



What an Awesome God We Have

Part One

For Yahweh is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Yahweh, our Maker! Psalm 95:3-6

Colin Winters

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Yahweh – our God – is so awesome and glorious; so high and exalted; with authority and powers that are way beyond our comprehension. He is the creator and sovereign ruler of the whole universe; and He is holy – so absolutely majestic and so totally perfect in His whole being that He is set apart from all created things.

And yet this same supreme and holy God has gone to extreme lengths to display His compassion for humanity who are separated from Him because of sin. He has fully displayed the extravagance of His love and grace by sending His only Son Jesus to endure the punishment for our sins on the cross of Calvary. Yahweh's purpose in doing this was so that we could be restored to the personal relationship with Himself which He created us for, but which was seriously disturbed by the sin of Adam and Eve.

As we get to know this extraordinary God, it should lead us to stand in awe of Him, and to give our whole being as a living sacrifice to Him as an act of true worship.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1

Written by Colin Winters as motivated by God. Apart from Him, I can do nothing! (*John 15:5*)

BUT – 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.' (*Philippians 4:13*)

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Unless otherwise noted, most Scriptures are from the ESV (English Standard Version). Other versions used will be NIV (New International Version); ISV (International Standard Version); and NASB (New American Standard Bible).

But please note that I will be using **God's personal name 'Yahweh'** in all Scripture quotations where it normally appears as 'LORD' in capitals. My reason for doing this is because 'LORD' is **not** God's personal name; rather it is '**Yahweh**'. These booklets are all about Yahweh, the One True God, the High and Exalted One, the Supreme Ruler of the universe, the Holy One. Therefore out of reverence for Him, and because of the importance that Yahweh Himself places on His Name, I am obligated to use His personal name '**Yahweh**' in these booklets.

The significance of God's name 'Yahweh' will be more thoroughly explained in **chapter one, page 6**, based primarily on this verse:

*God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, '**Yahweh**, 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, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. Exod 3:15 (NIV)****

'OT' refers to Old Testament, and 'NT' to the New Testament.

ISBE is the abbreviation for International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

Please note that all emphases in verses by underlining or **highlighting** are mine.

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Please feel free to make comments or ask questions.

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All the booklets in this series are accessible on the internet at awesomegod.site

Introduction

This theme is the second in a series which began with – **‘The Most Important Thing in Life: Knowing God’** which included: the gospel message; the biblical focus on the importance of having a personal relationship with Yahweh and His Son Jesus; 'Knowing Jesus' – drawing attention to the essential characteristics of our Savior and Redeemer; and to 'Proclaim the Gospel and make Disciples'. The paragraph below is a quote taken from page 25 of the 'Knowing God' booklet.

‘I trust that you have seen from God's Word that the longing of His heart is that His people would know Him in a close personal relationship, and that we work towards this goal by seeking God with all our heart; by developing a biblical fear of the Lord; and by walking in His ways. If we make a sincere commitment to all of these aspects of our relationship with God, then we will truly be loving Him with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind.’

The aim of this next theme is to at least attempt to proclaim the awesome wonders of the God of the Bible – Yahweh – and His precious Son – Jesus Christ. I say ‘attempt’ because our understanding of the things of God will always be limited; and our personal knowledge of Him will continue to grow until our dying day. God longs to reveal Himself to those who will seek Him with all their heart; and as we genuinely do so, we will grow in our personal relationship with Him, and we will make the responses that He has purposed for us.

The third theme in this series is **‘God’s Purposes for Humanity’** which is again an attempt to explain God’s purposes for us. Yahweh has purposes in everything He does, and all that He allows to happen in the whole universe. He is our Maker – He created us to live in close personal relationship with Himself; to be wholly set apart to Him and His purposes; and to be dependent on Him for all things.

The Scriptures and comments in these booklets have been compiled for **devotional use**; and I would encourage you to avoid reading through them hastily. Rather, begin by asking the Lord to reveal Himself to a greater level than what you currently know, and then take time to meditate on the portion you are reading, allowing the Holy Spirit to open your ‘eyes’ to the wonders of who God is, and to all He has done for such undeserving people – as we all are!

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

Col 1:9-10 (See also **Eph 1:16-17**)

This is our God:

Isa 40:25-28 (NIV) *"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. ²⁷Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from Yahweh; my cause is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.*

Psa 89:5-8 *Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Yahweh, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! ⁶For who in the skies can be compared to Yahweh? Who among the heavenly beings is like Yahweh, ⁷a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him? ⁸O Yahweh God of hosts, who is mighty as you are Yahweh, with your faithfulness all around you?*

Psa 95:1-6 *Oh come, let us sing to Yahweh; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! ³For Yahweh is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Yahweh, our Maker!*

Psa 40:5 *You have multiplied, O Yahweh my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.*

Rom 11:33 (NIV) *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!*

³⁴ *"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"*

³⁵ *"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"*

³⁶ ***For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.***

These Scriptures give us a small indication of the overwhelming greatness of the One True God. And because of His greatness in every aspect of His being, we are limited in our ability to comprehend Him. But thankfully, God's Spirit of Truth will reveal God to us – but only if we commit ourselves to diligently seek Him.

Important points to keep in mind

- By God's grace He has given us His Word the Bible, for the main purpose of making Himself known to those who seek Him with all their heart.

The point worth emphasising here is that God is looking for people who will seek Him with **ALL their heart** – not just a bit here and there. To get to know God we need to make a real commitment to seek Him, and give Him the time He deserves. Please read these verses and thoughtfully meditate on them: **Psa. 119:2 & 10; Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:13; Heb. 11:6.**

- A Christian life is not a matter of knowing information about God, but it's about knowing Him in a personal relationship, and willingly allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal the heart of God to us.
- God is always testing our faith and obedience to Him, because they are of vital importance to God in our growing relationship with Him.

Life is full of distractions, and the devil is always trying to lead people astray from getting to know God. But God knows this and has allowed it to be that way, to see if we will be **faithful** and **obedient** to God; if we will seek Him with all our heart; and if we will take up the challenge of being **overcomers** – both of our self-life, and of the spiritual forces of wickedness against which we struggle.

1 Pet. 1:6-7 (NIV). *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

Read also **Eph 6:10-12; Luke 9:23-24; James 1:3-4; 1 Pet 5:8-9; Rev 12:10-11**

- We are a royal priesthood that we might proclaim His excellencies.

Not only does God want us to have a close personal relationship with Him, but He wants us to proclaim His excellencies – and that's the purpose of these booklets.

1 Pet 2:9 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

Psa 34:1-3 *I will bless Yahweh at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. ²My soul makes its boast in Yahweh; let the humble hear and be glad. ³Oh, magnify Yahweh with me, and let us exalt his name together!*

1. God's personal name 'Yahweh'

A brief explanation of the significance of God's personal name 'Yahweh' was given in chapter 3 of the first booklet in this series – 'The Most Important Thing in Life: Knowing God'. But there is much more to be said, especially under the umbrella of the theme of these booklets – 'What an Awesome God We Have'. The following paragraph is copied from the 'Knowing God' booklet:

'The original Hebrew word for God's name is rendered as YHWH in English capital letters, and is most commonly pronounced as 'Yahweh', or sometimes 'Jehovah'. But for reasons which are certainly not convincing enough for many Christians, Bible translators have been influenced by the Jews who considered God's personal name too holy to be spoken orally, and have instead used 'LORD' in capitals. But 'LORD' is **not a personal name** – it is an **impersonal title** which implies **God's majesty and His position of authority as Sovereign Ruler of all things**. This is absolutely relevant and true in relation to God, but it fails to communicate the significance of God's personal name **'Yahweh'**.'

ISBE makes this comment: *'Characteristic of the Old Testament is its insistence on the possible knowledge of God as a person; and Yahweh is His name as a person. It is illogical, certainly, that the later Hebrews should have shrunk from its pronunciation, in view of the appropriateness of the name and of the Old Testament insistence on the personality of God, who as a person has this name. The American Standard Revised Version quite correctly adopts the transliteration "Yahweh" to emphasize its significance and purpose as a personal name of God revealed.'*

Because of the above points, I have highlighted in **bold** the name **'Yahweh'** wherever it replaces LORD (in capitals) in the Scriptures quoted up to the end of section b.

As we continue, let me suggest, as I often do, that you submit your heart and mind to the Holy Spirit, and ask Him to give you a clearer understanding of the significance of God's personal name 'Yahweh'.

a. The importance of God's name 'Yahweh'.

➤ **It's worth noting that 'Yahweh' appears over 6,500 times in the OT**

This includes compound names of Yahweh which convey some wonderful aspects of God, and who He is for us personally. These will be addressed in section c. page 13. By including His name 'Yahweh' in the Bible so many times, surely God is emphasising the importance of His name?

- God's personal name 'Yahweh' was the name by which He related specifically to His chosen, covenant people.

It was in the second generation of mankind that people began to call upon the name of Yahweh. Seth was Adam's son.

Gen 4:26 *To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of **Yahweh**.*

Then a fuller expression of Yahweh's relation to His chosen people was when He appeared to Abram, and called him to be the father of a great nation. Abram lived in the town of Haran, well north of the land of Canaan, but Yahweh called him to leave his country and family and go to the land God had chosen for the future generations to inhabit. (**Gen 12:1-2**) So Abram; his wife Sarai; and his nephew Lot, departed from Haran and went to the land of Canaan where **Abram called on the name of Yahweh**.

Gen 12:7-8 *Then **Yahweh** appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to **Yahweh**, who had appeared to him.⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he **built an altar to Yahweh and called upon the name of Yahweh**.*

But although Abram knew 'Yahweh' to some degree, the deeper significance of God's name was not known until His revelation to Moses.

- **3. Yahweh emphasises the importance of His name to Moses**

The first time God revealed **the importance of His name**, was at the 'burning bush'. Moses' curiosity was aroused because burning bush wasn't actually being consumed. When he approached the scene, God spoke to Moses, telling him that He was going to send him back to Egypt to rescue God's people from their oppression. After expressing his reluctance, Moses questioned the Lord:

Exod 3:13-15 (NIV) *Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"*

¹⁴*God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

¹⁵*God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, '**Yahweh**, 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, the name you shall call me from generation to generation**".*

You may have noticed in the above verses, the interconnection of the expression 'I AM WHO I AM' with the name 'Yahweh'. This has led to much debate over the years, but I will endeavour to explain its significance in section b. 'The meaning of God's name Yahweh'. But the main point here is to highlight the importance of God's name 'Yahweh' from a broad biblical perspective.

Following the declaration of His personal Name 'Yahweh' in **v.15**, is the strong emphasis He placed on the importance of that name:

"This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation". (Exod 3:15)

'Yahweh' is His name forever – not just back in the time of Moses or His chosen people Israel – but **forever**. His name is still **Yahweh**. And it is the name which He is to be **called throughout all generations**.

This is an emphatic statement by God, and it should grab our attention. And regardless of the fact that many Bible translators have seemingly ignored the importance of the Name, we should absorb its significance, and familiarise ourselves with the use of it, especially as we read the Word of God.

But God's revelation of Himself to Moses at that point was somewhat limited, and I believe that He had reasons for doing so:

Firstly, the essential thing Yahweh wanted His people to recognise was **His self-existence; His powerful presence** with His people; and **His prevailing supremacy as the God of their fathers**.

Secondly, rather than just verbally explaining all His attributes, He was about to grab the people's attention with an **up-front, visible display of His almighty power, and His control over all things**, including the environment, creatures, and people.

Thirdly, Yahweh was going to reveal more of the significance of His name to Moses when they reached Mount Sinai, as we will see shortly.

Fourthly, His purpose was to progressively reveal Himself to His people in various ways, with the pinnacle being through His Son Jesus Christ.

➤ **4. Yahweh displayed His almighty power to the Israelites**

Initially when Moses, along with Aaron, went to Pharaoh and requested him to release Israel so that they could go into the wilderness to hold a feast in honor of Yahweh, Pharaoh refused to do so, and made their labour even harder. The people complained bitterly to Moses, but Yahweh spoke powerfully to Moses again with a strong emphasis on the fact that **He is Yahweh who established His**

covenant with the forefathers of Israel to give them the land of Canaan; and **that He would deliver them** from under the burden of the Egyptians with powerful acts and bring them into the promised land.

***Exod 6:2-8** God spoke to Moses and said to him, "**I am Yahweh.** ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but **by my name Yahweh** I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.*

*⁶Say therefore to the people of Israel, '**I am Yahweh,** and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that **I am Yahweh** your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. **I am Yahweh.**'"*

Following God's emphasis that **He is Yahweh** who would powerfully deliver the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt and bring them into the Promised Land, Moses and Aaron went back to Pharaoh, and Yahweh began to display His almighty power through miraculous signs and plagues on the Egyptians. Eventually it took the killing of all the firstborn males of the Egyptians, as well as the firstborn of their cattle to persuade Pharaoh to let the people go.

In addition to what the Israelites saw throughout the plagues in Egypt, was **Yahweh's almighty power which was clearly displayed during their exodus** from Egypt, and on their journey to the Promised Land. Firstly, they observed God's presence in the cloud by day and the fire by night (**Exod 13:21-22**); but then when they reached the Red Sea with the Egyptian army hard on their tails, they were in panic mode. But Moses responded to the people:

***Exod 14:13-14** And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of **Yahweh**, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴**Yahweh** will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."*

Moses is again emphasising what Yahweh was going to save them. All the people had to do was to have no fear, but to be silent and watch what He would do to deliver them. Yahweh's plan was again to show Israel and the Egyptians an extraordinarily impressive display of His power to control anything He wanted to,

in this case through the Red Sea crossing, and the destruction of the Egyptian army which was set on destroying the Israelites.

As they continued on their journey they visibly saw more of Yahweh's amazing power as they experienced the turning of bitter water into sweet by throwing a piece of wood into the water; the provision of food as they travelled through the desert; and the defeat of other opposing armies.

Through all that had occurred, the Israelites had certainly seen Yahweh's incredible power and authority. But the sad thing is that it didn't really impact them according to Yahweh's purpose – which was that they would be totally committed to worship and serve God alone.

➤ 5. Yahweh's deeper revelation of Himself to Moses

In the course of time as Moses continued leading the people and giving them Yahweh's Commandments, laws, and covenant requirements; Moses was getting to know God in more real and powerful ways. It was then that Moses made a serious request of Yahweh –

"Please show me your glory." (Exod 33:18) Yahweh's response was – *"I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you **my name 'Yahweh.'** And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy." (v.19)*

Shortly after this, Yahweh revealed Himself, but not completely, because:

..."you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." Exod 33:20

***Exod 34:5-7 Yahweh** descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of **Yahweh**. ⁶**Yahweh** passed before him and proclaimed, "**Yahweh, Yahweh**, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty..."*

This was a very significant revelation of some of the most essential aspects of Yahweh's nature. It became a classic description that was frequently recalled elsewhere in the OT (see **Num 14:18; Neh 9:17; Psalms 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2**), and which are evidenced throughout the Scriptures; with the pinnacle being in Jesus the Son of Yahweh.

➤ 6. The significance of God's personal name Yahweh is also emphasised in other Scriptures:

***Psa 135:13** Your name, O **Yahweh**, endures forever, your renown, O **Yahweh**, throughout all ages.*

Isa 42:8 *I am Yahweh; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.*

Jer 32:18b-19a *Great and mighty God, whose name is Yahweh Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds.*

Ezek 36:22-23 *“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord **Yahweh**: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of **my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.*

*²³And I will vindicate the holiness of **my great name**, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am **Yahweh**, declares the Lord **Yahweh**, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.*

Hos 12:5 *Yahweh, the God of hosts, **Yahweh** is his memorial name.*

Also: **Exod 15:2-3; Psa 83:18; 148:13; Psa 113; Isa 47:4; Jer 16:21; 32:18b-19a; 33:2; Amos 4:13**

Clearly, throughout these Scriptures, Yahweh is highlighting the **importance of His name**. But He is also giving to His people **the right and the responsibility to call Him by His personal name rather than by a formal name, or a title**. This gives us a clear indication that **Yahweh wants to have a personal relationship with His chosen people, rather than simply being a 'Lord' who rules over them**.

To a large degree we have explained **the importance** of Yahweh's name, and the means by which He powerfully displayed Himself to His chosen people Israel for the primary purpose of gaining their attention and their devotion to Him as their God – the One whom they should love with their whole being; the One they should fear, and walk in His ways.

We now move forward to explain the meaning of God's name Yahweh.

b. The meaning of God's name 'Yahweh'

Firstly, it must be noted that in the Bible, names generally have important significance. They might be saying something about the person's character, or about the reason why God chose them to fulfil a special task. For God, His names are always of particular significance, as they convey important aspects of God's character; or the out-working of His authority or power – either in the heavens, or for His people.

In answer to Moses question when he was speaking with God at the burning bush, God's initial response was: *“I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.’”*

'I AM WHO I AM' is an expression of God's absolute, unchanging, eternal Being – the self-existing One. And this initial response to Moses' question was an introduction to God conveying His personal name '**Yahweh**' which is actually derived from the Hebrew word for 'I AM'.

In consideration of the transliterations from the original Hebrew of both '**I AM**' and '**Yahweh**' as found in some of the well-known Bible commentaries and dictionaries, we find the following definitions:

➤ **I AM**

Hebrew H1961: 'Hâyâh' In general meaning: to exist – that is – be or become, or come to pass.

Bible commentators often define 'Hâyâh' to mean '**I Am who I Am**', and also use the third person form: '**He is who He is**', or '**He will be who He will be**'.

➤ **Yahweh**

Hebrew H3068: 'YHWH' From H1961 (above); Self-existent or eternal.

We see here the connection between the two words in the above definitions – 'YHWH' is actually derived from 'I AM', and they both include the idea of self-existence.

Generally these definitions, coupled with an understanding gained from the contextual use of 'Yahweh', give us a clearer understanding of the meaning of '**Yahweh**'.

Following is a summary of widely accepted explanations of the significance of God's personal name 'Yahweh', followed by a couple more relevant scriptures in addition to the ones already quoted:

Yahweh is the self-existing and eternal God. He is who He is; incomparable; always sufficient; inexhaustible; and without need to justify Himself in the face of any other being. He is the unchanging God who will always be present with His covenant people. He is not dependent on anyone else; He is Sovereign; and He does whatever is right according to His nature and purposes.

Psa 83:18 ...that they may know that you alone, whose name is **Yahweh**, are the Most High over all the earth.

Isa 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? **Yahweh** is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

I trust that so far you have come to a greater appreciation of the significance of God's personal name '**Yahweh**'.

I would like to suggest – if you agree with the explanations about the importance of God’s personal name ‘Yahweh’ – that **as you read your own Bible, you try to form the mental habit of reading ‘Yahweh’ wherever ‘LORD’ appears in capitals.** It will take some time, but I have found that it works if you stick to it.

Also, more importantly, as you read the OT, **place your focus on Yahweh – who He is, the amazingly powerful things He was doing, and His strong desire to relate to His people.** Try to imagine yourself in a situation similar to the particular context of the Scriptures you are reading where God is there.

Before moving on, please remember that wherever Yahweh’s name appears as ‘LORD’ in the quoted Scriptures, I have replaced it with ‘Yahweh’.

c. Compound names of Yahweh

As mentioned in section a. page 6, Yahweh’s name appears in compound forms, highlighting various powerful attributes of God which are directly connected to His name Yahweh. The wonderful thing about these ‘Names’ is that **they express what God is for us personally.** I have not done so much study on these compound names, so my comments are perhaps somewhat limited, and where necessary I have included notes from Bible commentators.

These attributes of Yahweh are generally prefixed with ‘Jehovah’. So we will do the same here, addressing them in the order in which they appear in the Scriptures. Also, you will notice that the complementary title of each of these names also applies to Jesus.

i. Jehovah Jireh – Yahweh our Provider

Gen 22:14 So Abraham called the name of that place, “**Yahweh will provide**”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of Yahweh it shall be provided.”

Leading up to this declaration, God had allowed Abraham to go through a number of tests for the purpose of:

- **Proving Yahweh’s faithfulness to His promises.**
- **Using Abraham as an example for us that God would credit righteousness to us when by faith accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour**

At the age of 75 years, Abram was promised by Yahweh that he would be the father of a great nation; but he had no children to be his heirs. Some years later, God confirmed His promise to Abram that he would have his own son, and that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars of heaven. Abram believed God, and his faith was credited to him as righteousness. (See **Gen 15:1-6**) However,

Sarai had doubts that she could bear a son. But after waiting for 25 years their promised son Isaac was born.

Then when Isaac was about 16 years old, there came what we might consider a shocking request by Yahweh to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering. However, even after having waited so many years for his promised son to be born, and in his old age, Abraham set his course to obey God without any protest.

This was a test by Yahweh to see if Abraham would still believe that God would provide a son for them. And as we know, Abraham followed through with God's request, right up to the point of raising a knife to kill his son. At this point the angel of Yahweh intervened and provided a ram for the sacrifice.

This is where, by God's inspiration, Abraham called the place '**Jehovah Jireh**', meaning '**Yahweh will provide**'.

➤ **Jesus is our ultimate 'Provision'**

This was an event of huge significance in the history of God's purposes. And it's not by coincidence that when Isaac asked '*where is the lamb for the burnt offering*' (**Gen 22:7**), Abraham replied: '*God will provide for himself the lamb ...*' (**v.8**). This of course points us to Jesus Christ, Yahweh's precious Son, the Lamb of God, whom He provided as the ultimate sacrifice – for the sins of all humanity.

This is the greatest 'provision' that Yahweh our Provider has made for us. But it doesn't stop there. Yahweh will also provide us with our daily needs – as long as we place our faith in Him as our Provider, and wait for His timing to provide.

Rom 8:32 *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

Phil 4:19 *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Also read Psa 34:9-10; Matt 6:25-34; Eph 1:3-4; 2 Pet 1:3

Yahweh is truly trustworthy as our Provider

ii. Jehovah Rapha – Yahweh our Healer (Pronounced – raw-faw)

Exod 15:26 ... "*If you will diligently listen to the voice of Yahweh your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am Yahweh, your healer.*"

Even though it was only 3 days after the Red Sea crossing where the power of Yahweh Almighty was on full display, the Israelites grumbled about the lack of drinkable water. But Yahweh was testing them:

Exod 15:24-25 *And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"* ²⁵*And he cried to Yahweh, and Yahweh showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There Yahweh made for them a statute and a rule, and **there he tested them saying** ...* (See **v.26** bottom of p.14)

What God is saying here, is that as Yahweh their Healer, He would keep them from all the diseases that He imposed on the Egyptians – **provided** they would diligently listen to His voice, and do what is right in His eyes. But sadly Israel by and large fell well short of God's standards, and suffered the consequences.

Yahweh does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is still Yahweh our Healer. But how does that apply to us? In terms of physical healing, I don't have a conclusive answer to that question. But I do know that if we wholeheartedly commit ourselves to live in the fear of Yahweh; to walk in His ways; and to love Him with all that we are; then we can totally trust Him to take care of our bodily needs according to His purposes for us individually.

➤ Jesus is our 'Healer'

The first time Jesus was spoken of as our 'Healer' was in Isaiah's prophesy about the 'Suffering Servant' in chapter 53.

Isa 53:4-5 *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.* ⁵*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

In the context, this is primarily **spiritual healing**. We were sinners; separated from God; spiritually sick, even dead. But Yahweh laid on Jesus the iniquity of us all so that by His stripes we are healed – made alive spiritually; restored to the relationship with Himself that He created us for.

2 Cor 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Peter gives a clear understanding of the spiritual implication of being 'healed' by His wounds:

1 Pet 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

iii. Jehovah Nissi – Yahweh is our Banner

Exod 17:15-16 *And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, **Yahweh Is My Banner**, ¹⁶saying, “A hand upon the throne of Yahweh! Yahweh will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”*

The context in which this occurred was the defeat of Amalek's army by Israel. It seems that the standout point in this account was the raising of Moses' hands when he stood on the hill above the battle field. When his hands were raised, Israel prevailed; but when he grew tired and couldn't hold up his arms, Amalek prevailed. So they sat Moses on a stone while Arron and Hur held up his hands.

'Banner' means: a sign; an ensign; a standard. It is the 'standard-bearer' who holds the banner for the army while they proceed against their enemy.

Fausset's Bible Dictionary makes the following comments:

*(‘Banner’ was) a common object of regard, a signal of observation, a rallying point to awaken men's hopes and efforts. The altar (in **Exod 17:15**) was the pledge that Yahweh, in covenant with Israel, would enable His people to utterly defeat Amalek. Messiah, set forth manifestly as the crucified Saviour (**Gal 3:1**) is the rallying point for the gathering together in one unto Him of all the redeemed in spirit, in the glorified body also hereafter.*

➤ **Jesus is our Banner'**

Gal 3:1 *O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.*

Other Scriptures which indicate the concept of Christ being our 'banner' are:

1 Cor 2:2 *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

1 Cor 11:26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (Also **Col 1:26-27**)*

Yahweh's love displayed is the 'banner' under which His people rally for almighty protection and unspeakable comfort.

➤ **Prayer in Jesus Name is a 'Banner'**

Interestingly, Moses' raising of his hands is symbolic of prevailing prayer. In that context, we are raising a banner – a sign – a standard – against our enemy the devil, letting him know that we are on the side that will have the victory by the almighty power of God. There is so much to be said on the importance; the power; and the victory we have through our Lord Jesus Christ, as we pray in the

power of the Spirit. This will be addressed in the third topic in this series of booklets – 'God's Purposes for Humanity'.

iv. Jehovah Shalom – Yahweh is Peace

Judges 6:24 *Then Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and called it, **Yahweh Is Peace**. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.*

The background to Yahweh commissioning Gideon was that when Joshua had passed away after faithfully serving Yahweh as the leader of His people, the next generation somehow didn't know what Yahweh had done for Israel, and they forsook Him and worshipped foreign gods. They provoked Yahweh to anger and He handed them over to raiders who plundered them.

Judges 2:16-17 *Then Yahweh raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷ Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of Yahweh, and they did not do so.*

Israel's rebellion against Yahweh was ongoing, with a short reprieve under the leadership of the prophetess Deborah when the land had peace for 40 years.

But, once again:

Judges 6:1 *The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, and Yahweh gave them into the hand of Midian seven years.*

Near the end of those seven years, Israel was at a very low point and cried out to Yahweh, who reminded them of their rebellious disobedience. Then an Angel of Yahweh came to Gideon for the purpose of appointing him as a deliverer from the Midianites. Gideon confessed his weakness and inability to do what the Angel was calling him to do, but the Angel encouraged him.

Then when Gideon had prepared and presented some food to the Angel, the Angel reached out with his staff and touched the food which burst into flames, and then the Angel vanished. This somewhat terrified Gideon as he realised that it was truly an Angel of Yahweh whom he had seen face to face.

Judges 6:22-24 *Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of Yahweh. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face." ²³But Yahweh said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." ²⁴Then Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and called it, **Yahweh Is Peace**. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.*

Following another challenging issue for Gideon, and a fresh invasion by the Midianites and the Amalekites, Gideon sought for a sign of confirmation from Yahweh that he was to battle against them. Yahweh's confirmation by the fleece of wool is well known, and Gideon and the people went out against their enemies.

Yahweh delivered His people; Gideon ruled over the land as a judge; and they had peace for the forty years of his leadership. But sadly, when Gideon passed away, Israel again prostituted themselves in their worship of Baal.

Such was the inconsistency of God's chosen people to love the Lord their true God, and to walk in His ways. And because of their idol worship they did not live in the peace of Yahweh that they had experienced for that relatively short time.

➤ Jesus is our 'Peace'

Another wonderful prophesy of Isaiah about the coming Messiah is found in *Isaiah ch.9*

Isa 9:6-7 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this.*

➤ Now, by faith in Jesus Christ, we have that peace.

Rom 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

When Jesus was speaking to His disciples about His upcoming departure, He had these words of comfort for them:

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

John 16:33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

That peace will be even more real when Christ returns and restores all things.

Isa 11:6-9 *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the*

adder's den. ⁹*They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea.*

v. Jehovah Raah – Yahweh is our Shepherd

Psa 23:1 *A Psalm of David. **Yahweh is my shepherd**; I shall not want.*

This is probably one of the most well-known Psalms, and it certainly applies to us, and is very comforting and encouraging. And when we feel isolated; or needy; or vulnerable; or maybe tending to feel depressed – Yahweh is always present with us to comfort us; to guide us; to discipline us in His love; and to protect us from the enemy. He pours out His divine favour upon us; His goodness and love will be with us all the days of our lives; and we will dwell in the House of Yahweh forever. Hallelujah, what an awesome Shepherd!

When the Messiah was about to be born, the true meaning of one of Micah's prophecies was revealed

Matt 2:6 *“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”*

This was one of many prophecies and encouraging words of comfort about Yahweh and the Messiah being the Shepherd of His people. For example:

Isa 40:10-11 *Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.*

Read also **Ezek 34:11-24**

➤ **Jesus Himself openly declared that He was the Good Shepherd.**

John 10:14-15 *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

➤ **Jesus is the 'great Shepherd of the sheep'.**

Heb 13:20-21 *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

vi. Jehovah Tsedeq – Yahweh our Righteousness

*Jer 23:6 (NASB) "In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, '**Yahweh our righteousness.**' (Also ch. 33:16)*

Yahweh's **righteousness** is that which is upright or virtuous – displaying integrity; purity of life; and total consistency with His own nature and promises. Yahweh is the Righteous Judge of all people, and He will always act with integrity. One day every knee shall bow and acknowledge who He really is.

Isa 45:23-24 By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'²⁴"Only in Yahweh, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him.

➤ The righteousness of God has been revealed in the Gospel message.

Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Also Rom 3:21)

➤ Jesus, the Son of God, has become our righteousness through faith in His work on the cross – through Jesus we have a right standing with Yahweh

1 Cor 1:30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption...

2 Cor 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

vii. Jehovah Shammah – Yahweh is There

*Ezek 48:35 The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be, **Yahweh Is There.**"*

This is recognised as the great decisive word of Yahweh concerning the holy city Jerusalem. It is part of Ezekiel's prophecies about the future restoration of God's holy people; of the holy land; and the holy temple. **Yahweh will be there.**

➤ As children of God, we take comfort from the fact that Spirit of Yahweh and of Jesus will always be present with us.

Matt 28:20b "... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

John 14:15-20 *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*

Heb 13:5b-6 *...for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"*

These compound names of Yahweh are emphatic statements by Him, conveying different ways in which He is powerfully at work in our lives. But we need to truly know the implication of them for us, and trust Yahweh to work them into our lives as He sees fit.

➤ **Praise God for all that He is for us. What an awesome God we have.**

Psa 121:1-8 *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?*

²*My help comes from Yahweh, who made heaven and earth.*

³*He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.*

⁴*Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

⁵*Yahweh is your keeper; Yahweh is your shade on your right hand.*

⁶*The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

⁷*Yahweh will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.*

⁸*Yahweh will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

Psa 44:1-8 (NIV) *We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago.*

²*With your hand you drove out the nations and planted our ancestors; you crushed the peoples and made our ancestors flourish.*

³*It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.*

⁴*You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob.*

⁵*Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.*

⁶*I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory;*

⁷*but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame.*

⁸*In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever.*

2. It's All About God

Having given some attention to the significance of God's personal name 'Yahweh', **let me emphasise that the whole purpose of these booklets is to draw our attention to what the Scriptures have to say about Yahweh and His astonishing nature and attributes. This is the main reason why God has given us His Word.**

I made the point on page 8 that God's purpose was to **progressively reveal Himself** to His people Israel, as in fact He has throughout His Word. And His purpose is to do the same for us now – He will progressively reveal Himself through His Word and by His Spirit to those who diligently seek Him.

As we continue with considering the attributes of God, whether He is referred to in these booklets as **'God', or 'Yahweh'**, it is the same One True God – **Yahweh – our awesome God, and His Son Jesus Christ.**

When bible teachers are explaining the attributes of God, it seems that they tend to focus on a more academic analysis of those attributes. But while this can be helpful in some ways, it can also be a distraction from the awesomeness of Yahweh Himself, and as we noted above – **His astonishing nature and attributes.**

This is what I want us to focus on in this booklet, because it points us more in the direction of building our personal 'relationship knowledge' of God, leading to a closer walk with Him, and to a much deeper level of trust in Him. The more we understand the heart of God, the clearer will be our understanding of **God's purposes for humanity – what He has done for us; what He wants to do for us; and the responses He desires us to make in order to put Him first in our lives and walk in His ways. As we pursue these things we will bring glory to Him who is so worthy of all glory and honour.**

It is also very important that we **humble ourselves** before God, and **give ourselves totally to Him.** Sadly, there is too much false teaching in many churches, and there are also traditional and 'cultural' ideas about God which are not really the Truth. For this reason we need to **submit to God:** firstly **ourselves;** and also the things **we think we know.** Then we need to ask **His Spirit of Truth to reveal the Truth to us** as we diligently seek Him. It is totally safe to 'submit' everything to God, because God will honour that, and will teach us the Truth. Even if what we already know about God is actually true, the Holy Spirit will confirm the truth to us. Jesus told His disciples:

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." John 16:13.

The devil has been far too effective in leading astray many so-called ‘pastors’ and ‘teachers’ and so many Christians, that we cannot always totally trust what they are saying. **But we can rely on God’s Spirit of Truth.** The Berean Christians didn’t simply accept what even the apostles were teaching them, but they ***‘examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.’ (Acts 17:11)***

Another very common issue – yet also very serious – is that in many churches throughout the world, ‘Christianity’ is not as God wants it to be. So often it is only ‘religion’, or a custom, or rituals; where people go to a well-ordered church service or a prayer meeting, and do good works, thinking that this will please God. But sadly this has been an ongoing problem throughout history. **There are many verses in the Bible where God is showing His disappointment when people’s hearts were far from truly knowing God and worshipping Him as He required.** This is what Yahweh said through the prophet Isaiah:

Isa 29:13 *And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men... (See also **Matt 15:7-9**)*

I would encourage you to be aware of these things, and in submission, make a genuine commitment to seek God with **all** your heart – as we emphasised in the first booklet of this series – ‘The Most Important Thing in Life: Knowing God’.

I would also encourage you to work your way through these booklets in a devotional and meditative manner, focusing on what the Bible conveys to us about our awesome God – Yahweh.

As we continue, you will see that Yahweh is so much greater than we can imagine; so much more worthy of all glory and honour than people realize; so holy that we should fall to our knees and worship Him.

1 Chron 16:28-29 *Ascribe to Yahweh, O clans of the peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength! ²⁹Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship Yahweh in the splendor of holiness...*

To encourage you to really engage in worshipping God; I have included some wonderful Psalms of praise and worship at different points throughout these booklets. There is so much here that I pray will motivate you to worship God as you come to recognise the wonders of who He is and what He desires to do for us. So please, let me urge you to engage your hearts in these Psalms, and worship Him in spirit and in truth. The title **‘Take time to praise and worship’** will appear above these Psalms. For example:

Take time to praise and worship

Psa 8:1-9 *A Psalm of David. ¹O Yahweh, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*

²*Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.*

³*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,*

⁴*what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

⁵*Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

⁶*You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,*

⁷*all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,*

⁸*the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

⁹*O Yahweh, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Psa 113:1-9 *Praise Yahweh! Praise, O servants of Yahweh, praise the name of Yahweh!*

²*Blessed be the name of Yahweh from this time forth and forevermore!*

³*From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of Yahweh is to be praised!*

⁴*Yahweh is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!*

⁵*Who is like Yahweh our God, who is seated on high,*

⁶*who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?*

⁷*He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,*

⁸*to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.*

⁹*He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise Yahweh!*

Isa 25:1 (NIV) *Yahweh, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.*

The next chapter is presenting a somewhat abbreviated overview of God's personal being before we move on to expound the awesomeness of God.

3. The Essential Aspects of God's Being

a. God is a spirit being

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Tim 1:17 *To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

God cannot be seen or touched; He is not a physical being, as are people and idols. He is a spirit being, and He can be present anywhere in the whole universe:

Jer 23:24 *Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares Yahweh. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares Yahweh. (see also 2 Chron 2:6).*

b. God is a personal being

- God clearly expresses His emotions, and His moral qualities and uprightness.

Much of God's personality is expressed in His revelation to Moses:

'Yahweh, Yahweh, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness... Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished..' **Exod 34:6-7.** (NIV)

- He grieves over His people's disobedience and rebellion:

Gen 6:6 (NIV) *Yahweh regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. (sees also Psalms 78: 40)*

- He even gets angry with them:

Psa 95:10 (NIV) *For forty years I was angry with that generation; I said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.'*

- But He is always ready to forgive – if they repent and return to God:

2 Chron. 7:14 (NIV)... *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

- God communicates with people:

Psa 91:15 *When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.*

Heb 1:1-2a (NIV) *In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...*

➤ **And He responds to their needs:**

Psa 10:17-18 (NIV) *You, Yahweh, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.*

Psa 91:14-15 *"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.*

All these things are what make God a personal being. He has personal characteristics just as we do – we were made in His image and likeness.

c. God is Holy

Yahweh's holiness consists of His absolute distinction from all created things; including His Majesty; His awesomeness; and the sum-total of all His absolutely perfect moral virtues. Holiness is considered to be the most important aspect of God's whole being, expressive of His very nature; and because of its importance will be addressed more fully in Part Two of this series.

d. God is Three in One – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

'Three in One' sounds a bit confusing! It is commonly known as the 'Trinity', but over the centuries there has been much debate regarding the interpretation, or understanding of the 'Trinity' (the word doesn't actually appear in the Bible).

However, what we can say is that there is only **one true God** consisting of three identities – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and they are '**One**' in that they are **of the same essence, with the same aspects of their being** as explained up to here in this chapter.

They are also '**One**' in the sense of close, intimate union. Interestingly, the same words for 'One' in the original Hebrew and Greek texts are also used in the case of a husband and wife being '*one flesh*' (**Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5-6**), and also of all true believers being '*one*' just as the Father and the Son are '*one*' (**John 17:20-23**); thus pointing to the closeness and intimacy of their union.

But it's important that we recognize their distinctive roles as the Father has ordained. So following is a brief overview of the 'Three in One', giving some of the main points about the distinctive roles of Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

i. Yahweh is the Father

- He is the ultimate authority.

1 Cor 11:3 *But I want you to understand that ... the head of Christ is God.*

1 Cor 15:27-28 (NIV) *For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ.* ²⁸*When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.*

- He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psa 2:7 (NIV) *I will proclaim Yahweh's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father.*

Psa 89:26-27 *He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'* ²⁷*And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.*

Jesus acknowledged that the Father was greater than he: *"for the Father is greater than I."* **John 14:28b.**

Then there are also other verses in the NT that speak of the Father as *'...the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father...'* who by His incomparably great power *'...raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...'* (Selections from **Eph 1:17-20** (NIV); and also:

"... where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." **Col 3:1; & Eph 2:20**

- He is our Heavenly Father, and we are His children

Early on in His ministry Jesus began to refer to God as our Father.

Matt 5:16 (NIV) *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Also **Matt 5:45 & Matt 6:9** etc.

John 20:17 *Jesus said... 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'*

And the apostle John wonderfully expresses the incredible privilege of being called 'children of God'

1 John 3:1 (NIV) *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

Because there is so much more to be said about Yahweh as our Father, I will add more thoughts in chapter 10 of the **Part Two** booklet: **Yahweh is our Father.**

ii. Jesus is the Son

This theme was addressed more fully in the first booklet on the importance of 'Knowing God'; but we have also summarised some of the main aspects here.

The NT abounds with references to Jesus as the 'Son of God' – that is – He is the Son of Yahweh Almighty. The first direct reference being when the angel Gabriel was revealing to Mary that the child in her womb was conceived of the Holy Spirit and was to be called '*the son of God*'

Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God."*

Mark begins his gospel with: '*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*' (**Mark 1:1**)

John the Baptist prophetically spoke of Jesus as the Son of God:

John 1:34 *"And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."*

There are 40 or so references to the 'Son of God' in the NT, with these being just a few examples:

John 3:18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

John 11:27 *She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

John 20:31 *...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Acts 9:20 *And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."*

Jesus frequently refers to himself as the 'Son of God', and more predominantly, the 'Son of Man'. He also regularly refers to God as his 'Father', which stirred up antagonism amongst the Jews (See **John 5:18 & 10:33**). And it should also be noted that in most of the apostolic letters, the 'Father' and the 'Lord Jesus Christ' are addressed as two identities within the Godhead.

Rom 1:7b *... Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The same, or very similar phrase, is used in the introduction to 13 of the NT letters, with John giving a particular emphasis on Jesus being the Father's Son.

2 John 1:3 *Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love.*

Then, what adds further clarification to Jesus being a true 'Son' of the Father, is that He is also called God's only Begotten Son.

Jesus - God's only Begotten Son

The first reference to this was in the Psalms, and then in the NT.

Psa 2:7 *I will tell of the decree: Yahweh said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.*

John 3:16 (NASB) *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

According to Bible commentators, 'begotten' means either: 'to be born of...'; or in a metaphorical sense: '...the absolutely unique relation of the Son to the Father in His divine nature.' Both appear to be applicable to Jesus.

It is undeniably true that Jesus relation to the Father as His Son is absolutely unique; and that Jesus is divine in His nature. But it must also be noted that Jesus is consistently declared to be 'the Son of God' – even by Jesus Himself; who also refers to God as His Father many times.

It's also interesting to note that **Hebrews 1:5-6** points to three aspects of Jesus as – God's begotten Son – the Son of the Father – and the firstborn into the world: *'...today I have begotten you' ... "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son" ...when he brings the firstborn into the world...*

Even though there are interpretative challenges with regard to Jesus being 'begotten' of the Father, the sonship of Jesus to His Father is abundantly clear – so why is it so difficult to accept that Jesus somehow proceeded from the Father? We have no idea how – but the biblical evidence is clear enough from all the references to the Father and His Begotten Son – Jesus.

But the question arises: Why did God need to have a Son?

- **Firstly, He wanted to display His glory to the world in the person of His Son**

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Heb 1:3 (NIV) *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

- Secondly, He wanted to display His extravagant love and grace in such a powerful way that people would sit up and take notice.

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 3:16 (NASB) *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

1 John 4:9-10 *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

(Also **John 15:13; Romans 5:8 & Ephesians 2:4-8**)

What would grab our attention more than this: Jesus – the Son of Yahweh our Maker; the Lord Almighty; holy and majestic – laid down His life for our sake? He humbled Himself, left His throne in His perfect heaven, came to this sin-filled world as a simple human being, and served humanity. And then, on the cross He suffered the wrath of God as He was being punished for our sins. But He was raised again from the dead by God's mighty power, and returned to His rightful place in heaven as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

- Thirdly, He wanted to provide a Saviour and Redeemer for mankind

Adam's sin was what separated humanity from God; but God provided a redeemer through His Son Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:12-13 *...remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Eph 1:7 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace...*

Col 1:21-22 *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...*

There is certainly more to be said about Jesus which is so essential in our relationship with God. We have already written about Him to some extent in the first booklet on the importance of 'Knowing God'; and there will also be more added in the third booklet in this series – 'What an Awesome God We Have'

iii. The Holy Spirit is God in Action.

'The Spirit was God in action, particularly when the action was specific, with a view to accomplishing some particular end or purpose of God. The Spirit came upon individuals for special purposes.' (From ISBE Dictionary).

From the Scriptures we get a clear picture of the activity of the Holy Spirit.

➤ **Isaiah prophesied about the Spirit of Yahweh resting on Jesus**

Isa 11:1-2 *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of Yahweh shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh.*

Also **Isa 42:1; 61:1**

➤ **The prophets spoke of the Holy Spirit being poured out on people**

Joel 2:28-29 *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. ²⁹Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. (See also **Acts 2:17-21**)*

Please read also: Isa 32:15-16; 44:3; Ezek 36:25-27

➤ **Jesus told His disciples that they were going to be baptised with the Holy Spirit**

Acts 1:4-5 *And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

➤ **The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-4 *When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

➤ **The Holy Spirit is gifted to all who repent of their sins, and receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord**

Acts 2:38 *And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

➤ **The Holy Spirit is the One who will lead us, and enable us to walk in God's ways**

Rom 8:3-4 *For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Gal 5:16-17 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

➤ **The Holy Spirit is the One who reveals the Truth of God's Word**

In Jesus final discourse with His disciples, He announced the coming of the Holy Spirit; and one of the names Jesus called Him was 'the Spirit of Truth'.

John 16:13 *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

The apostle Paul also expounded the critical importance of relying on the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God to us.

1 Cor 2:9-15 *But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"-- ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.*

The Spirit of Truth is the One whom God has given to us for spiritual wisdom and understanding, and to enlighten the 'eyes of our hearts'. Regardless of who the teacher is, we should always take the Berean approach and 'search the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so' (**Acts 17:11**)

4. The Glory, Splendour, and Majesty of Yahweh

These overwhelming aspects of Yahweh's nature often appear together in the Scriptures. His glory and splendour are expressive of the outshining of His extraordinary beauty, magnificence, brilliance, excellence, fame, and dignity. Yahweh is truly impressive in His glory and splendour.

'Majesty' is primarily a positional characteristic, expressing Yahweh's prominence, grandeur, honour, exaltedness, supreme power and authority.

'Glory', as the ISBE expresses it; *describes the form in which Yahweh reveals Himself, or is the sign and manifestation of His presence.*

The degree of our comprehension of these overwhelming features will always be limited until we see Yahweh face to face. But as we spend more time seeking to know God, we will grasp the significance of them more clearly.

Moses' request was, *"Please show me your glory."* (**Exod 33:18**) But Yahweh's response was:

Exod 33:19-23 ...*"I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'Yahweh.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹And Yahweh said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by." ²³Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."*

It appears that the full manifest glory of Yahweh's 'face' is too overwhelming for us to see. Yahweh is awesome beyond the comprehension of mere mortals, and I would like to suggest here – as I frequently do – that we give time to meditate on the awesome glory, splendor, and majesty of Yahweh Almighty, in comparison to the lowliness and self-centredness of humanity as we continue with the following scriptures.

➤ **The song of Moses after Yahweh led them through the Red Sea, and then destroyed the Egyptians**

Exod 15:6-11 *Your right hand, O Yahweh, glorious in power, your right hand, O Yahweh, shatters the enemy. ⁷In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. ⁸At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. ⁹The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I*

will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' ¹⁰*You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.* ¹¹*"Who is like you, O Yahweh, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?*

➤ **David's Psalm of thanksgiving and praise after returning the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem**

1 Chron 16:23-30 *Sing to Yahweh, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.*

²⁴*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!*

²⁵*For great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods.*

²⁶*For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but Yahweh made the heavens.*

²⁷*Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.*

²⁸*Ascribe to Yahweh, O families of the peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength!*

²⁹*Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship Yahweh in the splendor of holiness;*

³⁰*tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.*

➤ **David's prayer following the gifts that the people gave for the building of the temple under Solomon's kingship**

1 Chron 29:11-13 *Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and you are exalted as head above all.* ¹²*Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.* ¹³*And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.*

➤ **The Psalmists ascribe glory to Yahweh**

Psa 8:1 *O Yahweh, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.*

Psa 19:1-4 (NIV) *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*

²*Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.*

³*They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.*

⁴*Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

Psa 29:1-4 A Psalm of David. *Ascribe to Yahweh, O heavenly beings, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength.*

²*Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name; worship Yahweh in the splendor of holiness.*

³*The voice of Yahweh is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, Yahweh is over many waters.*

⁴*The voice of Yahweh is powerful; the voice of Yahweh is full of majesty.*

Read also Psa 93:1; Psa 104:1-2

➤ **Isaiah vision of the holiness and glory of Yahweh**

Isa 6:3-4 (NIV) *And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.*

➤ **Israel suffered devastating consequences because of their failure to recognise the glory of God in their deliverance out of bondage**

Num 14:21-23 *But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of Yahweh, ²²none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.*

This begs the question: to what level do we recognise the glory of Yahweh; and do we ever put Him to the test, or fail to obey Him?

➤ **Yahweh's stunning personal revelation to Job**

The main point of the account of Job is often missed. In the opening of the story Job was acknowledged as a man who '*...was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.*' Then Satan appeared before Yahweh who said to him: "*Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?*"

The point is clearly made about Job's standing before God. But God had a serious plan which would certainly grab Job's attention. After the extensive dialogue between Job and three of his friends, and when they had all said their piece, a young man named Elihu spoke up. Out of respect for his elders, Elihu had been silently observing all that was going on. As part of his discourse he expounded the splendour and majesty of Yahweh.

Job 37:22-24 *Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome majesty. ²³The Almighty—we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate. ²⁴Therefore men fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit.”*

Immediately following Elihu’s speech, Yahweh personally spoke to Job and revealed His almighty power and sovereign control over all created things. Job’s eyes were opened to the splendour and majestic power of God.

If you are not familiar with the account, I would suggest that you read Job from chapter 32 to the end of the book, with particular focus on Yahweh’s revelation of Himself, and Job’s response, as found in the following Scriptures. Job’s first response to Yahweh was midway through Yahweh’s revelation:

Job 40:3-5 *Then Job answered Yahweh and said: ⁴“Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. ⁵I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”*

Then after Yahweh added further challenging evidences of His overwhelming power, glory, splendour, and majesty, Job was truly smitten with the awesomeness of Yahweh, and his own insignificance.

Job 42:1-6 *Then Job answered Yahweh and said: ²“I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’ ⁵**I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;** ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”*

Such was the impact of having a personal revelation of Yahweh. Job was a ‘...blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil.’ He was a man who knew much about God having ‘heard of Him by the hearing of the ear’. **But now his eyes had seen Him – he knew him in a powerful and personal way.**

There is such an important message in the Job story for all of us. We all know about God – but have we seen Him with our spiritual ‘eyes’. Do we have an ongoing personal experiential knowledge of Yahweh Almighty? I’m not suggesting that you will have the type of revelation that Job had, but God longs for us to seek Him with all our heart, and as we do He will make Himself known to us in a very real way.

In the first booklet ‘The Most Important Thing in Life - Knowing God’, we went to some length to make this point: (quote) ‘I trust that you can see from

the Word of God that the main concern of God's heart for His people is that we **know Him in continuous relationship**, and that we work towards this goal by **seeking God with all our heart**; by developing a **biblical fear of the Lord**; and by **walking in His ways**. If we make a sincere commitment to all of these aspects of our relationship with God, then we will truly **be loving Him with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind.**' (End of quote)

Yahweh is our Maker, and He created us for Himself, for the purpose of having a personal relationship with Him. And He has given us His Word, and His Holy Spirit, for the primary purpose of making Himself known to people.

As you will often find me saying – **Oh the wonder of God's love and grace** – that Yahweh – the high and exalted One; the Almighty; the Creator of all things by the word of His mouth; the Holy One – totally perfect in His whole being – that He would have such great mercy on such prideful; self-centred; independent creatures as human beings are by nature.

Isa 57:15 (NIV) For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Yahweh is so glorious – abounding in splendour, and outstanding in majesty – to the point that we should be driven to seek Him with all our heart for the purpose of knowing him; worshipping Him in spirit and truth; and walking in His ways, so that we will *'...be to the praise of His glory.'* (**Eph 1:6,12,14**)

➤ **The glory of God was exhibited in Christ**

Heb 1:3a (NIV) The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Read also **2 Cor 4:6**

The Father's glory was displayed in Jesus' compassion, grace, love; in His amazing teachings, and in the many miraculous things Jesus did.

John 2:11 (NIV) What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

There is so much more to be said about Jesus Christ displaying the glory of God, and this will be expanded on in 'What an Awesome God we Have – Part 3', Chapter 14a.

Take time to praise and worship

Psa 145 (NIV) *A psalm of praise. Of David.*

¹*I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.*

²*Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.*

³*Great is Yahweh and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.*

⁴*One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.*

⁵*They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty-- and I will meditate on your wonderful works.*

⁶*They tell of the power of your awesome works-- and I will proclaim your great deeds.*

⁷*They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

⁸*Yahweh is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.*

⁹*Yahweh is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.*

¹⁰*All your works praise you, Yahweh; your faithful people extol you.*

¹¹*They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,*

¹²*so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*

¹³*Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. Yahweh is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.*

¹⁴*Yahweh upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.*

¹⁵*The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.*

¹⁶*You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

¹⁷*Yahweh is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.*

¹⁸*Yahweh is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*

¹⁹*He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.*

²⁰*Yahweh watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.*

²¹*My mouth will speak in praise of Yahweh. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.*

5. The Unfathomable Greatness of Yahweh

The more time you spend reading God's Word for the purpose of seeking to know Him more, the greater will be your awareness of His awesome greatness. King David was one of the biblical examples of a man who sought the Lord and generally walked in His ways. At the end of his time as king, as he was handing over the kingship of Israel to Solomon; David praised Yahweh, highlighting His awesome greatness, power, glory, victory, majesty, and more.

1 Chron 29:10-13 *Therefore David blessed Yahweh in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Yahweh, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. ¹¹Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹²Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.*

This is a wonderful oral expression of the greatness and Sovereign Lordship of Yahweh. It includes a number of the attributes of God that most Christians are familiar with, but which perhaps we don't give enough time to meditate on. It's one thing for us to memorise these amazing attributes, and even to make a worshipful expression such as David made, but it's another thing for it to impact our hearts deeply as the Lord reveals Himself more personally to us – as it did with David.

In line with the above verses are some more below, focusing on the awesomeness of Yahweh Almighty; and I would encourage you to take time to meditate on His awesome greatness. And as we will be encouraging you again further on in this booklet, think deeply about this issue of huge importance and yet seeming disparity: Yahweh is the High and Mighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of the whole universe; the Holy One – and yet, because of the extravagance of His compassion, love, and grace, He sent to earth His One and only Son, who humbled Himself, and suffered the wrath of His Father for the sins of totally undeserving people such as you and me.

➤ **Yahweh is truly awesome. He is to be greatly feared**

Jer 10:6-7 *There is none like you, O Yahweh; you are great, and your name is great in might. ⁷Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.*

Psa 96:4-9 *For great is Yahweh, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.*

⁵*For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but Yahweh made the heavens.*

⁶*Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

⁷*Ascribe to Yahweh, O families of the peoples, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength!*

⁸*Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

⁹*Worship Yahweh in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!*

Luke 12:4-5 *"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!*

➤ **God is without limits (His infinitude)**

It is impossible for us, with the limitations of our intellectual capabilities, to grasp the unlimited; for God is infinitely beyond what our minds can comprehend – He knows no bounds.

Rom 11:33-36 *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

a. Yahweh is the Creator of all things

All of Yahweh's creation is truly awesome!

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Isa 45:18 (NIV) *For this is what Yahweh says-- he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited-- he says: "I am Yahweh, and there is no other.*

Also **Isa 42:5; Jer 10:12**

➤ **God created all things by the word of His mouth.**

This is just one of the many examples of God's incredible power on display. The phrases repeated in Genesis 1 are: '*And God said... '...and it was so.'*

This principle is confirmed in other scriptures and should motivate a sense of the fear of Yahweh!

Psa 33:6-9 (NIV) *By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. ⁷He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses. ⁸Let all the earth fear Yahweh; let all the people of the world revere him. ⁹For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.* (Also **Psa 148:1-6**)

Heb 11:3 *By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

As with all of God's powerful capabilities, this is so amazing. Think about it – God came up with all these different designs in His mind – billions of them actually – and then He spoke out what He wanted to create – and there it was, in all its amazing detail and beauty. We only have to take time to look around at what we can see every day – plants; birds; insects; animals; mountains; and so on – to see the wonders of what God has created by the word of His mouth.

Like everything else about God, this is so far beyond our ability to understand. But that's how God planned it – He created us with such limited intellectual capabilities compared to Himself. And yet so many people think that they can work out everything, including how things were formed by evolution rather than creation.

➤ Everything He made, He said was good

Gen 1:4 *God saw that the light was good (Also vs. 10, 12, 18, 25, 31)*

➤ God's creation is a visible display of His greatness, power and glory

Psa 19:1-4 *...The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. ⁴Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun...*

Rom 1:20 *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

➤ Yahweh is our Maker and we are His people

Psa 100:3 *Know that Yahweh, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

Psa 95:6 *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before Yahweh, our Maker!*

Take time to praise and worship

Psa 148:1-14 *Praise Yahweh! Praise Yahweh from the heavens; praise him in the heights!*

²*Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!*

³*Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!*

⁴*Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!*

⁵*Let them praise the name of Yahweh! For he commanded and they were created.*

⁶*And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.*

⁷*Praise Yahweh from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,*

⁸*fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!*

⁹*Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!*

¹⁰*Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!*

¹¹*Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!*

¹²*Young men and maidens together, old men and children!*

¹³*Let them praise the name of Yahweh, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.*

¹⁴*He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him.*

Praise Yahweh!

b. Yahweh is the Sovereign Ruler over all things

Not only has God created all things, but He also sustains everything in accordance with His purposes and by His power. He is the Sovereign Ruler and Lord of all things. That means that **His authority and rulership are far above all others**, and He decides what He wants to do, and when and how He wants to do it. Even when we see devastations in the world, God is in control; and He either causes it, or allows it, for His eternal purposes.

Job 12:13-25 *"With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding. ¹⁴If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open. ¹⁵If he withholds the waters, they dry up; if he sends them out, they overwhelm the land. ¹⁶With him are strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are his. ¹⁷He leads counselors away stripped, and judges he makes fools. ¹⁸He looses the bonds of kings and binds a waistcloth on their hips. ¹⁹He leads priests away stripped and overthrows the mighty. ²⁰He deprives of speech those who are trusted and takes away the discernment of the elders. ²¹He pours contempt on princes and loosens the belt of the strong. ²²He uncovers the*

deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness to light. ²³He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away. ²⁴He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a pathless waste. ²⁵They grope in the dark without light, and he makes them stagger like a drunken man.

Psa 83:17-18 *Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace, ¹⁸that they may know that you alone, whose name is Yahweh, are the Most High over all the earth.*

Jer 27:5 *"It is I who by my great power and my outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me.*

Dan 2:20-22 *Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ²¹He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; ²²he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.*

There was a time when Yahweh sent Israel into exile because of their constant rebellion against Him. They were taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and Daniel was chosen with three other Israelites to serve the king. Daniel was a man of God, and Yahweh used him through a number of events to show His mighty power to Nebuchadnezzar. As a result, the king was humbled to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Most High God:

Dan 4:34-35 *At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; ³⁵all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

➤ **The counsel of Yahweh stands forever; His plans are firmly established**

They are forever and ever. Nothing can ever stop Yahweh, or hinder His plans and purposes for all creation. His authority and powers are far too great.

Psa 33:9-11 *For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. ¹⁰Yahweh brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. ¹¹The counsel of Yahweh stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*

Eph 1:11 (NIV) *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will...*

- Because He is so high and mighty; the Sovereign Ruler of all things; He is worthy of much greater reverence and honour than we tend give to Him.

Rev 4:11 (NIV) *"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*

1 Chron 16:28-31 (NIV) *Ascribe to Yahweh, all you families of nations, ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength. Ascribe to Yahweh the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship Yahweh in the splendor of his holiness. Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "Yahweh reigns!"*

1 Chron 29:11-13 *Yours, O Yahweh, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Yahweh, and you are exalted as head above all.*

¹²*Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.*

¹³*And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.*

What an awesome God we have! His greatness is unfathomable; His wisdom and power to create all things by the word of His mouth is unbelievable; His sovereign rule over all created things is far greater than we can understand!

c. Yahweh's Greatness and Superiority (Transcendence)

- Yahweh is so great and awesome

As the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land, Yahweh was encouraging them – in view of the awesome and terrifying things He had done before their very eyes – to love strangers; to fear their God and serve Him only.

Deut 10:17-22 *For Yahweh your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰You shall fear Yahweh your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.*

²²Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now Yahweh your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

Nehemiah's prayer as he mourned over the destructions in Jerusalem:

Neh 1:5 And I said, "O Yahweh God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments...

As Job mourned, Elihu counselled him to keep his focus on Yahweh Almighty:

Job 37:22-24 (NIV) Out of the north he comes in golden splendor; God comes in awesome majesty. ²³The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power; in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress. ²⁴Therefore, people revere him, for does he not have regard for all the wise in heart?"

➤ Yahweh is greater than all others

Isa 44:6-8 Thus says Yahweh, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, Yahweh of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

John 10:29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

➤ In fact, the depth of His greatness is unsearchable

Job 11:7-9 (NIV) "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above--what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below--what can you know? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.

Psa 145:3 (NIV) Great is Yahweh and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Isa 40:25-28 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from Yahweh, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

➤ No one can compare with Yahweh

Exod 15:11 (NIV) *Who among the gods is like you, Yahweh? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? (Read: **Exo 15:1-21**)*

Psa 89:5-8 (NIV) *Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Yahweh, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!*

⁶*For who in the skies above can compare with Yahweh? Who is like Yahweh among the heavenly beings?* ⁷*In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.*

⁸*Who is like you, Yahweh God Almighty? You, Yahweh, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.*

Isa 46:5 (NIV) *"With whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?"*

Jer 10:6-7 (NIV) *No one is like you, Yahweh; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.*

➤ His thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than ours

Rom 11:33-36 (NIV) *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!*

³⁴*"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"*

³⁵*"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?"*

³⁶*For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

Psa 40:5 *You have multiplied, O Yahweh my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.*

Isa 55:8-9 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares Yahweh. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

➤ God's purposes will stand forever

Isa 46:10-11 (NIV) *I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'*

¹¹*From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.*

➤ **He does whatever He needs to in order fulfil His purposes**

1 Sam 2:1-10 (NIV) *Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in Yahweh; in Yahweh my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. ²"There is no one holy like Yahweh; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³"Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for Yahweh is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. ⁴"The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. ⁵Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. ⁶"Yahweh brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. ⁷Yahweh sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. ⁸He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. "For the foundations of the earth are Yahweh's; on them he has set the world. ⁹He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. "It is not by strength that one prevails; ¹⁰those who oppose Yahweh will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; Yahweh will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."*

Job 42:1-2 *Then Job answered Yahweh and said: ²"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.*

Isa 44:24-28 (NIV) *"This is what Yahweh says-- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am Yahweh, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself, ²⁵who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense, ²⁶who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be rebuilt,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,' ²⁷who says to the watery deep, 'Be dry, and I will dry up your streams,' ²⁸who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid."'"*

Meditation: Take time to think about God's awesome greatness; His authority; His supremacy over all things. Surely this should lead us to bow before Him in humility, and remain in awe of him? Should we not feel so insignificant that we are led to give Him praise, honour and glory?

Take time to praise and worship

Psa 33:1-22 Shout for joy in Yahweh, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

²*Give thanks to Yahweh with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!*

³*Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.*

⁴*For the word of Yahweh is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.*

⁵*He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of Yahweh.*

⁶*By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.*

⁷*He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses.*

⁸*Let all the earth fear Yahweh; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!*

⁹*For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

¹⁰*Yahweh brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples.*

¹¹*The counsel of Yahweh stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*

¹²*Blessed is the nation whose God is Yahweh, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!*

¹³*Yahweh looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man;*

¹⁴*from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth,*

¹⁵*he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.*

¹⁶*The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.*

¹⁷*The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.*

¹⁸*Behold, the eye of Yahweh is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love,*

¹⁹*that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.*

²⁰*Our soul waits for Yahweh; he is our help and our shield.*

²¹*For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.*

²²*Let your steadfast love, O Yahweh, be upon us, even as we hope in you.*

d. Yahweh is All Powerful (Omnipotent)

➤ Supreme power belongs to Yahweh, and to Him alone

Psa 62:11 *Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God...*

2 Chron 20:6 *Yahweh, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.*

Rev 19:1 *After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God..."*

➤ Yahweh performs awesome deeds

Deut 10:21 (NIV) *He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.*

Dan 4:2-3 *It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. ³How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.*

➤ All things are possible with Yahweh

God's powers are without limits, and His capabilities are way beyond what we can comprehend.

Gen 18:13-14 (NIV) *"Then Yahweh said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too hard for Yahweh? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."*

Jer 32:17-22 (NIV) *"Ah, Sovereign Yahweh, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. ¹⁸You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the parents' sins into the laps of their children after them. Great and mighty God, whose name is Yahweh Almighty, ¹⁹great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to the ways of all mankind; you reward each person according to their conduct and as their deeds deserve. ²⁰You performed signs and wonders in Egypt and have continued them to this day, in Israel and among all mankind, and have gained the renown that is still yours. ²¹You brought your people Israel out of Egypt with signs and wonders, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and*

with great terror. ²²You gave them this land you had sworn to give their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey. (Also **32:27**)

Matt 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Because of what we see of God's incredible power and wisdom in creation, it shouldn't be too hard to accept that 'with God, all things are possible'.

Paul tells us that this same power of God is at work within a true believer, and that it is able to do far more than anything we can ask of God:

Eph 3:20 (NIV) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...

Eph 1:19-21 ...and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

e. Yahweh is everywhere, all the time (Omnipresent)

Jer 23:23-24 (NIV) Am I only a God nearby," declares Yahweh, "and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares Yahweh. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares Yahweh." (see also **1 Kings 8:27**)

Psa 139:7 (NIV) Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

f. Yahweh inhabits eternity

➤ He is the everlasting God

In comparison to eternity, both one day and a thousand years are so small, that to God they are of little significance.

Psa 90:2-4 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. (also **2 Pet 3:8**)

Psa 102:24-27 "O my God," I say, "take me not away in the midst of my days-- you whose years endure throughout all generations!"

²⁵Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶They 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,

²⁷but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Isa 40:28 (NIV) Do you not know? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

➤ He is the 'Alpha and the Omega' – the beginning and the end

Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Jesus the Son applies the same phrase to Himself

Rev 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

➤ The 'Word' – as Jesus became known, has always been with the Father

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Col 1:15-17 (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

g. Yahweh knows everything (Omniscient)

Psa 94:7-11 ...and they say, "Yahweh does not see; the God of Jacob does not perceive." ⁸Understand, O dullest of the people! Fools, when will you be wise? ⁹He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?

¹⁰He who disciplines the nations, does he not rebuke? He who teaches man knowledge-- ¹¹Yahweh --knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.

Isa 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares Yahweh. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

➤ His wisdom is incredible

Prov 3:19-20 (NIV) *By wisdom Yahweh laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; ²⁰by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.*

Psa 104:24 *O Yahweh, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.*

Rom 11:33-36 (NIV) *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴"Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" ³⁶For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

➤ God knows the future

Isa 46:10 (NIV) *I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'*

Isa 45:21 *Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, Yahweh? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me.*

➤ God knows everything about us

God knows us to the very core of our being – even to the point of knowing our thoughts and attitudes. Nothing about us is hidden from His sight.

1 Sam 16:7 *But Yahweh said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For Yahweh sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks on the heart."*

Job 34:21 *"For his eyes are on the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps.*

Psa 33:13-15 (NIV) *From heaven Yahweh looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth-- he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. (also **Psa 11:4**)*

Psa 139:1-18; 23-24 *O Yahweh, you have searched me and known me!*

²*You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.*

³*You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.*

⁴*Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Yahweh, you know it altogether.*

⁵*You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.*

⁶*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.*

⁷*Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?*

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

¹³For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Jer 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰"I Yahweh search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Heb 4:12-13 (NIV) For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

➤ God knows all our ways, and strengthens those who wait for Him

Isa 40:27-31 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from Yahweh, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? Yahweh is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for Yahweh shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

h. Nothing can stop Yahweh from doing what He has purposed

***Job 42:1-6** Then Job answered Yahweh and said: ²"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

***Isa 14:24-27** Yahweh of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand, ²⁵that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder." ²⁶This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. ²⁷For Yahweh of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?*

***Isa 46:10-11** ...declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' ¹¹calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.*

Meditation: As you take time to meditate on God's presence everywhere, and His knowledge of everything that is happening in the whole universe – again it should cause us to stand in awe. But how is it possible for God to be everywhere all the time – how is it possible for Him to know what is in our minds before we even speak out our thoughts? Clearly we can see that God created us with very limited capabilities compared to Him. So the challenge for us is – do we actually believe what God's Word says about Him?

In the Bible, you will find many times that God spoke of things that were going to happen well before they actually took place. These things are evidences of God's amazing powers to be everywhere, to know everything, and to do whatever He plans to do. **Yahweh, the One True God is so awesome.**

i. Yahweh is Unchangeable (Immutable)

Num 23:19 *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

Psa 33:11 *The counsel of Yahweh stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.*

Psa 102:25-27 *In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.*

²⁶*They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.*

²⁷*But you remain the same, and your years will never end.*

Mal 3:6 *“For I, Yahweh, do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.*

James 1:17 *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Take time to praise and worship

Psa 104:24-34 *O Yahweh, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.*

²⁵*Here is the sea, great and wide, which teems with creatures innumerable, living things both small and great.*

²⁶*There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.*

²⁷*These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.*

²⁸*When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.*

²⁹*When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.*

³⁰*When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.*

³¹*May the glory of Yahweh endure forever; may Yahweh rejoice in his works,*

³²*who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!*

³³*I will sing to Yahweh as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.*

³⁴*May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in Yahweh.*

6. Yahweh is Gentle and Meek

Even though there are situations in the OT where there is evidence of God's gentleness and meekness, these beautiful aspects of Yahweh's nature are not specifically mentioned. Maybe Yahweh was holding back from highlighting them until He sent His Son, Jesus Christ! But it would be fair to say that these qualities are closely linked to the attributes of Yahweh as revealed to Moses, and also found in many places in the OT:

Exod 34:6 ...a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...

a. The meaning of gentle and meek

With those thoughts in mind, what do 'gentleness' and meekness' mean in the Scriptures? The reality is that the two words are so closely linked that various translations of the Bible use either one or the other when translating from the original Hebrew or Greek words. The meanings of both words as translated from the original languages are: **humility, gentleness, meekness, goodness, kindness, mildness, or condescension**

But one thing is for sure – **Yahweh has fully displayed these humble qualities through His Son, Jesus the Messiah**, who is:

'...the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...' Heb 1:3

Jesus meekness was prophesied in the OT, with perhaps the most graphic portrayal of His humility, condescension, kindness, and meekness, being in **Isaiah 53**. This fairly well-known passage was referred to several times in the Knowing God booklet, but because of its significance in this section, my suggestion is that you read through that sombre chapter again, with your focus being on Jesus' meekness. A particular verse which graphically expresses His meekness is v.7:

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth Isa 53:7 .

Zechariah also prophesied about Jesus as the coming King – yet humble and mounted on a donkey.

Zech 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

b. The full revelation of Yahweh's meekness in Jesus

It is when we come to the NT that we clearly see the outworking of God's meekness.

- **God chose a humble young woman to give birth to the Son of God in human form**

Jesus wasn't born in a 5 star hotel; rather:

Luke 2:7 *And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

A manger was a crib or feeding trough in a stable where the food for cattle was placed. Could a mother have a baby in a more undignified place than that – especially when that baby was the Son of Yahweh Almighty, and conceived by the Holy Spirit. But that was God's plan by which He was willing to humble Himself in the sight of mankind, with the intention that Jesus, in complete submission to the Father, would suffer the cruellest of deaths on the Cross of Calvary for the sins of all of us. Paul expresses this beautifully in **Philippians 2:5-8**

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

For the first 30 years of His life, Jesus lived a humble life as a carpenter. And then through much of the 3 years of His earthly ministry, He was persecuted by the religious leaders of the day. In His meekness He 'took it all on the shoulder'.

- **'Meekness' is not 'weakness'**

But Jesus meekness didn't stop Him from boldly speaking out against the hypocrisy and legalism of the Pharisees and Sadducees. He strongly criticized them, even to the point of calling them 'a brood of vipers' (**Luke 3:7**), and sons of the devil (**Luke 8:44**).

He was also forthright in pointing out people's lack of faith to trust God for the basic necessities of life (**Matt 6:30-34**); and the disciple's lack of faith in trusting God to care for them in the midst of a storm (**Matt 8:26**).

Rather than being 'weak', He was meek as He reached out to the poor and needy. He fed the crowds; healed the sick; cleansed the lepers; and delivered people from demons.

Rather than eating with the religious ‘hierarchy’, He ate with sinners and tax collectors (**Matt 10:9-13** etc.) Rather than making His entry into Jerusalem on a beautified horse, He rode on a young donkey (**John 12:14-15**) Rather than placing high expectations on His disciples, He instructed them to deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Him. (**Luke 9:23-24** etc.) As their Lord and teacher, Jesus humbled Himself and washed the disciples feet (**John 13:1-17**)

Jesus was gentle and lowly, and offered rest to the heavy burdened:

Matt 11:28-29 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

When Jesus was facing His trial, he was reviled, but he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly. (**1 Pet 2:23**)

c. The paradox of Yahweh’s meekness

The truth is that from a human perspective, Yahweh’s meekness is a paradox. As we have already noted – on the cover page and elsewhere – there is an apparent disparity: Yahweh is so awesome and glorious; so high and exalted; with authority and powers that are way beyond our comprehension – He is the creator and sovereign ruler of the whole universe; and He is holy – so totally perfect in His whole being that He is set apart from all created things.

And yet this same high and exalted God sent His only Son Jesus to endure the wrath of His Father as He was being punished for our sins on the cross. But in doing so He fully displayed the extravagance of His love and grace; and this paradox exists so that we will have a greater understanding of the love of Christ. Paul’s earnest prayer for the Ephesian’s was:

Eph 3:17-19 *...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

The love of Christ surpasses knowledge – that is why it is a paradox. But Yahweh’s ultimate purpose is that we be transformed into the likeness of Christ – that we ‘*may be filled with all the fullness of God.*’ This is why I have such a fervent desire to encourage you to have a deep-seated focus on growing in our personal knowledge of Yahweh and His Son Jesus.

6. Yahweh is So Worthy of All Glory, Honour, Praise and Worship

There's much more yet to come about our awesome God. But from what you have absorbed so far, do you have a greater appreciation of the unsearchable greatness, power, majesty, and glory of Yahweh? How has it impacted you personally? Does it bring you to your knees – to humbly bow before Him in worship?

Think about the impact that Yahweh's majestic greatness has on us personally, compared with the heavenly beings who are forever in His presence.

In the book of Revelation, following the letters to the seven churches, John is caught up in a heavenly vision. Immediately he sees God on his throne, surrounded by twenty-four elders seated on their thrones, and also the four living creatures who day and night, never stopped worshipping God. Yahweh and Jesus, the Lamb, are so awesome in their holiness, majesty, and power, that the heavenly beings are continually worshipping them.

Please read **Rev 4:8b-11** and **Rev 5:11-14**

Our knowledge of Yahweh is so very limited compared to those heavenly beings who have been in God's presence for a time unknown to us. Yet because we do have a personal relationship with God, we should be increasingly growing in our recognition of His worthiness of all glory, honour, praise, and worship.

The Bible is full of Scriptures which we can use, both to encourage us, and – when our own words fail us – to give praise and worship to Yahweh for who He is, and all He has done for us. Those listed below are just samples of what you can use as you take time to praise and worship our awesome God, Yahweh, and His Son Jesus.

1 Chron 16:23-29; 1 Chron 29:10-13; Psalms 8; Psalm 96; Psalm 89:5-8; Psalm 100; Psalm 103

Up to this point, in considering 'What an Awesome God we Have', we have searched the Scriptures to see what God reveals about Himself. In the first chapter of the next booklet – **Part Two** – we will be studying what is considered to be the most important aspect of God's whole being – **His holiness**.

Benediction

Jude 1:24-25 *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*