

# YOU SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

## Exodus 6:2-8

God carefully selected and edited the contents of the Bible to contain only the things that serve His purposes (*John 20:30-31; 21:25; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:3*). We can see evidence of that editing in places like the Old Testament, where its record of Israel seems to jump around in time (cf. the 400-year gap between Genesis and Exodus or the compacted 300-year period of the judges). What may seem, at first reading, like strange choices in dealing with Israel's timeline actually point us away from Israel to the Bible's real purpose - to reveal God to us through a careful record of His interactions with humanity (cf. *Exodus 6:2-7; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13*). But the fact that God has to reveal Himself to us illustrates a serious problem - despite being made in God's image and being tasked with the responsibility of representing His purposes in the creation (*Genesis 1:26-27*), mankind lost its knowledge of God (*Genesis 11:1-9; Hosea 4:1-2; John 8:39-47; 16:1-3; Romans 1:18-23*). The goal of Bible, however, does not seek to merely build its readers' knowledge about God; it instead focuses on using the things it reveals about Him to motivate its readers to develop a love-driven, personal relationship with Him (*John 17:3; 16:1-3; Hosea 6:3, 6*).

God's self-revelatory purpose in the Bible will drive our Bible reading program for 2021. As we read through our Bible this year, we will focus on developing a greater awareness of what the Bible reveals about God and what those revelations mean for our lives.

## January reading schedule

January 1 - Genesis 1-3	January 17 - Genesis 48-50
January 2 - Genesis 4-7	January 18 - Exodus 1-3
January 3 - Genesis 8-11	January 19 - Exodus 4-6
January 4 - Genesis 12-15	January 20 - Exodus 7-9
January 5 - Genesis 16-18	January 21 - Exodus 10-12
January 6 - Genesis 19-21	January 22 - Exodus 13-15
January 7 - Genesis 22-24	January 23 - Exodus 16-18
January 8 - Genesis 25-26	January 24 - Exodus 19-21
January 9 - Genesis 27-29	January 25 - Exodus 22-24
January 10 - Genesis 30-31	January 26 - Exodus 25-27
January 11 - Genesis 32-34	January 27 - Exodus 28-29
January 12 - Genesis 35-37	January 28 - Exodus 30-32
January 13 - Genesis 38-40	January 29 - Exodus 33-35
January 14 - Genesis 41-42	January 30 - Exodus 36-38
January 15 - Genesis 43-45	January 31 - Exodus 39-40
January 16 - Genesis 46-47	



## Exploration

Consider the following questions as you read through this month's Bible readings.

What does Genesis' account of the creation reveal to us about God and His relationship with humanity?

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What does the differences between God's response to sin in Noah's time (*Genesis 6:1-7:24*) and in Abraham's time (*Genesis 11:1-9; 12:1-2*) reveal about God and His purposes?

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In what ways does God reveal Himself through the story of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph and how did He expect Abraham and his family to act because of those things?

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What do you think the three major destructive events in Genesis and Exodus (the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the plagues) reveal to us about God and how do they shape the Bible's presentation of His judgment?

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Moses commented that God would reveal new things about Himself in the exodus and through the covenant He gave to Israel that would cause them to know Him (*Exodus 6:2-9*). What new things does Exodus add to God's self-revelation?

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What did you learn about God in this month's readings and how will those things deepen your relationship with Him?

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