

His Name is Yahweh

January 18, 2026

Romans 1:19-20

Psalm 139:1-6

This morning, I am beginning a series of messages based on some of our basic Christian doctrines. We will be talking about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. We will delve into the doctrines of man (or humanity), which also leads to a discussion about sin, repentance and restoration. We will talk about the church and finally take a look at what the Bible says about the end times.

Now I realize that no one can cover these deep topics in a twenty, to twenty-five minute, sermon, so here is the bonus... On the following Wednesday night at 7:00 pm, beginning this week, we will be offering what I am calling "Sermon Talk Back." It will be your opportunity to ask questions for us to go a little deeper. I think it will be fun and informative. So write down your questions. Take notes if you want. Here are a few questions that can start the discussion:

- What was surprising, confusing, or particularly memorable from the sermon?
- How does this sermon change your view of God or yourself? Or didn't it?
- What questions do you still have about the text or topic?

So let's get started. It is in our human DNA to search for God. Whether we admit it or not, there is a yearning to know more about our origins, where we came from, what our purpose is, and if there someone, something, a creator, who gives meaning to all of this. Since the early days of human history, there's been this sense that we are connected to this divine character, we call God.

A desire to know God is written on the heart of every man and woman; and unless we are willing to acknowledge and pursue it, life will never be fully satisfying.

Dr. R. C. Sproul was once asked what people's greatest need was. Dr. Sproul responded with; "The greatest need in people's lives today is to discover the true identity of God". He goes on to say that; If believers really understood the character and nature of God, it would revolutionize their lives."

Truly, God reveals himself in nature. Psalm 19:1-4 says,

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Even the dullard has to admit that when you look at the beauty and creativity that exists in nature, it compels us to acknowledge a force that has exhibited an intelligent design in his creation.

Look at the polar bear or the platypus! And to think that this planet we live on is in perfect relation to the sun so that life can exists, and the seasons are in perpetual motion so that without fail, they continue a circle of life that brings death and new life each year. To think that out of a tiny merging of two cells, one from a male and a female, a human baby can be born that can live and grow and become a force in itself leaving a mark on the world. It is beyond the imagination. We want to know how and more importantly, WHO.

As people of faith, we rely on the Scriptures to give us the best description of the nature and character of God. Let me say this: the existence of God is never questioned there. It never occurred to any patriarch, prophet or apostle to prove that God existed. They experienced God in their everyday lives. And can I say, that the same is true for many of us.

From the time I was four years old, I knew his name. Well... I knew who he was at least on a very simple level. I knew that he loved me. I knew that he would always be with me. I knew that he had a plan for my life.

As I grew up and began to study the Bible, I found that all three of these things were reinforced in the Scriptures, time and again. In God's relationship with the people that he encountered, whether you are talking about Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... God came to each of them, met them where they were... and established a relationship with them.

If you go right back to the beginning, you will see that God created Adam and Eve and he wanted to walk with them through life. As a matter of fact, the beauty of creation itself suggests that God wanted to give us a gift that would express his love for us.

But you know the story. We ruined it all with our selfish pride. (Pause) But we will explore that in a few weeks when we talk about humanity, sin and God's plan of redemption.

So what we are really talking about is the "Knowability of God." What are God's attributes? What is God like? How does He relate to us? These are the questions we want to know. We can find the

answers in the Scriptures. So what does the Bible say about God? Well first of all, here is what he is not – He is not a god of fate., a machine like god, a revengeful god or weak god. No... our God is a loving God and faithful to all who trust Him.

The first time we get a name for God is in Exodus 3 in the encounter with Moses. When Moses is considering the call to go back and confront Pharoah, he asks the voice from the burning bush, "Who is it that I shall I tell them sent me?" God replies, "Tell them 'I am who I am!'" roughly translated into the name Yahweh. In. other words, "Tell them Yahweh sent you."

The name itself suggests God's eternal, self-existent, and unchanging nature as the ever-present, dependable source of everything, meaning he is always present and can fulfill every need. The name sets God apart from every other living thing and the ultimate authority over every created thing. Yahweh, I am who I am.

So here are a few other things we can take from Scripture. In John 4:24 we read, "God is spirit." In Psalm 147:5 we read, "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit." Simply by saying that God is spirit suggests that God is not confined to the limitations of matter. He doesn't possess a human body. He is pure and immeasurably different and superior to any created being. Yet, God has a personality. He has the attributes of intelligence, self-consciousness, and self-determination.

At the same time God is not an impersonal force. God shows himself to be someone we can trust, love and praise. He cares about you and me.

Read Psalm 139. David acknowledges that God knows everything about him and still cares for him. We see this sentiment time after time in Scripture as God interacts with humanity. Whether it is Abraham and Sarah and their childless estate, or Elijah at his peak of discouragement, God comes and speaks a word to them. The truth is that many of us here have also experienced God's presence in times of trouble. That is who God is. That is his character and his nature.

In the last few minutes, I want to briefly list a few of the classical attributes of God. We will go over them in more depth on Wednesday night in the Sermon Talk Back session. I will begin with the Omnis of God.

First, God is omniscient. God knows all. His knowledge is unending. We all know people who are a fount of acts. We like to go to trivia night with them. But God surpasses them all because the past, present and future are an open scroll to him. He has an infallible perception of himself and all of us. He has an insight into our inner workings and our inner thoughts that is incomparable. The greatest example of how this plays out is in his knowing that humanity would fall and that he would need to find a way to restore us if we were to be saved.

The second omni is omnipotence. This means God is all powerful.

While I was in bed this week, I watched two of the Tom Cruise led Mission Impossible movies. I noticed at critical moments in the movies, Cruise would answer the question, "How are we going to do that?" with "I haven't figured that out yet." Then within minutes, he would manage to make the impossible happen. The difference between Ethan Hunt, (Cruise) and God is that he already knows how he can make the impossible possible. He has the power to do anything.

We have an almighty God. He has the power to affect his will. There are somethings God cannot do. He cannot lie, sin or act contrary to his nature. Apart from these, the word "Impossible" is not in his vocabulary. He has unlimited power which acts in harmony with his goodness and wisdom. He can alter nature and he can perform miracles. In Jeremiah 32 we read,

"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."

Jeremiah goes on to talk about what God did in Egypt in the time of Moses and how he has shown his might time and again. The only thing to limit God's omnipotence is his will. HE is sovereign and free to do as he sees fit and right.

The third omni is omnipresence. God is present simultaneously in every part of his creation and is able to use his power every where. It's funny but the Turks built their temples open at the top to show that God could not be confined in them. In nPsalm 139 7-12 it says,

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."

God stands outside the bounds of time and there is able to be everywhere all at once. He is not limited like we are. Many of us wish we could be in two places at once. We can't but God can and we can be thankful for that.

Here are a few other attributes that follow along with the omnis. God is also all wise. It is a part of his omniscience. It allows God to use his knowledge to do what is right and best. He always knows the right thing to do.

God is also Holy. He is righteous and cannot sin. He is pure and as such, is worthy of praise because he will never be corrupted. He is transcendent. His holiness pervades anywhere that he moves, any space he occupies. Remember when God told Moses to take off his shoes? He said, "You're standing on Holy Ground." As God is Holy, he is the moral Governor of all creation, the judge and arbiter of all questions of righteousness.

But God is also love. That means he will also judge with goodness and love in his heart and always do what is right for us. As a parent who disciplines his children, God will always invoke a loving solution to any judgement. We see this in John 3:16-17.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Finally, Scripture reveals that it is through Jesus, the Christ, that we have the complete revelation of God. In Him, the fullness of the god head abides. In Him, the thoughts and utterance of god

find expression. Because Jesus was the Truth... all that he declared about God, his Father, our Father, must be true. If we want to fully know that nature and character of God, we need to study the words, works and ways of Jesus. Amen.