

The Great I AM
Exodus 3:11-15

In the middle of Exodus 3, immediately after receiving the call of God to confront Pharaoh, Moses asks, **who am I?** What makes me so special that anyone should listen to me about this matter?

Who is Moses that Pharaoh should listen to him?

Who is Moses that the Israelites should listen to him?

God answers Moses and his need for affirmation by directing Moses to focus on the presence of God. I will be with you. Having heard that, Moses changes his question – **Who are you?**

God told Moses, **I AM WHO I AM.**

In other words, God is self-defining. He will not be defined by anyone else. God is the only one who has the authority and the ability to tell us who He is.

The Characteristics about God revealed in His name include these:

1. God is self-existent.

God owes His existence to no one. He just simply is.
God is the only being who has NOT been brought into existence.

In the beginning, God (Genesis 1:1)

Moses will be helped to know that in contrast to the false gods of Egypt, the God of Israel is not dependent upon anyone or anything for His existence. As the great and only self-existent one in the universe, God cannot be shaped by anyone or anything. As God is when Moses encounters Him, so will God be when Pharaoh encounters Him as well.

2. God is eternal.

There never was a time when God did not exist.
There will never be a time when God will not exist.

From eternity to eternity, you are God. (Ps 90:1-2 HCSB)

When Moses returns to Egypt and confronts Pharaoh, he needs to know that the God who has sent him is eternal and cannot be changed or bested by Pharaoh in any way.

3. God is independent.

God depends on no one to bring Him into existence or support Him or counsel Him or help Him in any way. God does not need anyone or anything to make Him what He is.

The God who made the world and everything in it is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:24-25)

There is nothing that Pharaoh has that God needs, wants or fears.
Pharaoh has nothing on God. Pharaoh is no match for God.
Moses needs to know this when he makes his outrageous demands.

4. God is sovereign.

God does whatever He pleases, and He is always perfect in what He does.

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17 (speaking of Jesus)

God only does what He chooses to do. There are no outside influences that push God into compromise. Moses needs to know that whatever opposition he encounters in Egypt will have no comparison to the God of the Bible.

It will help Moses to know that Pharaoh is not the boss of God. God is the boss of Pharaoh.

I am who I am. I be who I be.

No one on earth tells God who He is or what to do.

God is self-existent. God is eternal. God is independent. God is sovereign.