

GETTING TO KNOW

GOD

A study of His names & divine nature

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 12

Adonai: Lord

*Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.*

– Philippians 2:9-11 ESV

- **Last week:** *Jehovah-Shammah* – “The LORD is There”
- **This week:** *Adonai* – “Lord”
 - What’s in a name?
 - *Elohim* – the generic title for God
 - *Jehovah* – the personal name of God
 - *Jehovah-Jireh* – The LORD Will Provide
 - *Jehovah-Rapha* – The LORD Our Healer
 - *Jehovah-Nissi* – The LORD My Banner
 - *Jehovah-M’Keddesch* – The LORD Who Sanctifies
 - *Jehovah-Shalom* – The LORD Is Peace
 - *Jehovah-Bara* – The LORD the Creator
 - *Jehovah-Go’el* – The LORD Our Redeemer
 - *Jehovah-Tsidkenu* – The LORD Our Righteousness
 - *Jehovah-Sabaoth* – The LORD of Hosts
 - *Jehovah-Shammah* – The LORD is There
- ***Adonai* – Master, Lord**
 - Appears 434 times in the Old Testament
 - Typically as a substitute for ***Yahweh***
 - The Jews refused to pronounce God’s name
 - So, they replaced it with ***Adonai***

Yahweh – LORD **Adonai** – Lord

- First appears in Genesis 15:1-6

*After these things the word of the **LORD** [YHWH] came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O **Lord** [Adonai] God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”*

*And Abram said, “**Behold, you have given me no offspring**, and a member of my household will be my heir.” And behold, the word of the **LORD** came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”*

*And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the **LORD**, [YHWH] and he counted it to him as righteousness. – Genesis 15:1-6
ESV*

- A strange name: **adonay Yahweh**
*“O **Lord** [Adonai] **Jehovah** (y^hōvâ) – 15:2*
 - Literally: “Lord LORD”
 - ~ Abraham refers to God as his “master”
 - ~ He has questions and concerns...
 - ...But he treats God with honor and respect
 - ~ God’s will makes no sense...
 - ...But he willingly submits to it
 - Root word: “To rule”
 - ~ sovereign, one who controls

- **The context** – Genesis 14

- Abraham has just won a stunning victory
 - An alliance of 4 kings had attacked the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - His nephew Lot had been captured
 - Abraham rescued him with 318 men
- The victory had been God’s doing

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, “**Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!**” – Genesis 14:18-20
ESV*

- God had given Abraham the **victory**
- But the king of Sodom tried to buy his **loyalty**

*“Give back my people who were captured. **But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered.**” – Genesis 14:21 NLT*

- The king of Sodom tries to buy his **allegiance**
- He wanted Abraham **in his debt**
 - Abraham could keep his **faith** in God
 - But the king wanted Abraham’s **fidelity**

Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I solemnly swear to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, ‘I am the one who made Abram rich.’” – Genesis 14:22-23 NLT

- **Submission to His Sovereign King**

- His King was the **Most High God**
 - ...**possessor** of heaven and earth ...the **sovereign of the universe**
 - ...his **shield** ...**Master**
 - ...his **exceeding great reward** ...and **owner of all things**
- Abraham was thrilled with the **victory**
 - But he was still waiting on his **reward**
 - He needed an **heir**, not an **honorarium**
 - He wanted a **son**, not the **spoils** of war
 - A fulfilled **promise** meant more than **plunder**

*But Abram replied, “O Sovereign LORD, **what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son?** Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. **You have given me no descendants** of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.”*

*Then the LORD said to him, “**No, your servant will not be your heir**, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. **That’s how many descendants you will have!**”*

*And **Abram believed the LORD**, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith. – Genesis 15:26 NLT*

- **The need for humility**

***Humble yourselves**, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. – 1 Peter 5:6-7 ESV*

***Humble yourselves before the LORD**, and he will exalt you. – James 4:10 ESV*

*“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and **those who humble themselves will be exalted.**” – Luke 14:11 NLT*

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; **he took the humble position of a slave** and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form, **he humbled himself in obedience to God** and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, **God elevated him to the place of highest honor** and gave him the name above all other names... – Philippians 2:5-9 NLT

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, **he learned obedience from the things he suffered**. In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him. – Hebrews 5:7-9 NLT

- **The sold-out service of a submissive son**

*"A son honors his father, and a servant his **master** [ādôn]. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a **master** [ādôn], where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts."* – Malachi 1:6 ESV

- What good is it to know God's names if you're not going to honor who He is?

"So why do you keep calling me 'Lord [kyrios], Lord [kyrios]!' when you don't do what I say?" – Luke 6:46 NLT

- Knowing who God is requires we do what He says
"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." – John 14:15 ESV

...we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. – 1 John 2:3 NLT

"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter." – Matthew 7:21 NLT

- **Admission of ownership**

- Calling God **Adonai** is an act of **submission**
 - But it has to be **heartfelt**
 - It can't be **hypocritical** or **disingenuous**

*"These people say they are mine. They honor me with their lips, **but their hearts are far from me**. And their worship of me is nothing but man-made rules learned by rote."* – Isaiah 29:13 NLT

- Jesus quoted this verse to the Pharisees

“You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’” – Matthew 15:7-9 NLT

- **Under new management**

- Lordship has to do with **ownership**
 - God doesn't work for **you**
 - He **bought out** your contract
 - You belong to him

*You are not your own, for **you were bought with a price**. So glorify God in your body. – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT*

*But now **you belong to Christ Jesus**. At one time you were far away from God. Now you have been brought close to Him. – Ephesians 2:13 NLT*

*...**you belong to Christ**, and Christ belongs to God. – 1 Corinthians 3:23 NLT*

- Nobody knew this better than Paul
 - He regularly acknowledged it
 - And even bragged about it

*Paul, a **servant** of Christ Jesus... – Romans 1:1 ESV*

*Paul and Timothy, **servants** of Christ Jesus... – Ephesians 1:1 ESV*

*Paul a **servant** of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the sake of the faith of God's elect... – Titus 1:1 ESV*

doulos – a slave, bondman, a man of servile condition

- Nothing glamorous about this word
 - ~ It wasn't **aspirational**
 - ~ It wasn't **inspirational**
 - ~ It was **perspirational**

“...doulos...means more literally ‘a slave or bondservant, someone who sets aside all rights of his own to serve another.’ Because the word slave carries such a negative connotation to our modern sensitivities, we often choose the word servant instead. However, servant does not quite capture the real meaning.” – www.gotquestions.org

- **Indebted to God**

- We owe God **everything**
 - Yet He demands **nothing**
 - But our allegiance and obedience
- He is our **Master** and we are His **servants**

*You servants who are owned by someone must obey your owners. Work for them as hard as you can. Work for them the same as if you were working for Christ. Do not work hard only when your owner sees you. You would be doing this just to please men. Work as you would work for Christ. Do what God wants you to do with all your heart. Be happy as you work. **Do your work as for the Lord, not for men. Remember this, whatever good thing you do, the Lord will pay you for it. It is the same to the Lord if you are a servant owned by someone or if you work for pay.** – Ephesians 6:5-6 NLT*

- **Whistle while you work**

- A slave... **submits** fully ...**suffers** patiently
 serves joyfully ...**shares** the gospel eagerly
 sacrifices willingly ...**seeks** to please his Master only

*“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. **Enter into the joy of your master.**” – Matthew 25:21 ESV*

- Serve faithfully
- Wait patiently
- Live expectantly

- **Discussion Questions**

What prevents us from treating God as our Lord and Master? Why do we fight the idea of submission to His will in ALL things?

Discuss the following quote: “What good is it to know all of God’s names if you’re not going to honor who He is?”

Read Philippians 2:9-11 and discuss how it fits into all we’ve studied the last 12 weeks.