

**The Story–Week #14**  
**What’s in a Name?**  
**YHWH**  
**Jehovah Jireh**  
**The Pattern of God’s Provision**

**Rules for the Road**

1. The Bible was written for me but not to me.
2. The Bible is a library with different literary genres (Narrative, Poetry & Discourse)
3. The Bible must be read in Context (Ancient, Situational & Biblical)
4. The Bible must be read with an understanding of language and words (Repeated words drive dominant patterns & themes)
5. The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus

We have looked closely at the first two biblical Narratives of Genesis.

1st Narrative 1:1-2:3 The Creation Story

2nd Narrative Genesis 2:4-3:24 The Eden/Fall Story

The first and most noticeable difference in the Two Creation stories (that we have not yet processed) is the name change from Elohîm to YHWH/YAHWEH (Which is referred to as the Covenant Making God)

In the Creation Story, *Elohîm* occurs 35 times.

In the Eden Story, YHWH (*YHWH Elohîm*) occurs 20 times and always in conjunction with Elohîm (*YHWH Elohîm*).

Let’s look at both briefly to be clear:

**Elohîm**

Elohîm was not the name of any one God/god in the Ancient context but a title for spiritual beings. The Biblical authors use it to refer to YHWH as their supreme spiritual being (used about 2000 times in the OT) with an understanding that there were other spiritual beings that did exist. *El* or *Elohîm* is used about a dozen times in the OT to refer to lesser spiritual beings—false gods, angels, etc. This was the Ancient context that Genesis would have first been communicated. The purpose for using a title that was also used widely in the culture was to enlighten any people group, (especially the Hebrews/Israelites) that their God YHWH was the supreme *Elohîm, the maker of heaven and earth*. And would have stood as a way to correct a paganistic view that the rival gods of the culture around them were inferior YHWH.

Examples:

**Genesis 35:2** “So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, ‘Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves...’”

**Joshua 24:2** “Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, “From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods (elohms).””

## YHWH

Although we meet YHWH in Genesis 2:4, we do not know what the name YHWH means until we get to Exodus 3:13-15. There, we see (the human author of Genesis) Moses' first encounter with YHWH.

**Exodus 3:13-15** “Then Moses said to God, ‘Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you.” Now they may say to me, “What is His name?” What shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘**I AM WHO I AM;**’ and He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, “**I AM** has sent me to you.”’ God, furthermore, said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, “The **LORD**, 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 this is My memorial-name to all generations.”

YHWH = “**I am** who **I am**,” which means one who is without beginning or ending because he has always been.

## Adoni

Later the ancient Israelites, because they held such reverence for YHWH they stopped pronouncing it aloud and instead when they came to YHWH would replace it with **Adonay (Adoni)**, the Hebrew word for “Lord.” Which could refer to God, the master of a servant, the leader of a clan or a king.

A few hundred years later Hebrew scribes created a visual reminder to not say YHWH aloud. They left the Hebrew letters YHWH (being a consonant language) and added the vowel sounds from “Lord” (*Adonay*) and came up with *Yehovah* or *Jehovah*. This did not correspond to any actual Hebrew word and was intended to be just a visual reminder to not say aloud YHWH and instead say *Adoni*.

The irony is that later European Christians learning Hebrew didn't know this was a visual reminder and translated it as another name for God. *Jehovah* entered Christian history and is alive and well.

## Jehovah

**Genesis 22:14** “So Abraham called the name of that place, ‘**The LORD** (Jehovah Jireh) **will provide;**’ as it is said to this day, ‘**On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.**”

### The God (YHWH Elohim) who Provides (Jehovah Jireh) The Pattern of Provision

#### The Covenant-Making God Provides:

##### 1. Our Purpose

**Genesis 1:27-28** “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.’”

- To **Represent** Him. (Image Bearers/Partners)

**2 Corinthians 5:19-20** (MSG) “**We’re** Christ’s **representatives**. **God uses us** to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right...”

##### 2. Our Peace

**Genesis 2:1-3** “By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he **rested** from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he **rested** from all the work of creating that he had done.”

- To **Rest in Him**. (Sabbath Keepers)

**Matthew 11:28-30** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest**. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**.”

**Hebrews 4:9-11** “So there is a **special rest** still waiting for the people of God. For all who have entered into **God’s rest have rested** from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. **So let us do our best to enter that rest**.”

##### 3. Our Promise

**Genesis 3:15** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel**.”

- To Be **Reconciled** to Him.

**1 John 3:8** “The reason the **Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.**”

**Colossians 1:20** “And through him (Jesus) to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

#### 4. Our Protection

**Genesis 3:21** “The LORD **God made garments of skin** for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”

God provides a sacrificial system (for all who look to him), throughout the OT, as a covering for sin.

**Isaiah 61:10** “I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has **clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness...**”

- To Be **Righteous** in Him. (Covered By Him)

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him **we might become the righteousness** of God.”

**Romans 13:14** “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

**Ephesians 4:24** “[You were taught] to **put on** the new self, created after the **likeness** of God in true **righteousness** and holiness.”

#### 5. Our Place

**Genesis 3:24** “After he drove the man out, he placed on the **east side** of the Garden of Eden **cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.**”

- To be in **Relationship** with Him. (Abiding in Him)

**Matthew 27:45-46 & 51** (MSG) “From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around mid-afternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?’... At that moment, the Temple curtain was ripped in two, top to bottom.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18** (NIV84) “Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...”

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

Take a few minutes to check in with each other to see how everyone is doing, then do the following mixer and questions.

**Ice Breaker/Mixer Q: Answer either of the following: If you were a slave coming out of bondage from a culture with many gods, how would the Name of God, Elohim, as the God who is greater (because he was the creator God) than all other spiritual beings, change your understanding of your place in the world, if, this creator God, tells you that you are made in his image? Instead of being a slave to the gods, you were now a reflection of, and representative of the creator God?**

1. Understanding the difference between YHWH/*Jehovah* (LORD) and *Adoni* (Lord) , how are both of these expressions important for us as believers today?
2. *Jehovah Jireh*, God our provider. We see in the first pages of the Bible how God provides for mankind, both in his ideal and through man's ordeal. How do you, or are you, experiencing God as your provider?
3. Providing our purpose. The partnership that we (Mankind) is invited into in Genesis is still our purpose today. How distracted do you think we are from being God's partners and how could we cultivate being better partners with God?
4. Each of the 5 points about God's provision (Purpose, Peace, Promise, Protection, and Place) are all significant themes and patterns that will continue to emerge from the scriptures. (All of which rise out of Eden/God's Ideal). Is there one or two that touch you in a more profound way, and if so, describe why?
  - Purpose - To Represent Him
  - Peace - To Rest in Him
  - Promise - To be Reconciled in Him
  - Protection - To be Right/Righteous in Him
  - Place - To be in Relationship with Him

Take a few minutes and share ideas of how we can embrace, at a deeper level, God as our provider. And then have someone close your time in prayer.