

Immerse Day 22 :: March 2

Yahweh, "I Am who I Am".

Names are powerful things. They identify us, they describe us, they show our relations to others, and they can even determine the course of our lives. To know someone's name has been considered to hold power over them in many cultures (which is one reason Jesus asks demons to identify themselves).

Identification: My name identifies me. Every time I hear the name "Steve", I look up. I feel an affinity to others named Steve. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the three Steve's in my class decided to all choose seats that were directly behind each other, so when the teacher called our names and looked our way, it could mean any of us.

Description: "Israel" means "wrestles with God" and surely Jacob, and later his descendants have done so a LOT. Edom, his brother, means "red" and describes his body. "Faith", "Hope", and even "Joy" are names given by some to influence a person's personality.

Relation: My middle name is Bruce, which is my father's name. His middle name is Louis, which was his father's name. And sure enough, my boys middle names are both Steven. And the name Larson tells people that my kids belong to my family line.

So Yahweh, the ultimate Name. "I Am who I Am." What does this tell us about our God? It identifies Him, so much so that orthodox Jews will not say it out of reverence. It describes Him, as the source of all that is, the one against whom all other things are judged. And in terms of relationships, perhaps Yahweh is a bad example. Perhaps Christ is a better one, since all related to God are called Christians.

"I Am" means that all of existence is found in God, that our ideas of right and wrong, of truth and lies, of reality and fiction are all based on Him, His character, His will.

It truly is a Wonderful Name.