

GETTING TO KNOW

GOD

A study of His names & divine nature

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 11

Jehovah-Shammah: The LORD is There

The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be, The LORD Is There.”

– Ezekiel 48:35 ESV

- **Last week:** *Jehovah- Sabaoth* – “The LORD of Hosts”
- **This week:** *Jehovah-Shammah* – “The LORD is There”

“Therefore thus says the LORD God: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the LORD God.” – Ezekiel 39:25-29 ESV

- **Context:**
 - The Babylonians had invaded Judah
 - Jerusalem was besieged and plundered
 - The Temple was pillaged but not destroyed
 - Many of the people were captured
 - Ezekiel was living in exile in Babylon
- **Priest turned prophet**
 - Ezekiel was a Jewish priest

- He was 30 years-old when captured
- The year is about 593 B.C.
- With no Temple to serve in, Ezekiel is unemployed, but no **unusable**
- Yahweh had big plans for him

*In the thirtieth year [593 B.C.], in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and **the hand of the LORD was upon him there.** – Ezekiel 1:103 ESV*

- **A vision and a commission**

- Ezekiel gets a glimpse of Yahweh
- He sees the glory of the LORD

*Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli. And on this throne high above was **a figure whose appearance resembled a man.** From what appeared to be his waist up, he looked like gleaming amber, flickering like a fire. And from his waist down, he looked like a burning flame, shining with splendor. All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. **This is what the glory of the LORD looked like to me.** When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone's voice speaking to me. – Ezekiel 26:26-28 ESV*

- Ezekiel received a message from Yahweh
"I am sending you to the nation of Israel – Ezekiel 2:3 NLT
"I am sending you to say..." – Ezekiel 2:4 NLT
"Do not fear them...don't be afraid...do not be dismayed." – Ezekiel 2:6 NLT
"You must give them my messages...But they won't listen..." – Ezekiel 2:7 NLT

- **A distasteful but tasty message**

- Yahweh gives Ezekiel a scroll to eat
Then I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me. It held a scroll, which he unrolled. And I saw that both sides were covered with funeral songs, words of sorrow, and pronouncements of doom. – Ezekiel 2:9 NLT
- Then Ezekiel is commanded to eat the scroll
Son of man, eat what I am giving you—eat this scroll! Then go and give its message to the people of Israel." – Ezekiel 3:1 NLT

*And when I ate it, **it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.** – Ezekiel 3:3 NLT*

- **Today's special: Sweet-and-sour scroll**

- The message was purely **negative**
- But it was the **word of God**
 - The truth of God is **pleasant** and **life-giving**
 - But it can also **convict** and **condemn**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. – 2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. – Hebrews 4:12 ESV

- The apostle John had a similar experience
*“Go and take the open scroll from the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” So I went to the angel and told him to give me the small scroll. “Yes, take it and eat it,” he said. “It will be sweet as honey in your mouth, but it will turn sour in your stomach!” So I took the small scroll from the hand of the angel, and I ate it! It was sweet in my mouth, but when I swallowed it, **it turned sour in my stomach.** – Revelation 10:8-11 NLT*

*“For Ezekiel, consuming God’s word was sweet to the taste, but declaring it to the people would be a bitter experience. They would find it distasteful and difficult to swallow. But God was calling Ezekiel to be faithful and fearless in declaring its truth regardless of the outcome.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Book of Ecclesiastes**

- **Not what they wanted to hear**

“I am against you!” – 5:8

“I will execute judgments on you.” – 5:10

***“I will withdraw.”** – 5:11*

“I will have no pity.” – 5:11

“I will scatter to all the winds.” – 5:12

“I will unsheath the sword.” – 5:12

“I will vent my fury.” – 5:13

“I will make you a desolation.” – 5:14

- Yahweh threatens to leave them: *“I will withdraw”*

gāra' – diminish, withdraw, lessen, take away

- “Elvis” was leaving the building
- His presence would vacate the premises
- Along with His favor, protection, and provision

- This was a new experience for the Israelites

***“I will live among you, and I will not despise you. I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people.** – Leviticus 26:11-12 NLT*

***“...build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them.”** – Exodus 25:8 NLT*

***“I will live among the people of Israel and be their God.”** – Exodus 29:45 NLT*

- His **proximity** was the key to their **prosperity**

*For what great nation has a god as **near to them** as the LORD our God is **near to us** whenever we call on him?* – Deuteronomy 4:7 NLT

*“How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? **For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.**”* – Exodus 33:16 NLT

- **The loss of God’s glory**

glory – *kābôd* – weight, splendor, importance

- His glory was a reminder of His **presence**
- It conveyed His **worth** or **value**
- It demonstrated His **greatness**
- It represented His **power**
- It assured of His gracious **provision**
- The loss of God’s presence was David’s greatest fear

Do not abandon me, O LORD. Do not stand at a distance, my God. – Psalm 38:12 NLT

Do not turn your back on me...Don’t leave me now; don’t abandon me, O God of my salvation! – Psalm 27:9 NLT

- **A divine field trip** – Ezekiel 8

- Ezekiel has another vision and is transported back to Jerusalem
- He is given a tour of the Temple

And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there... – Ezekiel 8:4 ESV

- But God was not alone
- His house had other occupants
 - An “image of jealousy” – 8:5
 - Engravings of animals and idols – 8:10
 - An idol to Tammuz (Sumerian god) – 8:14
 - Worship of the sun – 8:16
- Yet, the glory of the God of Israel was there

*...a cloud filled the inner court. And **the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.*** – Ezekiel 10:3-4 ESV

*Then the glory of the LORD **went out from the threshold** of the house, and stood over the cherubim....And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and **the glory of the God of Israel was over them.*** – Ezekiel 10:18-19 ESV

*Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and **the glory of the God of Israel was over them. And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city.*** – Ezekiel 11:22-23 ESV

- The glory of the LORD departs
 - But to a very specific location: The Mount of Olives

- Similar to a scene from Jesus' life
*As **Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds**, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. But he responded, "Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!" Later, **Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives**. His disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? **What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?**" – Matthew 24:1-3 NLT*
- The disciples would ask this question again
 - After His resurrection
 - On the Mount of Olives
So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" – Acts 1:6 ESV
 - ~ Was your resurrection the key?
 - ~ Is it time for you to be **Jehovah-Sabaoth** and overthrow the Romans?
 - ~ Rather than answer their question, Jesus commissioned them (Acts 1:7-8)
- Then Jesus ascended
*...as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and **a cloud took him out of their sight**. – Acts 1:9 ESV*
- God's glory departed
***The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God...** – Hebrews 1:3 ESV*
- But He's coming back
On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east... – Zechariah 14:3 ESV
- Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. And behold, **the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east...and the earth shone with his glory**. – Ezekiel 43:1-4 ESV*
- ...the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, **the glory of the Lord filled the temple**. – Ezekiel 43:5 ESV*
- God's glory returns to the Temple
- His presence returns to His people
*I heard one speaking to me **out of the temple**, and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, **where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever**. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings..." – Ezekiel 43:6-7 ESV*

- **The Millennial Kingdom**

- In chapters 43-48, Ezekiel gets a guided tour
 - He sees a river flowing from the Temple
 - And trees that produce healing fruit
 - The Dead Sea is now fresh and filled with fish
 - All the Tribes of Israel are allotted land

*“The distance around the entire city will be miles. And from that day the name of the city will be ‘**The Lord Is There.**’” – Ezekiel 48:35 ESV*

Jehovah-Shammah

there – *šām* – an adverb of place or time

...refers to a specific location or time

...indicates the direction or location of movement

... The LORD is **there**, at **that** time and **that** place

- What sets this city apart is God’s abiding presence
 - Christ will reign for 1,000 years
 - In perfect righteousness
 - But at the end, Satan will be released
 - He will lead one last rebellion
 - But **Jehovah-Sabaoth** will win

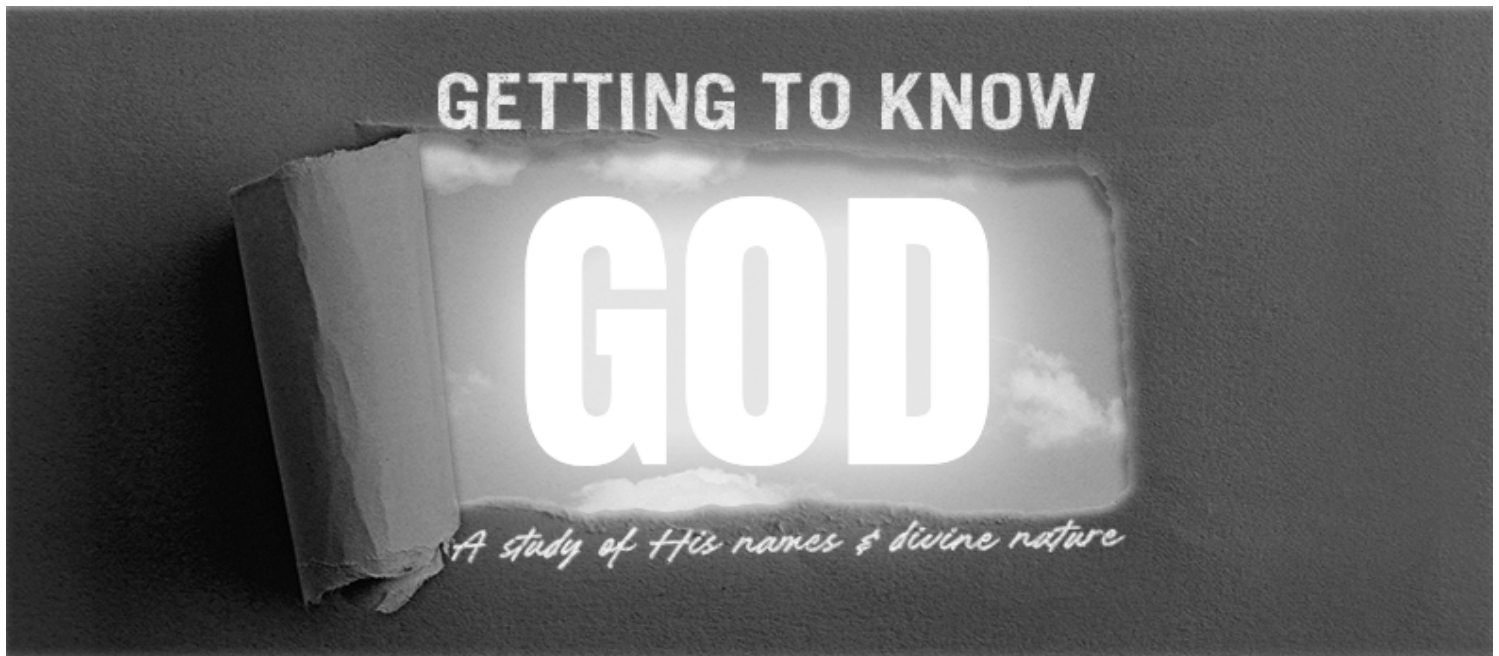
*I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.**” **He will dwell with them**, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” – Revelation 21:1-4 ESV*

- **Discussion Questions**

Why is it significant that God is going to dwell with us on earth? We don’t go to be with Him, but He comes to dwell with us.

Jehovah-Shammah is a name that is totally tied to the future. Why would this name of God be important to remember and consider now?

Read and discuss Colossians 3:1-6. How could Paul’s words make our waiting more productive?



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SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 12 HOMEWORK

WEEK 12 – *Adonai*: The Lord

"**Adonai**" is a Hebrew term that is often translated as "Lord" or "My Lord." It is one of the names used to refer to God in the Jewish, Christian, and other monotheistic traditions. **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי) is derived from the root "Adon" (אֲדֹן), which means "lord" or "master." The term itself is a plural form (a "plural of majesty"), suggesting a heightened sense of reverence and grandeur. In Jewish tradition, **Adonai** is used as a spoken substitute for the Tetragrammaton (the four-letter name of God, YHWH), which is considered too sacred to pronounce aloud. Instead of saying God's unspeakable name, the Jews used "Adonai" in prayer, liturgy, and during reading of the Scriptures. **Adonai** emphasizes God's sovereignty, majesty, and authority. The use of the plural form may reflect God's greatness or divine nature, suggesting that God is beyond human comprehension or limitation. **Adonai** is a title that conveys both the majesty and authority of God. Its use in prayer and scripture is central to understanding God's role as sovereign and transcendent. The term highlights the reverence with which God is regarded, and it plays an important role in both Jewish and Christian worship practices.

- Read pages 95-98 of Ken's Devotionary™ on the names of God. Write down any key thoughts or insights you got from considering the name **Adonai**.

- Read Exodus 4:1-13. This passage takes us back to Moses first encounter with God at the burning bush in the wilderness of Midian. To refresh your memory, go back and read over chapter 3. Now, why is it significant that Moses is still arguing with Jehovah, the great “I Am?”

Look closely at verse 10. Notice how Moses uses word, “Lord” twice, but the two words look slightly different. What is the difference between them?

What do you think this signifies?

When the word LORD appears in all-caps, it is meant to represent the personal name of God: Yahweh. When it appears in upper and lower-case letters, it is a different Hebrew word: Adonai. Adonai was a common word that was used to refer to some of superior worth or importance. It could be used a king, a high-ranking officer, a priest, or even a literal master or slave owner. *Adonai* is simply a term of respect that is in keeping with the English definition and usage of the word *lord*.

Why is it important that Moses used this term when referring to God.

Read the following passage and write down what they reveal about this concept of God as your Lord.

John 13:13-16

Luke 5:1-11

Luke 6:46-49

The use of “Lord” and “Master” in the Bible emphasizes the authority and power of God and Jesus. Why is this an important concept for us to understand?