

Note regarding Exodus 6:3: "LORD" (all capital letters) means "Yahweh", as opposed to "Lord" meaning something like "master". Yahweh is used whenever the Bible stresses God's personal relationship with His people and the ethical aspect of His nature. According to Hebrew grammar, there is a technical point known as *beth essential* in the phrase "by my name." The phrase meant that while Abraham, Isaac and Jacob heard and used the name Yahweh it was only in Moses' day that the realization of the character, nature and essence of what that name became clear. "By that name" is better translated "in the character [or nature] of Yahweh [was I not known]." (From Hard Sayings of the Bible by Kaiser Jr., Davids, Bruce, Brauch)

"Verse 3 can be paraphrased as: I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but only partially—in the capacity of El Shaddai. But who I am fully, which is what my name Yahweh captures, I did not make myself known to them. This is made known first only now, to you, the Exodus generation, who will witness my mighty saving power." Now God's character as a saving God is to be fully revealed. (From The NIV Application Commentary-Exodus by Peter Enns)

4. How would this clearer understanding of the LORD benefit Moses as he approached Pharaoh again?

5. From God's declared promises in Exodus 6:1-8, what could Moses and the Israelites know with certainty? Why could they be certain? Share a promise of God that is particularly meaningful to you that you can believe with certainty.

6. What do you think God was accomplishing from the hardening of Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 5:2, 7:1-5; Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10-11)?

7. Identify the principals that you discovered in this passage.