

Exodus 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

God's statement 'I appeared... by the name of God Almighty' (אֱלֹהִים, El Shaddai) but 'by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them' indicates the patriarchs didn't experience YHWH's full meaning—covenant faithfulness demonstrated through redemption. Names in Hebrew thought communicate nature and character, not mere labels.

Historical Context

El Shaddai (God Almighty) emphasized God's power to fulfill promises. The patriarchs received promises but died before fulfillment. The Exodus generation will witness what Abraham only believed.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does your understanding of God deepen through witnessing His actions?
2. What promises has God made that you wait to see fulfilled?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּרָא אֵל	אֵל	אֶבְרָהָם	אֵל	יִצְחָק	וַאֲלֵ	יַעֲקֹב
And I appeared	H413	unto Abraham	H413	unto Isaac	H413	and unto Jacob
H7200		H85		H3327		H3290
בְּיָמַי	שֵׁדִי	וּשְׁמִי	יְהוָה	לֹא	נֹדַעְתִּי	
by the name of God	Almighty	but by my name	JEHOVAH	H3808	was I not known	
H410	H7706	H8034	H3068		H3045	
לָהֶם:						
H0						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

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.

Exodus 3:14 (References God): 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.

Genesis 17:1 (References God): And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Genesis 48:3 (References God): And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

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.

Genesis 35:11 (References God): And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

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;

Isaiah 42:8 (Parallel theme): I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

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

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org