

Va'era 5772, Exod 6:2-9:35 (end)

Ex. 6:2

God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the LORD [YHWH]. 3 I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name YHWH.”

Rashi: He did indeed reveal that Name to Abram, at the covenant between the pieces: “I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to assign this land to you as a possession” (Gen. 15:7).

Gen. 28:13

And the LORD was standing beside him and He said, “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac: the ground on which you are lying I will assign to you and to your offspring.

Rashi: We find in a number of places that the expression “I am the LORD” indicates that God can be relied on, whether to punish (e.g., Lev. 19:12) or to reward (e.g., Lev. 22:31). I have heard something similar from R. Baruch b. Eliezer, who brought me a proof from the following verse: “Assuredly, I will teach them, once and for all I will teach them My power and My might. And they shall learn that My name is LORD” (Jer. 16:21). We learn from this that even when the Holy One fulfills words of retribution, He makes known that His name is LORD—how much the more so when He is fulfilling a promise of reward.

Ex. 3:12 And He said, “I will be with you; that shall be your sign that it was I who sent you. And when you have freed the people from Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain.” 13

Moses said to God, “When I come to the Israelites and say to them ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14 And God said to Moses, “Ehyeh-asher-ehyeh.” He continued, “Thus shall you say to the Israelites, ‘Ehyeh sent me to you.’” 15 And God said further to Moses, “Thus shall you speak to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you: This shall be My name forever, This My appellation for all eternity.”

Ehyeh = ׀ + HYH [Qal] — “I will be”

LORD = ׀ + HYH [Hiphil] — “He will cause it to be”

Ex. 6:6 Say, therefore, to the Israelite people: I am the LORD. I will free you from the labors of the Egyptians and deliver you from their bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and through extraordinary chastisements. 7 And I will take you to be My people, and I will be your God. And you shall know that I, the LORD, am your God who freed you from the labors of the Egyptians. 8 I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you for a possession, I the LORD.” 9 But when Moses told this to the Israelites, they would not listen to Moses, their spirits crushed by cruel bondage.

Ex. 6:10 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 11 “Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites depart from his land.” 12 But Moses appealed to the LORD, saying, “The Israelites would not listen to me; how then should Pharaoh heed me, a man of impeded speech!” 13 So the LORD spoke to both Moses and Aaron in regard to the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, instructing them to deliver the Israelites from the land of Egypt.