

Exodus 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Analysis

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה אָתָּה אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה וַיֹּאמֶר כַּה תֹּאמֶר לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָּה שְׁלֹמֹן אֱלֹהִים) — **I AM THAT I AM** (מֹשֶׁה אָתָּה אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה וַיֹּאמֶר כַּה תֹּאמֶר לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָּה שְׁלֹמֹן אֱלֹהִים) — (מֹשֶׁה אָתָּה אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה וַיֹּאמֶר כַּה תֹּאמֶר לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָּה אֱלֹהִים אשר אָתָּה ehyeh asher ehyeh) — God's self-revelation as the eternally self-existent One. The verb אָתָּה (ehyeh, "I am/I will be") derives from הָיָה (hayah, "to be"), the root of the divine name YHWH (יהוה). This isn't mere existence but active, dynamic being—"I AM who I AM" or "I WILL BE what I WILL BE." God's identity transcends human categories—He is the uncaused cause, the self-existent eternal One. The LXX rendered this ἐγὼ εἰμὶ ὁ ὄν (ego eimi ho on, "I am the Being One"), shaping Jesus' "I AM" statements (John 8:58). **I AM hath sent me** — God's name becomes Moses' authority.

Historical Context

This revelation of the divine name I AM/YHWH became the foundation of Israel's monotheism. Unlike pagan gods with origin stories, YHWH exists eternally, uncreated and self-sufficient. The name connects to the verb 'to be,' emphasizing God's absolute existence independent of creation. Jesus' use of 'I AM' (John 8:58, 'Before Abraham was, I AM') claims this divine name, leading to accusations of blasphemy (John 8:59).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the name 'I AM' reveal God's self-existence and independence from all created things, including your circumstances?
2. What does Jesus' use of 'I AM' statements in John's Gospel teach about His divine identity as YHWH incarnate?

Interlinear Text

תֹּאמֶר	אָשֶׁר	רָאָה	הָ	מֶלֶךְ	אֱלֹהִים	אֶל	אֱלֹהִים	תֹּאמֶר
I AM THAT I AM and he said	I AM	And God	unto Moses	I AM				
H559		H430	H4872	H1961				H834
תֹּאמֶר	אָשֶׁר	רָאָה	הָ	מֶלֶךְ	אֱלֹהִים	אֶל	אֱלֹהִים	תֹּאמֶר
I AM	I AM THAT I AM and he said	I AM	h3541	I AM THAT I AM and he said				
H1961	H559		H3541	H559				
תֹּאמֶר	אָשֶׁר	רָאָה	הָ	מֶלֶךְ	אֱלֹהִים	אֶל	אֱלֹהִים	תֹּאמֶר
unto the children	of Israel	I AM	hath sent	I AM				
H1121	H3478	H1961	H7971	H413				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:8 (Parallel theme): Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

John 8:58 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

Revelation 1:8 (Parallel theme): I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Psalms 90:2 (References God): Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Isaiah 44:6 (References God): Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Revelation 1:4 (Parallel theme): John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Exodus 6:3 (References God): And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.

Revelation 1:17 (Parallel theme): And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 4:8 (References God): And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Psalms 68:4 (References God): Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him.