



## Grace Group Discussion Questions

**Title:** His Name is Yahweh...So What?  
**Text:** Exodus 13 - 32  
**Preacher:** Dave Talley  
**Date:** January 29, 2012

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### Grace Group Questions for this Sunday's Sermon:

1. How did God work in you through the sermon? What is he teaching you about your daily call to live for him?
2. From your perspective, how would you fill the blank in the phrase "God seems \_\_\_\_\_" when it comes to his involvement in your difficulties.
3. Have you ever had an experience where God acted very differently than you prayed and afterwards you were able to see that he knew exactly what he was doing?
4. Can you share a time when you waited a long time for God to act and he eventually did? OR is there a present situation in life where you have been and continue to wait for God to move? What is this experience of waiting like?
5. Generally, is it difficult for you to trust that God has a greater perspective that he is working out which will be for your ultimate good and his glory? Explain.
6. Pray for one another that we would live in a way that realizes that God is working out his plans in this world through our lives.



## Sermon Transcription

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I was thinking about Ruth Hoorn when I was singing that song right there, that line, "I scarce can take it in." She can take it in fully right now. Her faith is sight. When she sings the words, "My Lord, My God, How Great thou art," she can sing it with more gusto than anyone in this room, probably all of us combined, because her faith is now sight. She is in the presence of her Savior, Jesus. And I just can't grasp that. I long for that day, and I just wonder what it's going to be like and what it's like for her right now. We had a wonderful time remembering her yesterday with family and friends. And one of the things I shared was, there was a certain pastor named Pastor Hoenstine, who was very influential in Ruth's life. She had been raised in the church, but it was really underneath his teaching or at a conference that she had attended just before his teaching, that she came to know the Lord as Lord and Savior. And she loved Pastor Hoenstine. And we had her over at our house, you know, zillions of times, and she would sit around the table, and sometimes Pastor Hoenstine's name would come up and she would go on and on about what a preacher he was. He was so wonderful, God the Father, Son, Hoenstine. You know, he was this incredible man. Then her face would be beaming, and she'd realize she was talking to me, one of her preaching pastors, and she would say, oh, you're good too. Then she'd go on and talk about Hoenstine again. So I'm no Hoenstine this morning, but you've got me. And I am excited about our passage for this morning.

So if you would open up your Bibles to Exodus chapter 6, that's the passage I want to be in. In your bulletins you have an outline that you can follow if you would like to do so. But I want to build a little bit on what Erik was talking about last week, talking about the name "Yahweh," the I Am. We're going to build on that this morning. And I want to use Exodus 6 as a springboard for that.

### **HIS NAME IS YAHWEH. SO WHAT?**

What does it mean that His name is Yahweh? His name is Yahweh. So what? What does that have to do with our every day life? We talked last week about the fact that He's the I Am, and I want to expand that today using Exodus 6 and using the story of the Israelites. He is the I Am who is with us and will be for us. That's what that name means. And that's why in Psalm chapter 9, verse 10, it's so important, that whole Psalm, especially when you know the name, that you put your trust in Him. That's what we want to consider this morning, what that means in the midst of the messiness of this life that we find ourselves living in.

Exodus chapter 6, verse 2:

"God spoke to Moses and said to him, I am the Lord. I appeared" – now notice the past tense here – "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord, I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. Say therefore to the people of Israel, I am the Lord."

Now notice it's going to shift to future tense.

"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. I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you will know that I am the Lord who has brought you out from under the burden of the Egyptians. I 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 the Lord."

Now notice that passage is framed by that statement "I am the Lord," and then you find it right in the middle as well. Notice the flow, I am the Lord. I have done. I am the Lord. I will do. I am the Lord. That's who He is. And when we know that name, we'll put our trust in Him. Because He's the one who *has* done, He's the one who *will* do, He's the only one, the only thing that we can put our trust in. When he proclaims His name, *I am the Lord*, that's enough for us. Regardless of what our situation might be, that's enough for us. Let's pray.

Lord, we all walked into this place this morning, and we each have our burdens and You know what they are. You know whether we are seeking You or not, You know if our hearts are soft, hard, hurting, broken, rejoicing. God, You know all of

that. And You are who You are. And You want us to meet You. And so Father, we come before You today, and we open up Your Word and we pray that You would meet us right where we are. We lay our lives before You, we bring our needs before You. We have longings, we're crying out to You. And Father, we pray that You would meet us in our place of need. So Father, would You do a work in each one of us to the praise and the glory of Your name. And we pray all of this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Back in 1998, I loaded up the family and we came out to Southern California to live. On the little bit that Biola was going to pay, we were trying to get into a house in Southern California. Now this was astronomical for us. When we bought a house out here in 1998, we could have taken all the houses that my family owned back in Alabama and put them right into the cost of our house. Yet our house would fit in their basement. It was just a bizarre thing. We were very thankful to get into the house we got into. I know people who came after us that are still having a hard time getting homes. But we were trying to squeeze this in. We felt God's call on our lives to come out here to Biola. We felt that clearly. We were going to trust Him with whatever that meant.

We had two cars back in Alabama before we moved out here. And we left one of them back there. Neither car was in very good shape, but we left one of them back there with my brother. He had just come back from the mission field. And we said, hey, take the car. Then when you guys are done with it, just give it to whomever else can use it. We're just going to go out with one car and we'll work it out somehow. And so we got out here and we began to save money for a second car. In the meantime, either I had to take the bus to Biola and so I had to learn all the bus routes, or Joanie would walk the kids to school. Amanda was in school, Andrew was still in a stroller, so she'd push that stroller. So it would depend on what the weather was like. Either I had to stand in the rain at the bus stop or she had to walk to school in the rain. So we just swapped this thing around. And I started teaching extra classes, trying to save money so that we could get a second car. Every time I taught a second class, it seemed like whatever was put into my paycheck was far less than what I anticipated I was going to make. There were other bills that came up, but little by little, we started putting money away.

Then one day, I was driving up to a church in Camarillo where I was going to preach that morning. I was really excited about it, and it also brought extra income for us that was going to go into our savings account. And on the way up there, our car just died. It just died right there on the side of the road. So we got out of the car and they had those little call boxes on the side of the road. And so we're trying to get a hold of someone. In thirty minutes, I've got to be at the church and preach. Well, God moved in a young lady's heart, who did a u-turn, came around, and said, looked like you guys were in trouble. Can I help you? And I said, oh, please, I've got to get to this church. She was a believer, it turned out. And so we had been standing on the side of the road. You know, Andrew was three. He was already in the mud. And so we get in her car. And of course he steps on her seats and sits down. So we're trying to avoid the mud prints. Sorry, about your car. Please get us to the church. We get to the church and they're singing the final hymn before I have to get up and preach. They're sweating. And so I meet the guy at the door, and I say, hey, I'm Dave Talley. I'm here to speak this morning. My car broke down, mile marker whatever. I'm in trouble. Oh, don't worry about it. Just get up there and preach. There's this guy that hardly ever comes to our church and he came this morning, and he brought his tow truck. We'll pick up your car. No problem. Just preach. All right. So I stand up and preach and there are two services. In between the services, I come back, hey, any word on my car? Hey, no problem. You just preach. We got your car in the shop. We're fixing it right now. When church is over, we'll give you your car. You can drive back. Don't worry about it. I'm sitting there thinking, man, this is what it means to serve the Lord, right? When you walk in faithfulness, God blesses you and He does all kinds of things. Family, follow me as we follow the Lord. This is no problem. This is what God does, Drew. This is what he does. You just follow the Lord and he does these kinds of things.

So I'm done preaching and my car is fixed, and they pay me, and they take care of the entire bill for the car. I'm thinking, man, this is great. So I'm driving down the road and all of a sudden that temperature gauge just goes all the way over to the H. That's not good. So I realize something is still wrong with my car. I go back and eventually find out the car is just dead. It's over and done, that's it. There's no more value to that car. Someone loans us a van. So now, I left a car back in Alabama, I brought my one car out, I'm trying to save money, I'm serving the Lord faithfully. And now my one car is dead and I'm driving someone else's van back to my house in Brea, California. And I have no idea what I'm going to do. I go to the Toyota place and I finance an old dilapidated Toyota wagon that's not even worth the money we're paying for it, and I have to pay for it every month. Remember, I don't have money to pay for it every month. I'm trying to save money. And it's just getting worse and worse and worse. I keep on teaching extra jobs. There's no money there. And I'm discouraged. I'm trying to be faithful to the Lord. I'm trying to lead my family. I'm trying to provide for them and it's just not working out. So it's still either the bus or Joanie. We're trying to figure this whole thing out.

Last week when Erik was preaching, he made it clear when God reveals Himself as Yahweh, the self-existent one, the self-sufficient one, the eternal one, the unchangeable one, He enters into covenant relationship with people. I'm going to assume that your life is no different from mine, and you run into these times where you end up with this question: God, if You are who You say You are, then why is my life such a mess? If You are so powerful, the Great I Am, then why, when I cry out to You and I'm trying to serve You so faithfully, do things seem to be falling apart? If You are who You are, then why does it seem to be unraveling here on earth? Often times it seems like God isn't there, correct? It just seems like He's gone AWOL – that's absent without leave. I grew up in a military family. He's gone AWOL, absent without leave. He's hiding, he's on vacation, He's lost His grip, this world is out of control. You have been reading through Exodus, hopefully. We've been encouraging you to. And this past week you were supposed to be in Exodus 13 through 32. But let's think about Exodus 1 through 32. Think about Israel's life. Give me examples for when it seems like God is just not there, that life is out of control, that His people are up against it and God seems to be somewhere, but He's not involved in their lives. What examples come to mind?

(Congregation dialogue) No water. Now let's remember that when they leave Egypt, God is leading them, right? And so they're simply following the cloud by day, the pillar of fire by night. Wherever it goes, they go. God is leading them. Doesn't it seem reasonable that God would lead them to water? But throughout their journeys, they're thirsty. Imagine the Israelite father saying, hey, family, follow me as we follow God. But Dad, I'm thirsty. Well just hold on. We're following God. Next day, but Dad, I'm just thirsty. I want some water. Hey, but we're following God. Third day, Dad, I'm thirsty. I'm just thirsty. Where's God in all of that? What would be another example? (Congregation dialogue) Drowning the baby boys. These are God's chosen people, Covenant of Abraham. And God brought them to this place and He told Abraham, they're going to be there for a few years. I'm up to something. They're going to be there for a few years and while they're there, this joy of pregnancy turns to pain because if it's a boy in your belly, then you're going to have to face the prospects of that kid being cast into the Nile. We don't know how many babies this affected. We don't even know how many years it lasted, because as soon as it tells us that that was the situation, it gives us the story of Moses. And we walk into one family and we see the pain of trying to protect their child from death. But you know that not every child escaped. When the midwives weren't coming through, the pharaoh just made a proclamation to all the people, any baby, male baby, you cast into the Nile. You can imagine the fear. Where is God in all of that?

Another example? (Congregation dialogue) Yes. So you've got all this other pagan religion stuff around you. Is that what you're talking about? (Congregation dialogue) Yeah. And so, just the fickleness of all of that, and the struggle of all of that. And even Israel's response, Amos 5 tells us that they worshiped all these other gods along the way, because where is God in the midst of this? We're going to talk about Israel's response in just a minute too.

Other examples. (Congregation dialogue) The detours along the way. Wandering aimlessly is the way it would seem. They're just following God. Where is God getting them? Well, God's up to something.

Other thoughts? (Congregation dialogue) Making the same amount of bricks with no straw provided. This is an interesting story, because they're slaves and it says that God hears their groaning, and then God shows up and sends Moses to go talk to the Pharaoh. Let my people go. And God's doing something! And then things get worse, right? God shows up and things get worse. I mean, where is God in the midst of all of that? You see, we've got some difficult questions to answer when we look at Israel's experience in this world under this Great I am.

#### **OUR ALWAYS LIMITED PERSPECTIVE**

Now let's look at your bulletins. You can see two points that I want to talk about this morning. The first point is this – and there's a blank there – “Our always limited perspective.” That's what goes into the blank, “always limited.” “Our always limited perspective.” When we look at life from our perspective, there is so much that we can't see, we can't understand, we have no way of knowing about. It's a limited perspective. And we can have all kinds of thoughts about what God is doing and how He might be absent, and He doesn't seem to be there. We can cry out to Him, does He really know what He's doing? Is He really who He says He is? We've got a limited perspective and that little section underneath there, it says “often our primary concern is” – and this is what goes there – “often our primary concern is relief from difficulty.” We just want out of the pain. We just want relief. And we're experiencing this life and these situations that we're up against. We all have them. We all walked through the door this morning with our *stuff* that we're up against. And we beg God, we cry out to God, we're living in the midst of this. We just want it to go away and it seems like it's been forever, and God's not doing anything. We cry out. We just want *relief*.

And so there I am, as a dad, and I'm looking at that gauge go all the way to hot, and I come back and I have to take all the money that I've saved and put it into a car that's not even worth it, and then I have to make monthly payments because I don't even have enough to buy it. And I can't figure it all out. I just want relief. I just want to be able to provide. I just want to be able to have some relief from all the pressure that I'm up against. We all know what that's like. Our primary concern often is we want *relief* from difficulties. We just want the pain and the problems to go away.

And when we look at Israel's situation, I think that we can identify with what they were going through. I mean, God seems slow, doesn't He? When did God make the promise to Abraham? It was over 400 years earlier. I'm going to give you this land. And we are still in the midst of waiting for that to happen when we're in these chapters in Exodus. Still waiting. God seems so slow. And then when God finally does begin to move, He moves with a baby, who needs to grow up before he can be deliverer. And he kills the Egyptian and goes into hiding in Midian. He doesn't come back till he's 80. God seems so slow in the way that He works. Can God not work any faster than this? God seems to lose control. When you look at chapter 1, there's obvious blessing on the nation of Israel. There are two points being made in that chapter about Israel. They are becoming *more*. In other words, they are multiplying. What did God tell Abraham way back in the Abrahamic Covenant? I will multiply you and bless you and make you into a great nation. That's this one. That's happening. They're becoming more and they're becoming mightier. Egypt is afraid of them. They're becoming so numerous and so powerful, God's blessing is so much on their lives that Egypt is afraid. And God seems to lose control because, what happens? All this blessing of God turns to pain for the Israelites. Because Egypt is afraid of them, they put them into slavery in chapter 1, verses 8 through 11. It's bad slavery. They're being oppressed in slavery. And again, we don't know how long this actually takes place, but it takes place for a lot of years, at *least* the 80 years of Moses' life. That's more years than probably most people in this church have been alive. And they were under oppression in slavery.

And then we mentioned earlier, because of the fear, all male babies are going to be thrown into the Nile, destroyed. The midwives are told to do this. The midwives don't listen and so all of Egypt is commanded to kill the male babies. That's the context of this story. God seems to be losing control. He's blessing His people, but now it's all falling apart. And then when God does show up – look at the end of chapter 2, in verses 24 and 25:

“And God heard their groaning and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

God saw the people of Israel and God knew. He took notice. He's paying attention. He knows what they're up against. And then we see the story of Moses unfold and finally Moses ends up – 80 years later – on Pharaoh's doorstep and says, let my people go. God is finally doing something. And what happens? It gets worse. Pharaoh gets ticked off. He says no more straw, but your brick quota will remain the same. Life is spinning out of control.

Is God losing control of this whole thing? God seems incompetent when we read through this story. I mean, His people are up against severe oppression, intense slavery, facing the death of babies. And what's God's next move? It's a baby. That doesn't seem very competent to me. Can't God do better than that? Isn't there already a grown up somewhere close by who could do what God wants him to do? It just doesn't seem very competent.

And then we have all of these plagues, ten of them. Finally, Pharaoh lets them go. Oh, but no. Pharaoh is going to chase after them still. God, can't You do something about these people? Make them go away. God seems incompetent. And then they get into the wilderness and God gives them enough bread for the day. Now, some of us might think that's sufficient. God, can't You just open up the storehouses and give them a bounty? Let them see. Let them have. Take care of them. And then the days without water. They're following the cloud. Can't God lead the cloud to water? I mean, there's an oasis out there somewhere. Water is somewhere in the desert. But everywhere God would take them, for days, there would be no water.

Man, we live in a culture where if you don't have a water bottle in your hand all the time, you're dying of thirst. Days without water. God seems incompetent. That seems crazy too. Think of His plan. You're Moses and God says, I want you to go to Pharaoh. I want you to tell him to let my people go. Are you ready for that, Moses? Oh, and by the way, I'm going to harden his heart. He's not going to let you go. What? You want to be a leader of God's people? Walk in Moses' shoes for a little bit. All he was doing was being obedient, and the people hated him. They *hated* him. He walks onto the scene, simply doing what God has asked him to do, and the plan is just unraveling. It's not working, and the people hate their chosen leader.

"May the Lord make you odious in his sight because of what you've brought on us, Moses".

He's just being faithful. You want to be a leader of God's people? Walk in Moses' shoes. I mean, is God really thinking this thing through? And the way this results for Israel, I mean, this is their limited perspective and they just want relief, and they're crying out to God. God seems to do something but things get worse. Tired of getting God to show up, because when God shows up, things just get worse for us. And they grumble and they complain and they want to go back -- where? To Egypt. They want to go back to Egypt. Oh, life was good back in Egypt. Remember the slavery? Remember the oppression? Remember the male babies being thrown in the Nile? Let's go back to Egypt. It's so ludicrous, but that can happen with us too, can't it? Yeah, I gave Jesus a try. I gave Him a chance, and He didn't come through for me. I'm going to go back to my addictions, the death that I was living in. I want to go back to that, because I gave Jesus a chance and He just didn't come through for me. Israel, that's what their response was, doubting God's goodness. God says, Israel, I'm going to provide for you daily. I'm going to give you bread every day, but don't go out and gather on the Sabbath, because I'm going to give you enough the day before to ride your way through. And what do they do? They can't trust God's goodness. They go running out trying to find more. Israel, I'm going to give you enough for the day, but don't you hoard it for the next day, don't you just hide it in the back of your tent, because worms and maggots are going to get in that. But they doubt God's goodness. They're hoarding it back in their tent. Maggots get all in it. They doubt God's goodness through all that. They can't trust.

You see when God says, I am Yahweh, I am the Lord, and then He speaks, we should put our trust in that. But often times, life doesn't make sense to us. It doesn't seem to connect with us. They end up in idolatry. Where's Moses? So they make this golden calf. Behold, your god. And they begin to worship. And when God's not working for us, we've got all kinds of things and people that we can worship and bow down to, to give us life, because God's just not cutting it. We can be so much like Israel in the midst of all this. They forget when God *does* work on their behalf. He parts the waters of the Red Sea, they walk through on dry ground, a wall on either side, and then they end up in the wilderness three days with no water, and they're grumbling and complaining. They've already forgot this incredible thing that God did for them. It's so easy for us to say, well, if I were to walk through on dry ground with walls of water, if I was three days in the wilderness, I'd just be bowing down and saying, God give us water, we love You. It's so good to be with You. You're so great. No, we're just like them. We forget what God does on our behalf.

And in the midst of life, even we can forget *salvation*, where we were dead and God made us alive through Christ Jesus. And with *that*, and *that alone*, we should have enough joy to live the rest of the days of our lives. And we can forget that, and get concerned because we can't find a parking place at the mall or someone nicks our door with their door and there's a scratch on our car. And those things begin to bother us.

That's Israel's experience. What's yours? And I know that we all bring stuff through the door. I know that we're all up against stuff. Some of you have prayers that you've been praying for a very long time, and you're begging God to move. You're begging Him to work, yet it seems like He's just not there. Some of you have health concerns, facing cancer or some other chronic pain or chronic condition, and you've been crying out to God and He's just not answering. And it seems like He's just not there. Some of you parents have children who are going in directions that are away from the Lord and you're begging God to do a work and bring them back, and it's like God's not there. Some of you younger people, you just want to fit in, you're just begging God, please do something, or you're not saying anything to God and He's still not doing anything. You've given Him a chance and He just doesn't seem to be there. Maybe it's debt, maybe it's finances, maybe it's unemployment and you are crying out to God. You must realize you have an always limited perspective on what's going on, just like Israel.

**GOD'S ALWAYS COMPLETE PERSPECTIVE**

And that leads us to our second point. Our second point is, we need to understand “God’s always complete perspective.” *Ours is always limited; His is always complete.* There are things that we can’t see, things that we can’t understand, but God is moving. Often our primary concern is relief. God’s primary concern is to be *known*, so that He receives the glory due His name. To be *known* so that He receives the glory due His name. And He wants it to be our primary concern to know Him. God is at work in this world to get our attention so that we know who He is and we don’t put our trust in any one or anything else. We will gladly go through whatever hardship we could in this life, because we *know* who He is and we can trust Him with that. We know that we have an always limited perspective, He has an always complete perspective, and we can rest in that, *knowing* that He is going to watch over us. That’s what God wants us to see.

From the biblical text, we begin back in Exodus chapter 6, in verse 2, I am the Lord. I have done these things. I am the Lord, I will do these things. I am the Lord. He is Yahweh. He is the I Am, who is *with* you and will be *for* you. He’s with you *now* and He *will be* for you, as you face whatever you face in the future. He is a faithful witness. *He has been and He is now and He will be.* That’s what it means that His name is Yahweh, I am the Lord.

And despite what you find yourself in, you can trust Him. When you know the name, you know the person and you put your trust in Him. Behind the scenes, God is doing so much. He’s working way beyond Israel’s understanding. Remember in chapter 12, in verses 40 and 41, that’s where He tells them that they have been in the land for over 400 years. Over 400 years. God seems so slow, but listen to His always complete perspective. Back in Genesis chapter 15, in verses 15 through 18, when God told Abraham that He was going to give them that land, He said in the fourth generation, I’m going to bring them out, but they’re going to be there awhile. They’re going to be there for a time. Why? “Because the sin of the Amorites is not yet complete.” And God says basically to Abraham, before I bring destruction to those people, I’m going to be patient. And that patience of God comes at a price for Israel, but that’s God’s always complete perspective. We have no idea what He’s doing and there they are stuck in Egypt. Why? Because God is being patient.

II Peter 3 tells us:

“God is patient, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

And that has ramifications for Israel, and sometimes that has ramifications for you in your life, too. God is always at work for our good. Chapter 13, in verses 17 through 20, we actually see why He takes them through the wilderness. See, God could have brought them from Egypt right up the coast into Israel and they could have taken the land. And in chapter 13, in verses 17 through 22, it says, no, God took them this way so that when they ran into the first obstacle, they wouldn’t turn tale and run back to Egypt. It would have been too easy for them to get back to Egypt. So God takes them this way so that when they encounter that obstacle, they are in a desert place. They have no place to run, no place to hide. They have to trust Him.

You see, God is doing that for their good. That’s why they go through the wilderness and not just up the easy routes. That’s the always complete perspective that God operates from, the giving of manna every day, trusting God daily for bread. When you go to Deuteronomy chapter 8, verse 3, it tells very clearly why God did that. He says:

“I led you through the wilderness these 40 years, testing you to humble you and I gave you manna” – why? – “to teach you that you don’t live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.”

Even in the little details of life, God is teaching His people, it’s not *bread* that you need. You need Me. Bread is not your life. *My words are your life. I am the Lord. I am life.* But most importantly, more than anything, God is at work in this world for this world to know him. Remember chapter 22, verses 24 to 25, God remembered. He looked down and He knew. You see, God knows exactly what Israel is going through. None of this is catching Him by surprise. He hasn’t lost grip. He’s not slow. It’s not out of control. He’s not incompetent. He knows exactly what their going through. But God wants Egypt to know something, and He wants Israel to know something. He wants them to know that He is Lord, and He alone is to be trusted.

And so you get to chapter 7, in verses 4 and 5, and it says there, God talking to Moses, Pharaoh will not listen to you, because I’m going to harden his heart. Seems like a bogus plan, but there’s a reason.

“Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand and do this.

They will see Me in all of my glory. Egypt, don’t trust your gods. Trust Me. I want you to see who I am. I am the Lord, Egypt, and I want you to know that. You can see in chapter 8, in verse 10 – there are so many places where this shows up in the text here.

Chapter 8, Moses says to Pharaoh, when do you want the plague to go away? And Pharaoh says:

“‘Tomorrow.’” Moses says, ‘Be it as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God.’”

Verse 22:

“But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth.”

And chapter 9, verse 14:

“From this time I will send all my plagues on you, Pharaoh, yourself, and on your servants and on your people, so that you may know there is none like Me in all the earth. By now, I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But for this purpose I have raised you, up to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”

It goes on in verse 29, that same chapter:

“Moses says, as soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hand to the Lord, the thunder will cease, there will be no more hail so that you may know that the earth is the Lord’s.”

And also it tells us in the story that the Lord executes all these judgments against the gods of Egypt. Egypt, don’t trust in these gods. I’m more powerful than they are. I want you to know who I am. You can put your trust in Me. That’s what God wants.

And He works through weird ways, but it’s always our limited perspective, as compared to His always complete perspective. And He wants Israel to know Him, chapter 10, in verses 1 and 2:

“Then the Lord said to Moses, go into Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants so that I may show these signs of mine among them, and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your grandson how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians,” -- In the New American Standard it says “How I made a mockery of the Egyptians” -- “and what signs I’ve done among them, that you may know that I’m the Lord.”

Moses, you will see these things and you will tell your son and they will tell your grandson and they will tell your great grandson, on down the line, so that they may know who I am. I want to reveal myself to you. I want you to see Me at work. I want you to know who I am. God is all powerful. No one can stand against Him, nothing can stop Him. And His work in this world is far beyond what we can comprehend, far beyond what we can see. All we can see is what we are up against. We have no idea what God is doing. But we do know this, in the midst of it all, He wants us to know who He is and put our trust in Him and Him alone. Your mouth is stopped. He’s the God who is self-existent, self-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, and He alone is to be trusted. And in His greatness he comes near. We see Him in the cloud leading the Israelites, so personally leading them. He comes to dwell in the tabernacle that they built for Him, a place where they can contain His holiness and He could be in their midst. He gives them the Law. He speaks words to them.

But notice – it’s so important – the Ten Commandments are often seen as oppressive, heavy, ah, who can ever keep them? But notice the context. How do the Ten Commandments begin? It begins with, “I am the Lord.” I’m announcing to you who I am. And when you know the name – Psalm 9:10 – you put your trust in it. When He says, I am the Lord, then our response ought to be to hang on every word that’s about to come. Don’t have any other gods before Me. You got it, God, because I know who You are. Don’t covet your neighbor’s things or wife. Okay, Lord, because I know who You are. My trust is in You. Don’t steal. All right, God, I got it. I got it. Because everything He’s going to say, He’s the one to be trusted. He’s the one to be listened to. It’s not idle words. It’s our life. So when God gives the Laws, it’s for people’s good that He does that. God meets us in our place of need, but He’s got a bigger perspective than we could possibly ever see. He’s at work far beyond what we can see. And one of the greatest pieces of news in all this is that when you look at the big perspective of God, he actually meets us in that place of need that we often times don’t even feel. And that’s our rebellion against God, that we are separated from Him. And He sends Jesus to die in our place, to receive our punishment, so that we can have that kind of relationship with him, so the God who is great can actually come near and dwell in us and forgive us.

See Ruth Horn, she understood this in her life. And so she’s in the presence of the Lord right now. As she was on her death bed and cancer was just eating away at her body, and she felt so much pain, I said, Ruth, how you doing? This is what she said, and this is what it means to know that He’s the Lord, she said, I’m in a lot of pain, but He gave me my life and He’ll take it away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen?

And whatever it is that we’re going through, God will meet us there. He is the I Am who is *with us* and *will be for us*. Regardless of what you’re up against, He can be trusted and you can wait on Him. We just don’t know what He’s doing. We can’t follow it. It’s too big. It’s greater than us. So whatever we’re up against, God wants to meet us there.

Let me go back to my story. Financing a car that I can’t afford, all my savings gone, and now I’m going in the hole because I can’t afford the car I have. And all through that time, the Lord is teaching me something. Dave, am I enough for you? Can you trust Me in the midst of all this? Lord, I just want relief. I just want to provide for my family. Please help me. No, Dave. Do you want to put your trust in a second car, more money in the bank, looking like a great dad providing for your family, or do you want to put your trust in Me? What is it going to be, Dave? And God won that battle. He has to fight it a thousand more times in my life, but He won on that one.

And then my accountant called me up. Income taxes were due and I went out and got me an accountant. And I said, can you do this year’s taxes? Could you do my last year’s taxes too? Something is just not right about my finances. And so he called me up and said, I’ve got some news for you. And immediately I took that as negative. I sat down, and seriously, I almost busted out in tears, because I remember my thought was, I can’t take any more. I just wanted relief. And then he said, you’ve got \$10,000 coming back to you from the government. And from past years, you’ve got \$3,000 more coming back to you. I said, what? He said, let me tell you what’s been going on. Every time you taught an extra class at Biola and they paid you in some lump sum, it looked like you were rich, and they took out taxes. And those taxes are just money that’s been laid up for you in Uncle Sam’s treasuries and you had nothing to show for it over here. And so you work all the harder and you teach more and you make this money. Looks like you’re rich. They take that money out, they put it right over here. And you think you’re up against it, but God is taking care of you back here, and you have no idea. You see, that’s an always complete perspective, and mine is always limited. I had no idea.

Now listen, that story turned out great. I paid off that cruddy car, then I financed a nice van and we began to find a way to pay for it. Now we have two cars. God’s moving us forward. Okay, that story works out. But maybe your story is not working out for you right now. I’ve got stories that aren’t working out for me right now. And I’m looking to God because He’s the Lord, He’s the I Am who is with you and He will be for you. And He’s worthy of all of your trust, regardless of what you feel, regardless of what you’re up against. And maybe your first step is through Jesus, because you need forgiveness.

I'm going to have the Grace Group Shepherds gather around the room. These are our pastors and they're here to pray with you, pray for you. We've also got this board over here. Maybe God is stirring in your heart -- you can already see some messages going up -- and you want to write something over there. You can do that now or you can do that any time you want to. Walt is going to lead us now. But use this time to do business with the Lord.