

Two Questions

1

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2

Two Questions

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

3

The First Question: *Who is Yahweh?*

4

Who is Yahweh?

- Yahweh is Creator
- Yahweh is Redeemer
- Yahweh is the One who acts with חֶסֶד (*chesed*) toward His people.

5

Yahweh is Creator

- In Genesis chapter 1
- In Exodus, through God's control over nature in the plagues and at the crossing of the Yam Suph (Red Sea).

6

Yahweh is Redeemer

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

7

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

8

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

9

Yahweh is Redeemer

- **Chs. 1-15:** *The Drama of Redemption* focuses on the revelation of Yahweh as redeemer as He brings Israel up from the land of Egypt.

10

Yahweh is Redeemer

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

11

Yahweh Acts in אֱלֹהִים

God made Israel His people.

How does Israel *remain* the people of God?

12

Yahweh Acts in יהוה

In Genesis, Yahweh:

- grants access to his presence
- provider
- protector
- guides
- promises blessings now in the future
- faithful to his word and promises

13

Yahweh Acts in יהוה

... 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 יהוה to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Ex. 20.5-6

14

Yahweh Acts in יהוה

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 יהוה and faithfulness, ..."

Ex. 34.5-7

15

Yahweh Acts in יהוה

... keeping יהוה 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

16

Who is Yahweh?

- Yahweh is *Creator*
- Yahweh is *Redeemer*
- Yahweh is the One who acts with יהוה (*chesed*) toward His people.

17

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

18

The people of Yahweh?

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

19

The people of Yahweh?

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

20

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.

21