Two Questions

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Two Questions

• Who is Yahweh?
  • What does it mean to be the people of God?

The First Question: Who is Yahweh?

Who is Yahweh?

• Yahweh is Creator
  • In Genesis chapter 1
• Yahweh is Redeemer
  • In Exodus, through God's control over nature in the plagues and at the crossing of the Yam Suph (Red Sea).
• Yahweh is the One who acts with ḥesed (chesed) toward His people.
Yahweh is Redeemer

- A special emphasis of the book of Exodus
- Genesis only hints at Yahweh’s role of redeemer

Yahweh is Redeemer

Then Yahweh said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.”

Gen. 15.13-14

Yahweh is Redeemer

And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.”

Gen. 50.24-25

Yahweh Acts in הָעָרָי

- The song *I Will Sing About Yahweh* (Ex. 15.1–20) culminates the development of the theme of Yahweh as Redeemer.

God made Israel His people.

How does Israel remain the people of God?
Yahweh Acts in דָּוִד

In Genesis, Yahweh:
- grants access to his presence
- provider
- protector
- guides
- promises blessings now in the future
- faithful to his word and promises

Yahweh Acts in דָּוִד

... I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing אֵיזְדָּקֵן to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Ex. 20.5-6

Yahweh Acts in דָּוִד

Yahweh descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name Yahweh. Yahweh passed before him and Yahweh proclaimed, “Yahweh is a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in דָּוִד and faithfulness, ...

Ex. 34.5-7

Yahweh Acts in דָּוִד

... keeping דָּוִד for thousands of generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Ex. 34.5-7

Who is Yahweh?
- Yahweh is Creator
- Yahweh is Redeemer
- Yahweh is the One who acts with דָּוִד (chesed) toward His people.

The Second Question:
What Does It Mean to be the People of Yahweh?
The people of Yahweh?

- The Scandal of Particularity
- One God: Yahweh
- One people of God: Israel

The people of Yahweh?

- The Scandal of Particularity
- Israel is and remains the people of God by God's mercy.

The people of Yahweh?

- Israel is set apart (qadosh) to live according to Yahweh’s teachings and to be his instrument to accomplish His plan to redeem all His creation.