

The God of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob

I. The Creator

Genesis 1.1; 2.4; Exodus 20.11; Deuteronomy 4.32; 10.14; 2 Kings 19.15; 2 Chronicles 2.12; Nehemiah 9.6; Job 9.8; 26.7; 38.4–11; Psalm 8.3; 19.1; 24.2; 33.6; 89.11–12; 95.5; 96.5; 104.1–9; 115.15; 124.8; 134.3; 136.6–9; 146.5–6; Proverbs 3.19; 8.26–27; 16.4; Ecclesiastes 11.5; Isaiah 40.22, 26, 28; 42.5; 43.7; 44.6, 8, 24; 45.5–7, 12, 18; 48.13; 51.13; Jeremiah 10.12; 27.5; 51.15; Amos 4.13; 5.8; Jonah 1.9; Zechariah 12.1; Malachi 2.10

Isaiah 42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it,

Isaiah 44:24 ²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,

Isaiah 45:12 "It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands And I ordained all their host.

Isaiah 45:18 ¹⁸ For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it *and* did not create it a waste place, *but* formed it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else.

II. The God of covenant to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob

He chose our people to be his own (divine election through Patriarchs). Covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob in Genesis (see Lecture 2). The phrase "God of Abraham" appears 15 times in the Bible (Gen 31.42, 53; Ex 3.6, 15–16; 4.5; 1 Ki 18.36; 1 Ch 29.18; 2 Ch 30.6; Ps 47.9; Mat 22.32; Mark 12.26; Luke 20.37; Acts 3.13; 7.32). Here are some notable ones.

Genesis 28:12-13 ¹² He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

Genesis 31:42 ⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, you would surely have sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship and the toil of my hands, and last night he rebuked you."

Exodus 3:3-6 ³ So Moses said, "I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near here;

remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

III. A God who interacts (prayer & open theism)

Abraham argues with God. "Will not the judge of the earth do what is right?"

Genesis 18:16-33 ⁶ ¶ When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. ¹⁷ Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? ¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." ²⁰ Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous ²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." ²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing-- to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ²⁶ The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, ²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it." ²⁹ Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." ³¹ Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." ³³ When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Israel means wrestles/strives with God. Jacob and angel. .

Genesis 32:23-32 ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had. ²⁴ Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." ³¹ Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Peniel, and he was limping on his thigh. ³² Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

Moses praying for people

Exodus 32:7-14 ¶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*.⁸ "They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'"⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people.¹⁰ "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation."¹¹ ¶ Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?¹² "Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil *intent* He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth '? Turn from Your burning anger and change Your mind about *doing* harm to Your people."¹³ "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit *it* forever.'"¹⁴ So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Psalms 106:19-23¹⁹ They made a calf in Horeb And worshiped a molten image.²⁰ Thus they exchanged their glory For the image of an ox that eats grass.²¹ They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt,²² Wonders in the land of Ham And awesome things by the Red Sea.²³ Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, To turn away His wrath from destroying *them*.

Contrast to Greek idea of infinite, immovable, immutable, impassible, stone column.

IV. the existing one

Ex 3.18. God is the "I AM" who was, is, is to come. God's name is יהוה (pronounced Yahweh). See introduction to NASB. The name is too sacred to say. Use circumlocution of "heaven," "lord," "the name," "glory," etc.

Exodus 3:13-16¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"¹⁵ God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, '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 is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations."¹⁶ "Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt."

V. The One who redeemed us from Egypt

"I wills" of Exodus 6. Plus other key texts that show how God was "coming out" via the 10 plagues. Fame of Yahweh through deliverance of his people (Rachab, Philistines, etc.). The rest of the OT sees this as the defining characteristic of God.

God speaking through Moses to Pharaoh

Exodus 9:13-16 ¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ¹⁴ "For this time I will send all My plagues on you and your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth. ¹⁵ "For *if by* now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth. ¹⁶ "But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.

Rahab speaking to the spies

Joshua 2:8-9 ⁸ Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you.

Gibeonites speaking to Joshua

Joshua 9:3, 6, 9 ³ When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai...⁶ They went to Joshua to the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us." ...⁹ They said to him, "Your servants have come from a very far country because of the fame of the LORD your God; for we have heard the report of Him and all that He did in Egypt,

Philistines speaking to each other when the ark came into the camp of Israel

1 Samuel 4:7-8 ⁷ The Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. ⁸ "Woe to us! Who shall deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who smote the Egyptians with all *kinds of* plagues in the wilderness.

Philistines talking about giving back the ark

1 Samuel 6:5-6 ⁵ "So you shall make likenesses of your tumors and likenesses of your mice that ravage the land, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will ease His hand from you, your gods, and your land. ⁶ "Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He had severely dealt with them, did they not allow the people to go, and they departed?

David in prayer of thanks to God

1 Chronicles 17:20-21 ²⁰ "O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²¹ "And what one nation in the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make You a name by great and terrible things, in driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed out of Egypt?

Isaiah prophesying

1 Chronicles 17:20-21 ²⁰ "O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²¹ "And what one nation in the earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make You a name by great and terrible things, in driving out nations from before Your people, whom You redeemed out of Egypt?"

Jeremiah in prayer for his people

Jeremiah 32:20-21 ²⁰ who has set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, *and* even to this day both in Israel and among mankind; and You have made a name for Yourself, as at this day. ²¹ 'You brought Your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and with wonders, and with a strong hand and with an outstretched arm and with great terror;

God speaking to Ezekiel

Ezekiel 20:9 ⁹ "But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they *lived*, in whose sight I made Myself known to them by bringing them out of the land of Egypt.

Prayer while in captivity in Babylon

Psalms 106:6-9 ⁶ We have sinned like our fathers, We have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly. ⁷ Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They did not remember Your abundant kindnesses, But rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. ⁸ Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, That He might make His power known. ⁹ Thus He rebuked the Red Sea and it dried up, And He led them through the deeps, as through the wilderness.

Daniel confessing the sins of his people

Daniel 9:15 ¹⁵ "And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day-- we have sinned, we have been wicked.

Levites dedication prayer for those who returned from Babylonian exile

Nehemiah 9:10 ¹⁰ "Then You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants and all the people of his land; For You knew that they acted arrogantly toward them, And made a name for Yourself as *it is* this day.

VI. A Jealous God (exclusivity)

Exodus 19.16–20; 20.1–6, 18–21; Deuteronomy 4.35–39; 5.1–7, 22–29; 6.4–5; 7.9–10; 10.17–21; 32.12, 39; 1 Samuel 2.2; 2 Samuel 7.22–24; 1 Kings 8.60; 2 Kings 19.15, 19; 1 Chronicles 17.20; Nehemiah 9.6; Psalm 83.18; 86.9–10; 135.5; Isaiah 37.16; 41.4; 42.5; 43.10–13; 44.6–8, 24 45.5–7, 12, 18, 21–22; 46.9; Jeremiah 10.7–10; Joel 2.27; Zech 14.9

Exodus 20:1-6 Then God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You

shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Deuteronomy 4:35 ³⁵ "To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him.

Deuteronomy 4:39 ³⁹ "Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ⁴ ¶ "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

2 Kings 19:19 ¹⁹ "Now, O LORD our God, I pray, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God."

Isaiah 37:16 ¹⁶ "O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned *above* the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Isaiah 43:10-13 ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. ¹¹ "I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me. ¹² "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange *god* among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God. ¹³ "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

VII. 8 attributes

Compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, abounding in truth, keeps lovingkindness, forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin, yet will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.

Exodus 34:6-7 ⁶ Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; ⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Numbers 14:18 ¹⁸ 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.'

2 Chronicles 30:9 ⁹ "For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your sons *will find* compassion before those who led them captive and will return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and compassionate, and will not turn *His* face away from you if you return to Him."

Nehemiah 9:17 ¹⁷ "They refused to listen, And did not remember Your wondrous deeds which You had performed among them; So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in

Egypt. But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake them.

Psalm 86:15 ¹⁵ But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

Psalm 103:8-9 ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. ⁹ He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.

Psalm 111:4 ⁴ He has made His wonders to be remembered; The LORD is gracious and compassionate.

Psalm 112:4 ⁴ Light arises in the darkness for the upright; *He is* gracious and compassionate and righteous.

Psalm 145:8 ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

Joel 2:13 ¹³ And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

Jonah 4:2 ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my *own* country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.

Micah 7:18-19 ¹⁸ Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

Nahum 1:3 ³ The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In whirlwind and storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.

VIII. A God of wrath and judgment

His wrath is against the nations that are against Israel. But not limited to foreigners. His wrath is also poured out on Israel for their acts of infidelity. God is angered by idolatry, unfaithfulness, taking advantage of the less fortunate, hypocrisy, etc. (Ez 16).

IX. God of ultimate restoration

Though his wrath is poured out on us, he has a vision for the future. He will have a pious remnant who will be shepherded by him via the Davidic king. The deserts will blossom. The wolf will dwell with the lamb. The original beauty of Eden will come full circle...one day. God has plans to make things right on earth.

X. A God who has not forsaken us, he is with us

Everything in the history of Israel has meaning. Nothing is haphazard. The reason why Israel was overrun by enemies in the time of the Judges was because the people “did what was right in his own eyes.” The reason for the exile of 70 years was because of divine judgment. The reason for the return was because God only wanted the people separate from the land for long enough to fulfill the Sabbaths that were ignored (every 7 years, 1 year no planting). Then came the Greeks and the Seleucids that we fought off against impossible odds through the Maccabean revolt. The oil lasted an extra 7 days which confirms that God was with us. But now the Romans have come. But God has not forsaken us. God is aware of everything that is going on. He is not distant. No one can flee from his presence (Ps 139). He is with us.