

## Lecture 11 – The Doctrine of God: Introduction

“Who is this God that we seek to know? Scripture describes him in many ways...In seeking to summarize Scripture’s teaching, however, we can certainly do worse than to use the concept of divine ‘Lordship’ as our point of departure. ‘Lord’ (Yahweh in Hebrew) is the name by which God identified himself at the beginning of his covenant with Israel.” John Frame, *The Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*

### Key Terms

YHWH, Adonai, Kurios, covenant

### Objectives

\*Discuss the difference between knowing God as an abstract concept and as a person.

## The Doctrine of God

### I. God is the Covenant LORD.

#### A. Kingdom and covenant

#### B. The significance of God’s lordship for our study

1. Theology is never merely the accumulation of data, a mastery of the facts.
2. As the covenant LORD, God does not submit to our analytical observations.
3. We need to be properly humble/reverent in our study and talk about God.
4. Our knowing and speaking about God are covenantal activities.
5. Knowing God is purposeful.
  - a. There are theological and real-world consequences of believing things about God.
  - b. Knowledge is directed toward obedience.

### II. The crucial conversation of Exodus 5:22-6:8

#### A. Moses’ question (5:22-23) and God’s immediate reply (6:1)

#### B. God’s further reply (6:2-8)

1. God’s self-identification as Yahweh (vv. 2-5)
  - a. Yahweh (Jehovah) or the LORD?
    - 1) YHWH
  - b. Meaning and derivation of the name Yahweh
    - 1) A play on the Hebrew verb “to be”
    - 2) Problems with the traditional position
      - a) Hebrew perspective
      - b) Problems with parsing Yahweh
      - c) A contextual understanding of the name Yahweh
  - c. Significance of God’s name
2. The 4-fold promise (6:6-8)
  - a. The promises
    - 1) Liberation from oppression
    - 2) Creation of a community
    - 3) Personal relationship (adoption)
    - 4) Abundance and blessing
  - b. Items of note in the promises of Exodus 6:6-8
    - 1) God’s name is the guarantee of the promises.
    - 2) All four promises address the nature of redemption.

- 3) Redemption understood in positive and negative
- 4) Covenant formula

### III. The Covenant

#### A. What is a covenant?

*Berit*: To fetter or bond

#### B. All of God's dealings are covenantal.

- 1. We only know God in the context of covenant.