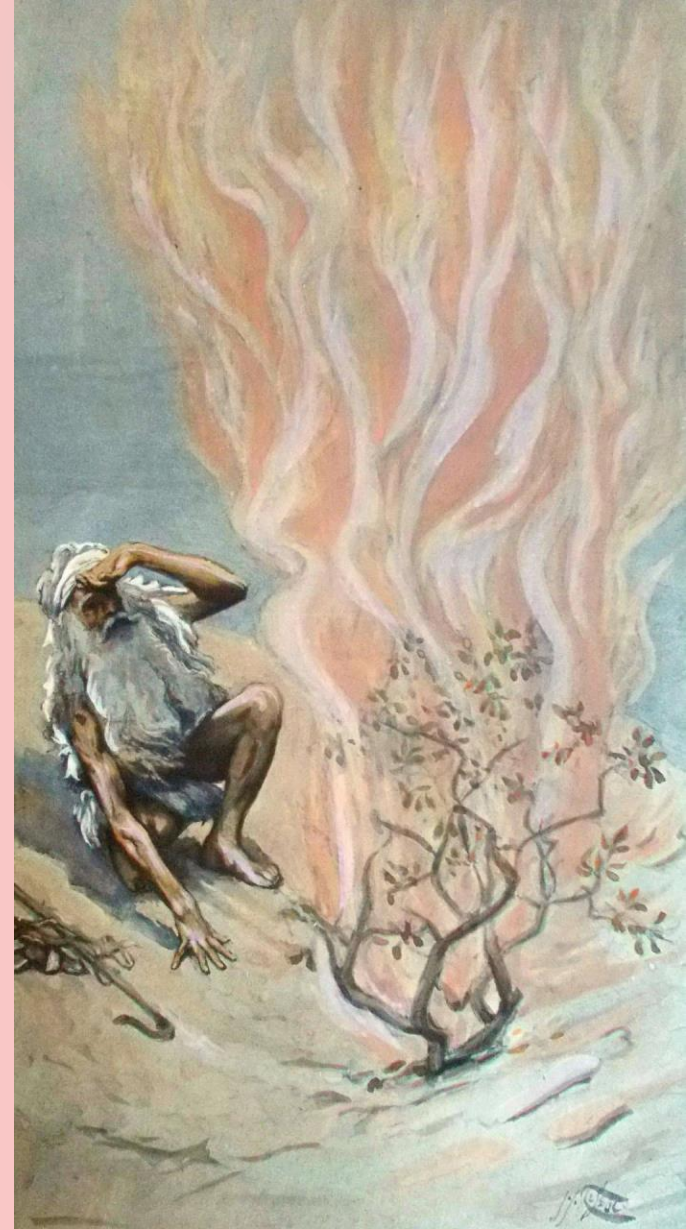
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# “The One Who Is”

## Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

When Moses meets God in Exodus 3:3-15, God identifies Himself to Moses as the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God chose to identify with the weak man Jacob who struggled to deal with his fears and frailty. The name “Israel” represented God’s desire for Jacob and his descendants. In Revelation 2:17, Jesus Christ tells the church of Pergamum that he will give every Christian who “overcomes” a white stone engraved with a new name. It will reflect that identity which God’s desires in each of us at our resurrection.

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Moses Worships at the  
Burning Bush by James Tissot.

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**Matthew 22:31-33 [ESV] (Mark 12:26-27; Luke 20:34-38)**

31 And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God:

32 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."

33 And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.



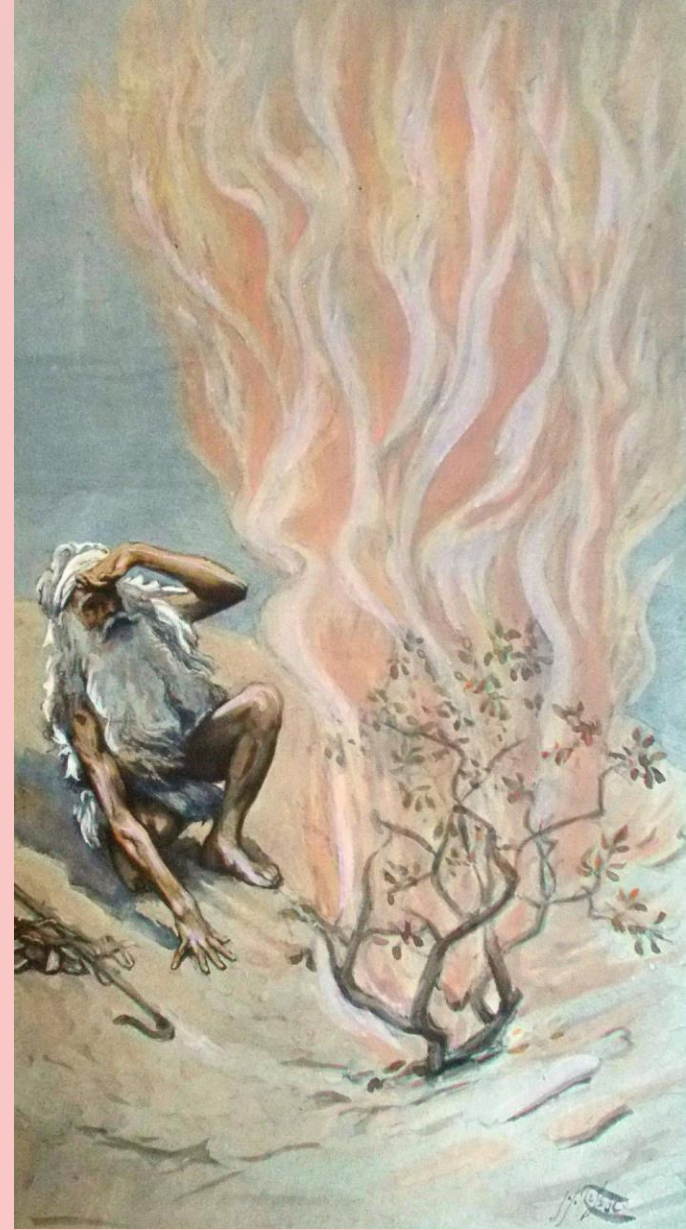
# “The One Who Is”

## Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

In Genesis 3 God proclaims His name to Moses. In Genesis 32, Jacob asks God’s name as he wrestles with Him. God asks him why he wants to know his name, with the implication that Jacob can’t handle it.

Here in Matthew Jesus refers to the sacred name of God. Jesus in the Gospel of John several times uses “I Am...” as a title for himself. This is a direct claim to the attributes of God. In John chapter 11, Jesus makes one of his most profound “I Am” statements, he tells Martha the grieving sister of Lazarus, “I Am the Resurrection and the Life”.

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## John 11:24-27 [ESV]

24 Martha said to him, "I know that he **will** rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

# “The One Who Is” Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

Jesus disputes with the  
Sadducees by James Tissot.



As the God who exists and gives life, Jesus has the power to restore life to humanity. In him resides the power of the resurrection

We live in a world that does not accept the concept of physical resurrection. Jesus was confronted by religious leaders called Sadducees who rejected the concept of a physical resurrection. In Matthew 22 they have come to Jesus mocking the idea of the resurrection by constructing a ridiculous scenario.

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# “The One Who Is” Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

Jesus disputes with the  
Sadducees by James Tissot.



The scenario involving levirate marriage of a woman to 7 brothers in turn and the resurrection. The question is “whose wife is she?”

Jesus rejects their foolish “what if...” scenario by stating that those resurrected are not bound by this world.

But he challenges their skepticism about the resurrection with the statement of God in Exodus 3:3 “I Am the God of Abraham...” etc.

Jesus points out that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still alive to God.

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# “The One Who Is” Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

Jesus disputes with the  
Sadducees by James Tissot.



He states the obvious because of the present tense of the statement in Exodus. So Jesus concludes, “God is the God of the living, not the dead”. The Sadducees only accepted the authority of the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of the Bible and rejected the resurrection because it could not be found in these books of the Law. Jesus by quoting Exodus 3:6 proved that the resurrection was inherent in the Law.

Our resurrection is bound up in who God is and in the power of his  
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## Matthew 28:18-20 [ESV]

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

# “The One Who Is” Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

The burning bush scene  
from the Movie “The Ten  
Commandments” [1956].



Central to our faith in the resurrection is Jesus’ claim that he is the “I Am” of Exodus 3. The One to whom all people are “present” whether alive or dead. In Genesis 2:7 it is clear that human are only complete when they have a physical body unlike the angels who are purely spiritual beings. If we are to be complete again after we have dies, we must also have a recreated physical body. Only the Creator, the “I Am That I Am” can do this.

Paul tells us that at our death our souls go to be with Jesus Christ until that day.

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## Hebrews 11:12-15 [ESV]

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

13 **These all died in faith**, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.**



# “The One Who Is”

Exodus 3:13-15 & Matthew 22:31-33

Our resurrection is bound up in who God is and in the power of his name. Jesus claimed the sacred Name.



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