

I Am that I Am

The phrase “I AM that I AM” is a translational debate among translators. But from the direct Hebrew its pretty clear that the context points out to God being “The existing One” and The One who Exists. That appears to be the best understanding from the Hebrew, even the Greek points to the same meaning in when Jesus said the same thing in the gospel of John. “I Exist” I Exist as the bread of life, the door, the light etc. As we understand that the phrase is attached to the declaration of God's eternal, self-existent, and unchanging nature, emphasizing his sovereignty and transcendence, and that his essence is beyond human comprehension. God Exist! Period.

Ego eimi (Ancient Greek: ἐγώ εἰμι [egō: e:mi]) "**I am**", "**I exist**", is the first person singular present active indicative of the verb "to be" in ancient Greek. The use of this phrase in some of the uses found in the Gospel of John is considered to have theological significance by many Christians.

"**I Am that I Am**" is a common English translation of the Hebrew phrase אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה ('ehye 'āšer 'ehye; pronounced [ʔeh'je ʔa'jer ʔeh'je])— also "**I am who (I) am**", "**I will become what I choose to become**", "**I am what I am**", "**I will be what I will be**", "**I create what(ever) I create**", or "**I am the Existing One**"

Interpretation

According to the Hebrew Bible, in the encounter of the burning bush (Exodus 3:14), Moses asks what he is to say to the Israelites when they ask what gods ('Elohiym) have sent him to them, and YHWH replies, "I am who I am", adding, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.'" Despite this exchange, the Israelites are never written to have asked Moses for the name of God. Then there are a number of probably unanswerable questions, including who it is that does not know God's name, Moses or the Israelites (most commentators take it that it is Moses who does not know, meaning that the Israelites will ask him the name in order to prove his credentials), and just what the statement means.

The last can be approached in three ways:

- "I am who I am" – an evasion of Moses' question;
- "I am who am" or "I am he who is" – a statement of the nature of Israel's God. Scholars believe it refers to God's eternal nature, which is common in ancient Near Eastern cultures and not restricted to Hellenistic philosophy. It might be a reaction to the motif of gods arbitrarily disappearing in Canaanite mythology;
- "'I Am' is who I am", or "I am because I am" – this version has not played a major part in scholarly discussion of the phrase, but the first variant has been incorporated into the New English Bible