

## A The name of God:

### ❖ YHWH, the Eternal One

- “I AM” is the name of God. It consists of four letters in Hebrew: *YHWH*. It is usually transliterated as “*Yahweh*” or “*Jehovah*”, although the original pronunciation is unknown.
- The apostle John translated it as “who is and who was and who is to come” (Revelation 1:4). That is, the *ETERNAL* one. The name of God represents His self-existence, His eternity, and His sovereignty over history.
- Moses used this name when telling the first conversation between God and Abram (Gn. 15:7).
- We are encouraged to know God’s name and its meaning, so we can fully trust Him (Psalm 9:10; 91:14).

### ❖ ‘El Shaddai, God Almighty

- When God ratified His covenant with Abram, He introduced Himself as God Almighty [‘El Shaddai] (Genesis 17:1). Abram could not have a child because of the weakness and fragility of the fallen human nature. Nevertheless, the Almighty One had enough power to make it possible (Genesis. 17:6).
- Isaac blessed Jacob in the name of ‘*El Shaddai* (Genesis 28:3), and God appeared before Jacob using this name (Genesis 35:11). Jacob also used the same name to bless others (Genesis 43:14; 48:3; 49:25).
- God is Almighty, and He also has endless riches. He’s willing to give from these riches to everyone who seek them with faith and obedience (Philippians 4:19).

## B The name of the person:

### ❖ Abram/Abraham

- The name of God represents His character. In a similar way, the names of people in the old eastern world represented their character.
- When a something significant happened in the life of someone, they could change their name: Genesis 32:28; Genesis 41:45; Ruth 1:20; Daniel 1:7.
- God changed the name of Abram to Abraham in order to highlight the fulfillment of the covenant promises. From that moment, he would be known as the “Father of a multitude.”

## C The covenant:

### ❖ Stages

- God sealed His covenant with Abraham in three stages with three parts each:
  - (1) Genesis 12:1-3. APPROACH: “The Lord had said to Abram”; COMMAND: “Go out of your country”; PROMISE: “I will bless you”.
  - (2) Genesis 15:1-21. APPROACH: “I am the Lord”; COMMAND: “Bring Me a heifer...”; PROMISE: “To your descendants I have given this land”.
  - (3) Genesis 17:1-14. APPROACH: “I am Almighty God”; COMMAND: “Every male child shall be circumcised”; PROMISE: “I give to you [...] the land in which you are a stranger”.
- God established this covenant with Abraham and his descendants directly, but it also covered all human beings (Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Galatians 3:16, 29).

### ❖ Obligations

- This is a covenant of grace. It was God’s initiative, and He offers to do for us what we cannot. However, it’s not a unilateral covenant.
- Those who accept God’s covenant have to do their part. The covenant is broken when we disobey God.
- But don’t get it wrong. God does not save us because we obey Him. He saves us by grace alone (Ephesians 2:8). Then our obedience to His Law reflects our response of faith and love (James 2:17).
- God uses our obedience to fulfill the promises of His covenant in us.