

Know God Deeply_Season 6_Episode 02_Adonai

[00:00:00] **Adam:** Welcome to Know God Deeply with Precept, where we discuss how to dig deeper into the Bible and discover God's truth for ourselves because when we know God more deeply through His Word, we live differently. Let's dig deep

You are listening to the Know God Deeply podcast. It's Adam here. Today, I have with me Karina, Rachel, and David. How we doing today?

[00:00:34] **Corina:** Doing well.

[00:00:35] **Adam:** Good, good. Little silly, but doing good. Hey, that's... I f- I feel like goofiness is just in our identity, right? Like, makes life fun. Good buffer

[00:00:44] **Corina:** sticker. Little

[00:00:45] **Adam:** silly- Yeah

[00:00:46] **Corina:** but doing good.

[00:00:46] **Adam:** Little silly Well, in the last episode, we explored God's name, Yahweh, which was revealed to Moses, and for the rest of this season as we talk about the names of God, we're gonna [00:01:00] go back to Abraham's story, where we'll explore more of these names. Now, besides Yahweh, the names of God maybe could be better considered as titles.

So think about the word mom. It's- it's technically a title, right? But practically, it's used as a name. So speaking of family titles, David, y- you have grandchildren. Did you pick your own name, your own title for your grandkids to call you?

[00:01:31] **David:** I didn't pick it, but I did approve it.

[00:01:33] **Adam:** Oh, okay.

[00:01:34] **David:** Because the first one was gonna be Doogs.

Doogs. And so my- my wife was gonna be called Moogs, and I was gonna be called Doogs, and I- I- I vetoed that. So I said, "You can call me something else, but I have to approve it." So I'm now known to my three grandchildren as Pop Pops.

[00:01:50] **Corina:** Okay. I- I was feeling Pop Pop strongly for you. Yeah. So that- Yeah ... that tracks.

[00:01:56] **David:** Yeah.

[00:01:56] **Corina:** Yeah. Yeah, Can we call you Doogs, or?

[00:01:58] **David:** No.

[00:01:59] **Corina:** Okay. [00:02:00]

[00:02:01] **Adam:** The Doogs. Yeah, so many things, you know, Doogie Howser popped into my mind, and then It just

[00:02:07] **David:** rhymes with Moogs.

[00:02:08] **Adam:** Yeah. That's all. Yeah, yeah. Anybody else have, like, interesting titles in your family, whether that's grandparents or anyone else?

[00:02:17] **Rachel:** I do.

My, on my dad's side, their names were Bob and Jean, and so we called them Grand-Bob and Grand-Jean. Those were their- Oh ... grandparents' names. Oh, yeah. And my dad, he's Grumpy to his grandkids. Because he is- I

[00:02:31] **Corina:** love that ...

[00:02:31] **Rachel:** in fact, grumpy. Yeah.

[00:02:33] **Corina:** Ooh.

[00:02:34] **David:** He owns it. Does he own it-

[00:02:35] **Rachel:** Yeah ...

[00:02:35] **David:** being grumpy? Okay, that's good.

[00:02:37] **Corina:** I've gotta save that, 'cause it's, it can go with Grandma.

Maybe I can be grumpy as a grandma. Yeah. That's awesome.

[00:02:44] **Adam:** Yeah, there's a, there's a real, there's a real movement, it seems like, amongst grandparents to not be called the traditional Grandma and Grandpa, and that's what I grew up calling my grandparents, but there were so many, you know, different ones. Even back then there was, there was the r- very s- Southern US [00:03:00] MeeMaw and PeePaw that, that- Yeah.

was around, which I could see why grandparents wouldn't want that one, but,

Yeah. It's cool to- to maybe have-

[00:03:06] **Corina:** Do we have any glammies listening? Leave a comment. Glammy.

[00:03:10] **Adam:** Glammy. Glammy. Oh.

[00:03:11] **Corina:** Yeah.

[00:03:11] **Adam:** Glam- glamorous grandma. I get that, yeah. Well, like I said, we're talking about titles today. Today we're gonna look at the title Adonai, which means master or lord, and we're gonna be looking in Genesis chapter 15.

So to provide a little context leading up to this chapter, God called Abraham out of his homeland and promised that he would make him a great nation. So in our passage today, we'll see Abraham voicing some concerns about this promise and God's response to that. So we'll be reading the full chapter Genesis fifteen.

David's gonna read for us.

[00:03:48] **David:** After these things, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram. I am your shield. Your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord [00:04:00] God," there's our Adonai, "O Lord God, what will you give me? For I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus."

And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man," Eliezer, "shall not be your heir. Your very own son shall be your

heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward to heaven and number the stars if you're able to number them."

And then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out of, from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God," there's our Adonai again, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

He said to him, "Bring me a [00:05:00] heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Verse twelve. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring shall 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 that nation, on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you [00:06:00] shall go to your fathers in peace. You shall be buried in a good old age, and they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. And let me just read 18. And on that day, the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

And then he lists a whole bunch of other names and, and places.

[00:06:43] **Adam:** That's it all. All right.

[00:06:44] **David:** That's a- See how I got away from having

[00:06:45] **Adam:** to read

[00:06:45] **David:** all those

[00:06:47] **Adam:** That's a excellent maneuver there to not have to- Thank you. Thank you ... name all those peoples. So Abraham, which is referred to Abram here, he doesn't actually get the new name until chapter 17, but Abraham refers to [00:07:00] God as Adonai in verses two and eight.

So what can we learn from observing Abraham's interaction with God in this passage?

[00:07:09] **Rachel:** I think those two verses are ... I love those two verses and the way he interacts with God here, because he seems-- We see Abraham here kind of struggling with trust and maybe doubt or complaint. We're not quite sure, right?

We do see that he believes God. He says that later, but there does seem to be this, "I don't know what you're doing here," whether it's doubt or it's complaint, we don't know. But he kind of seems to, to juggle those two feelings. But I love in those two references, he begins those questions, you know, in verse two, it's, "What will you give me, for I continue childless?"

Like, "Are you sure? I don't have any kids." And you know, and then in verse eight, "How am I to know that I shall possess it?" You know, how am I really gonna know this? He begins those two complaints with Adonai, which means master, right? So it's kind of in like, I don't [00:08:00] know, modern day terms, it's kind of like a, "I trust you, God, but how am I gonna do-- how is this gonna happen?"

You know? And how often have we prayed those words? "I trust you, but, like, I don't understand."

[00:08:14] **Adam:** Hmm. Yeah. Yeah, and it's, it's neat to see that, that God doesn't condemn him for, for having questions, right? And, and maybe part of that is because of his attitude toward God, right? That he is he has genuine questions, but he also has a reverence for him.

So God's not saying, "How dare you ask me?" He seems very relational and gracious in his, in his answers of, you know, that he has a plan for him and here's how things are gonna play out

[00:08:44] **David:** And, and it is interesting, isn't it? He's almost suggesting a way out for God in the method, right? He's almost like, "Well, you know, we could go with Eliezer.

Technically he's not my son, but he's of my household." Trying to give God a, [00:09:00] an escape route almost 'cause, because he's been waiting. He's been waiting, and waiting, and waiting. He's really old. His wife is really old. And so he's like, "Well, maybe there's a different solution here. I can help you out, God," almost.

There's that subtle, But he does, he does call him master.

[00:09:16] **Corina:** Yeah.

[00:09:16] **David:** You know, he does call him Adonai. "You are my Lord. You are in charge." Yeah.

[00:09:21] **Corina:** Well, I mean, I think the context is super important. You know, chapter 14, Abram essentially rescues Lot from this, like, evil- Oh, yeah. Like, this war essentially.

There's a war going on, and Lot gets taken, and he's like, "Man, that's- ... that's my, my relative." "I'm gonna go in and get him." And towards the end, whereas he could have really taken, like, plunder, he could have, like, gotten a lot of wealth out of this interaction with the kings, he chooses to take nothing because he says, you know, "Everything that I have comes from the Lord Most High.

I don't want anyone to say they've made me rich." And so in the passage before, you've got Abram demonstrating [00:10:00] trust, demonstrating, "I believe you're my provider, and you're my master. I want people to know I answer to you. You're responsible for me." And so it is just beautiful to see that here's where it's getting stretched and pushed, right?

It's like, "Fanna, okay, what about this?" 'Cause God comes in and affirms him and says, "Hey, don't fear," right? "Don't fear that you just... You could have had a million dollars, and you turned it down," right? "Don't fear 'cause I'm your shield, so no kings- ... can come against you. No one can attack you," right?

"I'm protecting you. I'm providing for you. I will give you a very great reward." Abraham's brain is going, "Ding, ding, ding, reward. Yeah, you promised me a lot of stuff" . And they're all contingent on a child. And so whereas I think that his trust is evident in the passage before, and in his going, and in his walking with God throughout, you know, from 12 on, y- you just see how faith continually grows and, and there is no faith without risk.

And so there's, there's still this big gap between what God has promised and how God's gonna fulfill it, [00:11:00] and so Abraham's like, "Respectfully, sir, you know, my master, my provider, my Lord, my Adonai, how are you gonna make this happen?" ... And I think, like Rachel said, that's a really natural question under the circumstances that he's in.

But I think it's, it's born of faith. I mean- Verse six makes it clear he's, he's believing the Lord.

[00:11:20] **Adam:** So in this passage, God makes a covenant with Abraham. So what stands out to you about the covenant ceremony that's described in verses 9 through 17?

[00:11:30] **Corina:** Yeah, this is a funky scene.

[00:11:32] **David:** Yeah.

And this one, y'all, is so good.

It is so good. It's, I mean, just the, the facts are animals are, are laid out. There's a, a path and a little research will show you that would be a tradition that, you know, you slaughter these animals. You- both parties would walk through the path declaring that should we break this this covenant, should either party break this covenant, this is what's to [00:12:00] happen.

So it's it's like a life or death kind of thing. And yet, yet we don't see Abraham walking through. Instead, he's put to sleep and, and it seems God, in a form of a smoking pot and a flaming torch himself passes through. So it's, y'all, it's, it's, it's almost as if God's saying, "If you break the covenant, I'll pay the price."

[00:12:23] **Corina:** Yeah.

[00:12:23] **David:** Which screams the gospel of Jesus Christ to me. I mean, it's, you know, we could not pay the price. W- He paid our price for us. He died for us, you know, so it's... I know it's not, that's not the point of the whole, of, of what we're trying to get to, but it is the gospel of this Lord, this master is the one who's actually gonna die.

He's actually the one that's gonna take the punishment. You know, and so Paul would say, he'll describe it in 2 Corinthians 5 of, "He who knew no sin became sin that we might be the righteous of God." You know, there's, there's hundreds

of those kind of [00:13:00] verses. But we see the master becoming the sacrifice- Yeah

In a sense. Yeah. So is that what, is that what you're getting at, Adam, or am I just, am I am I taking it somewhere else?

[00:13:11] **Adam:** Oh, no. No, for sure.

[00:13:12] **Rachel:** No, that's good. And the fact that it was just God who walked through and not Abraham in and of itself speaks to God's name or title of Adonai, of master. Abraham is in no way master of this covenant or of- Right

this destiny, you know? Like, it is- Right ... all gonna fall on God, and God is the one who's gonna fulfill this covenant, fulfill his promise as master, as the one in control. So just the, the very fact that it was only him who walked through and not Abraham kind of mirrors his name in a really cool way.

[00:13:47] **David:** And it's- clear too that God is... He's setting all the rules. He's setting all the procedure. This is not Abraham saying, "Let's make a deal. I'll put in 50, you put in 50, and that'll make 100." No, it's, it's God says, "You go [00:14:00] do this. You cut these. You do this." And then God puts him incapacitated. Right? And so it's God does it all, so, that, that's the gospel as well, right?

I mean, it's not as if I meet God halfway and I give God something he needs. The, the gospel is, is I was dead in my trespasses and sins, and he made me alive.

Period. Mm. So yeah, I, I love this covenant.

[00:14:28] **Adam:** Yeah, I think it's a good distinction there, right? Not, not a contract, not something that the, these two parties are, are, are signing and, and, and and holding each other accountable to.

But that's what stood out to me, that him being incapacitated, it's like he, he's not even-

...

[00:14:43] **Adam:** There's no question that, that, that he has worked for this or, or done anything on his own to, to gain this the benefits of this covenant.

[00:14:53] **David:** And you know, this, this verse six is, is huge. He believed the Lord and it counted to him as righteousness.[00:15:00]

The Apostle Paul is gonna pick up that sentence and use it in his defense of righteousness by faith alone in Romans chapter 4. And he's gonna say, you know, "Was Abraham righteous because of the law?" No, there was no law yet. Was Abraham righteous because of circumcision? No. It was before he was circumcised.

That's later on in chapter 17. You know, is was, you know, was it works? No, it was, he believed, and he'll use this actual verse, he believed the Lord, which is a, an Old Testament version of a New Testament concept of faith. You know, and so that's the whole s- so this, yeah, this is obviously I'm passionate about this chapter 'cause this is, to me, this is this is one of those chapters that shows us it's one big beautiful story.

It's not dis- it's not dissected into two gods or to two different peoples and all this kind of... This is one big beautiful narrative. It's always been by faith alone. It's always been by believing the Lord. It's [00:16:00] never been anything else that, that gives us righteousness. So, yeah.

[00:16:04] **Corina:** Well, and I mean- Sorry

it's one big... No, I mean, that's a good soapbox to stand on if you're gonna, if you're gonna have one. I, I think it's one big- I got a

[00:16:11] **David:** couple. ...

[00:16:12] **Corina:** story of salvation, and then it's also the same God too, like you're saying. There's not s- I think you touched on that. There's not two different gods, Old and New Testament, right?

You see that the Lord is so gracious, so patient. I just love that he, as he cuts this covenant, he reminds or, or really informs Abraham that this is not gonna happen all at once. There's gonna be 400 years where your people are- ... gonna be enslaved. And, and he gives a reason. The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete in verse 16.

So God's got this, he's got all the pieces, right? And not that he's, you know, a puppet master, but he's aware of how much grace he's extending even to the people that currently live in the land that he's promised to Abraham. And so just from, from front to back of our Bible, we've got God just gracious to [00:17:00]

all, and we see it throughout this covenant that he cuts with Abraham, how gracious he is to him, but also even to the nations that are in the land.

And-

...

[00:17:07] **Corina:** Yeah, that stuck out to me as I read the- Yeah A passage.

[00:17:12] **Adam:** Yeah, and David and Karina, you, you both used this phrase not, not two Gods, but one. Can, can we elaborate on that just a little bit on why people might have that viewpoint of this seems like there's two Gods?

[00:17:28] **David:** Yeah. It's that Old Testament, New Testament division where because people misunderstand what they're reading in the Old Testament they think God is a God of law and not of grace and that it's by works that you're made righteous in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament it's by faith.

And, and this is a clear example that's not true. It's always been by faith. And so you, you have this same God who is making a, a generous offer, a gracious offer to this man. [00:18:00] I mean, this... Like, he's, he's basically said, "I don't... I'm not really sure. You can do this. I mean, I'm an old man. I don- I don't get it.

Let's go with Eleazar." And, and, you know, within two verses he's right back to after he looked up, which I love. I want you to look up. And that's, that's where faith begins, doesn't it? It's by looking to God. So I want you to look up, check out these stars, and he's not talking about that's how many...

Y'all, there's ba- ba- bazillions of stars, so he's not talking about this is how many Jews are gonna be in the world one day. This is God's offspring, which, which Paul's gonna pick up in Galatians and show us that Gentiles are now brought into that family as well by faith. And so it's all of God's people one day will be like the stars.

... And so, you know, there's a really good... I know I'm preaching. I'm sorry. But there's this, there's a, it's a really good reminder that when your faith is [00:19:00] wavering or struggling that you need to look away from yourself and your circumstances and look to your master. And there's something about the galaxies you know, Psalm 19:1 says that the heavens declare the glory of God, and I've asked myself, to who?

Who are the heavens declaring the glory of God? Well, it's to you and me. It's us little, us little tiny humans on this little, one of these little clods of dirt in the, these massive amounts of universes. He says, "I wanna show them. I wanna show them on that little one of Earth, I wanna show them my glory."

And, and then he says in Psalm 19, "There's nowhere their voice is not heard." In other words, it's a message you can't, you can't avoid. So when our w- our faith is wavering, we struggle, we're looking at our own circumstances, let us look to... I'm going, I'm already jumping ahead to application. Let us look to our [00:20:00] master as Abram is told to look to the stars and number them.

That's where we're going, Abram. And then verse six, he believed Right? His faith was cha-koom, enacted.

[00:20:16] **Adam:** Amen.

[00:20:17] **David:** I'm sorry.

[00:20:17] **Adam:** Amen. No, that's- Shut up. Thanks ... Yes. Yeah. But yeah, and so, so you touched on what I was gonna ask next in- I'm sorry ... considering... No, this, that's great. Flows right into the question. So considering what's going on in Abraham's life, why do you think he uses this name Adonai here?

[00:20:38] **Rachel:** We asked why, like, why might he have used, like, Adonai, right? And when you think about when he used that term Adonai, it's to begin a question of concern. And so a part of me does wonder if it's Abraham's own way of reminding himself that- Mm ... that God is Adonai, that he is master. And, you know, when those kind of concerns [00:21:00] are bubbling up in his spirit and in his mind, you know, and as he's addressing God, it's a term of honor, right?

But it's also maybe a reminder of him, like, "I trust God. God is Adonai." And so I think that's... we can learn a lot from that, right? Because it's only natural to have those types of concerns like Moses does.

And so as a reminder to himself, Adonai, Master, Lord-

...

[00:21:22] **Rachel:** I've got some concerns.

But to keep him- Well, yeah ... keep himself humble, you know, 'cause I think that's... I mean, it's an important thing to do, especially when we're, we've got questions and we've got concerns- ... or doubts. Like we need- ... to remember our humility in, in the face of who God is.

[00:21:40] **David:** Th- th- there's, there's a sense in there that the name we talked about the name is like a title like Mom.

But there's also a sense in which the name is a characteristic-

[00:21:52] **Rachel:** Yeah ...

[00:21:52] **David:** or a, or a truth about God. And so it seems here, Adonai one way you could look at it is it's about [00:22:00] authority, that he is Lord, he is master, which means he has authority. And so, you know, so he's, he's going to the one who has authority to, to, to bring the problem.

I remember there was years and years and years ago, there was this funny Christian group and they would put out a fake Christian catalog, a Christmas catalog. It was, it was all pretend. It was all humor. And and one- one year they had these action figures and they were wrestlers. So think of WWE, you know, the wrestlers.

And you, you know how this works. They all have names, right? And so Pre-the ones I can remember are Pretty Boy Floyd and you know, and we... Now today we have The Rock, right? Or Hulk Hogan. The names were to evoke-terror into their opponents or something, you know? And so, I, I remember this catalog had had all these popular [00:23:00] Christian characters, people, actual people, and they were dressed up in, you know, wrestler costumes with big muscles, and they had a name.

Well, Mom, my mother her, her name was Kay Arthur the, the founder of Precept had the Kay Arthur doll, and it was Kay The Authority Arthur.

[00:23:18] **Corina:** Oh, how funny.

[00:23:19] **David:** You know, because I think mom sh- moms was known for, "You know what? We go to the Bible because the Bible is the authority. It is the word of God, and there's no compromise," you know.

And so when I think about this name, I'm sorry to give you the funny, long story, but when I think about this name he is going to God because God is the

one who has the answers. He is the authority. And I think, Rachel, you're spot on. That's a reminder that we're not the authority, and we must humble ourselves before Him.

We must bow our s- our will, our agendas, our desires to His-

[00:23:57] **Corina:** Right ...

[00:23:57] **David:** and say, "You are the Lord. [00:24:00] How will you do this?"

[00:24:02] **Corina:** I'm wondering if it doesn't also carry, you're talking about how it evokes or represents aspects of character. I'm wondering if master doesn't also imply caretaking, imply provision.

If you're the master over a servant, you are responsible for them. Yeah. You are their beneficiary in some sense, right? You are responsible for their wellbeing and their thriving, and I'm, I'm, I'm just struck by verse one. He says, "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield. Your reward shall be very great." And we get how shield has to do with the war that just came before.

Hmm. And we get how reward has to do with the possessions that he just, you know, rejected from- Right ... that war, the spoils of that war. But what does a shield have to do with the promise? And i- it's kind of like maybe if master is this, this all-encompassing, I'm gonna provide for you, I'm in charge, I'm responsible [00:25:00] for you, then when he says, "I'm your shield," he's saying, "I am going to protect and provide."

And so Abram's next question is, "Okay, Master, that you're pr- protecting me from war and providing for me, how are you going to bring about this reward? How are you gonna complete this provision for me that you've promised?" Anyway, that's just... I, I res- I wrestled with that. What does shield and reward have to do with the next-

The next part? And I think reward is clear, right?

[00:25:28] **Adam:** Yeah.

[00:25:28] **Corina:** But shield is an interesting one.

[00:25:31] **Adam:** Yeah. That's good. This has been enlightening to, to really dig deep into what does Adonai mean and what did Abraham mean by it. So

why can we release control and worry to Adonai like Abraham did, and where might we need to do this today?

[00:25:50] **Corina:** I think for me it goes back to this idea of h- how do shield and reward go together? I think if God is my shield, right, if the master is the one who protects me [00:26:00] from what is not for me or what would harm me, then He's also the one responsible for providing what is for me and what would do me good. And so to release control and worry over to Him is to say, "Okay, you are my shield."

You're not gonna let anything get to me that is not meant for me, but also you are going to provide for me everything that you've promised." And one of my favorite- Psalms is Psalm 84:11, which says, "For the Lord God is a sun and a shield; he gives grace and glory. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly."

And you see that pairing of God is not just in front of us, not letting things get to us, but he's also before us kind of giving grace, giving glory, providing. And so yeah, I, I've mentioned that there's a lot going on, I think right now in my world, lots of serious things from illness and, and to health- struggles to, you know, tons of things like that. But I think that the passage is an [00:27:00] encouragement that you know what? God is ... He's responsible for me. He's in charge. And, and so he's ... I have to trust him to, to get the job done. And I loved David's encouragement to just to look up when, you know, the circumstances do loom so large.

God is beyond that. God is bigger than that. And just as surely as he can protect, he can also provide, and he can make a way. So that's-

[00:27:25] **Rachel:** Yeah ...

[00:27:25] **Corina:** that's my answer.

[00:27:28] **Adam:** I was just gonna say that's encouraging Karina, to ... 'Cause I think sometimes I need that perspective shift when I consider Jesus as Lord.

I consider what my responsibility in that is. Yes. Of I need to submit. I need to bow down to this being that is so much greater. But when you have illuminated, okay, there are responsibilities of a master, that, that lifts my spirits into, [00:28:00] oh, yes, that's how I want to look at you as Lord, not just as someone that I must submit to but one that is desirous to take care of me.

And- ... sorry if I just restated what you said, but it was- No, that's

[00:28:13] **Corina:** wonderful ...

[00:28:14] **Adam:** com- compelling to me, so, yeah, thank you for that.

[00:28:16] **Corina:** Yeah, no, I think that's wonderful, Adam. I think that's exactly what the passage shows us, that God takes responsibility. He takes it on willingly, that I'm gonna be responsible for making good on my promises.

[00:28:28] **Rachel:** I think the idea of, like, worry and control is so, like, this is just in our nature as humans, right? We worry about things and we wanna control things. We see this in Moses here. He's worried about how something's gonna happen. He try- he's got a little bit of control, like, "What about Eleazar?" And we see that throughout his story, you know, that he kinda- wants to take control sometimes about this. And it's just so in our nature, and Karina, I can totally relate with what you're going through, and as you know, what I'm going through with my mom's recent cancer diagnosis. I can't really... There's not much control I can, like, [00:29:00] grasp for, but man- Mm ... can I worry about-

That, and I am not a worrywart by nature, but this one's been a challenge, right? And so it's like you get to that point, you're facing a challenge, you've got concerns and questions and worries but yet when we go to God, all we really can do is trust the Lord, trust Master. You know? Trust Adonai.

And when that's really all you can do

...

[00:29:28] **Rachel:** In a situation, it's really, it's difficult, but it's also really comforting to know, like, all I have to do is trust, you know? And trust in His will and trust in His promises, and I don't have to reach for control because Adonai, Adonai's got it, you know?

So yeah, it's definitely a comfort.

[00:29:50] **Adam:** So we desire Bible study to be more than just an academic experience, right? So, you know, we- we've observed the scripture, we have [00:30:00] interpreted what it means, so now let's get practical, which we've already been doing somewhat. But we asked this question in the last episode,

and it will be one that we ask as we examine each name of God going forward in this season.

And it's, the question is, what could it look like to incorporate the name Adonai into your relationship with God?

[00:30:21] **David:** Submission, y'all, is non-negotiable. It is-- there's nothing that, that compares to it. When we fully submit to God, we're in our best ever situation we can be in. There's, when we don't withhold or, or as, as, as Rachel just walked us through, if we don't try to take control, but we relinquish control, which honestly, we don't have it anyway.

Right. It's just to pretend, right? But when we say to our Lord and our Master, "You are in control and I fully submit to you," we are [00:31:00] smack dab in the middle of His will. Smack dab in the middle of His will. And so to know that we can submit to Him is-- that's the path, right? That's the pathway to where we wanna be and to where we wanna go.

And you know, it's, it's, it's interesting because Abram here looks like he gets it. In fact he moves on pretty quick from the whole, "I don't have a son or a child yet," to "Tell me about this land. How do I, how do I know this land?" And that's where the actual covenant is enacted. It's, it's a demonstration for it.

And so we, you know, we already talked about that, the beauty of that covenant. But flip the page in your Bible and you've got Sarah coming up with another form of control. L- let's, let's go with Hagar. Let's, you know, let's maybe sleep with my maid. It'll be your son Right? It'll be your seed. You know, so again, I mean, he's right back into it into it.

So i- if, if you're listening and you're like, "I [00:32:00] want, I want to follow God, I want to make him the true master of my life, but I struggle with doubt, I struggle with belief," know you've got... Abraham is a real person. He's not a character. And you can walk with him through these chapters and see he does trip, he does fall, he does try to, "Well, maybe we should try it this way."

Or he gives in to other people's ideas. And yet if you keep reading, you find out that offspring eventually will be the Lord Jesus Christ, and in him, all the families of the earth will be blessed. So God is master. He is trustworthy. He is the authority. And sometimes we don't act like we believe it, and he shows grace.

Why? Because he's the one who says, "I'll pay the penalty." That's the master. The master died for us. And that's, so that's a master you can love, a master you [00:33:00] can cherish, a master you can follow wholeheartedly.

[00:33:03] **Rachel:** When I think about, you know, how to use this name of God, Adonai, in my own relationship, I found that I didn't really have to think that hard about it because Abraham shows us in this story how to use this name.

He had a complaint or a concern, a doubt, and we often have those, and we can bring those to God, and yet he starts that complaint or that doubt with Adonai. And so, I mean, I think we can just really mirror Abraham here. Like, when we have concerns or doubts, always start that in your prayer life, always start that-with Lord or Master or Adonai or whatever resonates with you most. Mm. And so yeah- That's good ... that's what I'm gonna try and do more of, for sure.

[00:33:43] **Corina:** Mm.

[00:33:44] **David:** Start with Adonai. I love it. I love it. That's great.

[00:33:46] **Corina:** Yeah, I think for me it's, it's- we've talked about authority, we've talked about submission, we've talked about humility, and I think it's obvious that those are, those are most needed [00:34:00] when they're most difficult to, to, you know, express.

So you think about even Abram's story, like God shows up and says, "Hey, I want you to go," and he goes, and he gets to the land, and there's a famine in it, and so he ends up in Egypt. And even now God's like, "Hey, I'm gonna make it happen." And Abram's like, "I believe that," you know? And God's like, "But hey, it's gonna be a long road.

So it's gonna be- Yeah ... 400 years where your people are gonna be enslaved, and I've got my reasons for that." And so I think it's embracing it for me is allowing those moments when turning over trust is the most difficult to be just an invitation to, to trust again. Like we've said, that, you know, there's a reason some of the Psalms start with, "How long?"

Or, "What are you doing?" You know? And are- ... very abrupt, very abrasive, because it doesn't fit with our perception of who God is and what He's promised us. Like nothing about, "Hey, go and I'm gonna make you a great nation," and you get there and there's a [00:35:00] famine fits. There's a reason why you need to submit and, and humbly come to God.

But that doesn't mean going straight to God is good and He has a plan. It becomes a platitude if you get straight to that truth without engaging with God and reaffirming your trust in him through question asking, through expressing doubt, through surrender. And we see Abraham do that, of course, in a great way when he begins, well, begins the process of sacrificing Isaac.

He's got this big moment where he's gotta surrender everything about what he pictured this covenant would look like. And so I think for me, it's holding my expectations very loosely and, and surrendering control in that way of, you know, I, I trust that you've got a good plan, but, you know, how come you led me to famine?

And just asking those questions. And then I'll come to the same truths. God is good, and he does have a plan, but, you know, wrestling to get there, I think is important in our relationship with him.

[00:35:58] **Rachel:** That's good.

[00:35:58] **Adam:** Yeah. [00:36:00] Yeah, and studying this the way we have, where we're identifying exactly where Abraham uses the title Adonai before he asks the question it reminds me a, a little of the, the father in Mark chapter nine who is seeking for his son to be healed and- Mm-hmm

and, and says, "I believe, Lord, help my unbelief." Yeah. And, and I feel that personally. Yeah. You know, as- Sure ... and I'm sure as many do, as you're walking with the Lord, it's like, "Yes, I believe, I believe, and you have made these promises, but this is a hard moment right now, and I have questions. Help my unbelief, and I know that you can, you can move in these things."

Okay. It's time for So What? Let's wrap this up. What's, what's one big personal takeaway from studying this passage?

[00:36:53] **David:** Mine is real simple. I have a master, and I'm not him. Yeah. It's good.

[00:36:58] **Adam:** That is, that is [00:37:00] so good. I read that recently from someone that, that said this, th- this is not a surprise to anyone but me maybe, but I just realized that I'm not God.

And- And, and, and the person was saying, "And it's so freeing to know that." Yeah, yeah.

[00:37:18] **Corina:** Yeah.

[00:37:19] **Adam:** But I think for me it's don't be don't be afraid to engage. We, we've seen that example from, from Moses in our previous episode where he turns aside and is like, "I'm gonna go check out this burning bush." We see it here where Abraham is not afraid to ask questions.

Don't be afraid to engage with God. He has your best in mind, even when we don't understand how He's gonna work everything out. But engage with Him, seek Him as your Lord and master.

[00:37:45] **Corina:** I think that's, that's right. That's, that's my big takeaway too, is, you know, Abraham does it respectfully, and that term master at least denotes respect.

It at least denotes that he knows his place in the pecking order, that God is [00:38:00] his authority- ... and the one over him. Yeah. But it also denotes like we've said, that, "Hey, you're my caretaker, and you're in charge. So that means, you know, you've gotta work with me here and show me how you're gonna provide and make good on your promises."

And so I think embracing both, embracing God as the one who, who is our shield but also the one who walks through the pieces for us. You know, like you said, David He, He is the one who takes on the responsibility and, and from start to finish just draws us near to Himself, and so we can trust Him, we can bring Him our honest struggles with His unfolding of His plan, and yeah, we are going to just know Him better because of that.

[00:38:43] **Rachel:** Mine's not all that different from yours- y'all's guys. Yous guys.

[00:38:47] **Adam:** Yous guys. From y'all's. Where are you from, Boston? Yous guys. Am I from Boston? You guys is more like Philly, right? Yous guys.

[00:38:53] **Rachel:** Yeah. No, it's, you know, you can trust, you can trust Adonai even when there's uncertainty. You know, [00:39:00] uncertainty and trust don't necessarily...

They can go hand-in-hand, you know? Yeah. Yeah. You can trust God. You can trust Adonai even when you're uncertain about what He's up to, so yeah. And

[00:39:10] **David:** isn't, isn't uncertainty the environment in which trust is brought-

[00:39:15] **Rachel:** Yeah.

[00:39:15] **Corina:** Yes ...

[00:39:15] **Rachel:** to,

[00:39:16] **David:** to bear, right? Yeah. If we didn't have uncertainty, we wouldn't need trust,

[00:39:21] **Corina:** right?

Yeah. Right.

[00:39:22] **Adam:** Yeah. So listeners don't be discouraged if you're facing uncertainty right now. If you have a lot of questions, take them to God. Know that you can trust God as master of all things, of all of your life, and of all things that you will ever face. So, hope you're encouraged by that. S- stick around.

We'll be right back with our Take It or Leave It.

[00:39:44] **David:** Have you been enjoying our series on the I Am statements of Jesus and want to go deeper? The Christian life comes down to one thing: knowing Jesus more

[00:39:52] **Adam:** deeply every day. We all want that, to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him, but [00:40:00] how do you actually grow in that?

In our two-week I Am study, you'll walk through Jesus' own words in the Gospel of John and discover who He says He is and what that means for you. See Him more clearly.

[00:40:13] **David:** Draw closer to Him. Find rest in His love. Get your copy of the I Am study today at shop.precept.org.

[00:40:22] **Adam:** We are back. It's time for Take It or Leave It.

Rachel, what do you have?

[00:40:26] **Rachel:** Okay. Take it or leave it: listening to music while you work.

[00:40:31] **Corina:** Ooh, leaving.

[00:40:32] **Rachel:** Leaving.

[00:40:32] **Corina:** Leaving. Yeah. I will never work. I can't. Even, even instrumental music. I mean, I guess i- if it doesn't have a song with lyrics, like if it's not an instrumental of a song that originally had lyrics, I guess that might be okay, but I hate it.

It's too much input. I can't do it.

[00:40:51] **David:** I, I, I'll take it if it's a, a m- manual labor, like working in my shop- Okay ... or, you know, cutting the grass or something like that, [00:41:00] yeah, I love it. Yeah, I

[00:41:00] **Corina:** can do the laundry and listen

[00:41:01] **David:** to

[00:41:01] **Corina:** music.

[00:41:02] **David:** Yeah. Yeah. But if I'm having... If I'm writing or trying to really process, yeah, I'm, I'm with Karina.

I can't I can't take it 'cause my brain doesn't know which way to go. It's like, "Wait this, that?" Yeah.

[00:41:15] **Adam:** Yeah.

[00:41:15] **David:** That's- I think I can multitask. It's not true. I can't.

[00:41:20] **Adam:** Yeah, I think I'll take it. For the most part, I do like just very quiet, like, ambient music. Yeah, no, no lyrics or anything like that to be distracting, but just a little bit of something so it's not complete silence.

I don't know. That may reveal an issue for me, but I like to have that little something in the background.

[00:41:40] **Rachel:** Yeah. I'm like you, Adam. I can... Kinda like what you said, David. If it's manual labor, I can listen to lyrics, but if it's work-work, I need just instrumental or, like, lo-fi, and I like discovering new ones.

The whole reason I ask this is 'cause I recently discovered dragon synth, which is like a lo-fi type of music. Look up Mushroom Grandpa. It's incredible. It really [00:42:00] gets you in the zone. But yeah, so it's very kind of, like, fantasy, and there's just, like, musical elements to it. So yeah, I'm taking it, but it has to not have lyrics.

I agree with that.

[00:42:11] **David:** Yeah. No. Good. Mushroom Grandpa. There's your- That-Dragon synth ...

[00:42:15] **Adam:** there's your music rec.

[00:42:16] **David:** I

[00:42:17] **Corina:** got my new- I can't wait to go look it up ... my new grandma name, Mushroom Grandma.

[00:42:21] **Adam:** Oh. Whoa. Full- Bringing it all the way around ... why is grandma so weird? Full circle. I love a good callback. What a way to end the episode.

This has been fun. Thanks, guys. Listeners, we'll see you next time as we continue to examine the names of God in scripture. See you then.

[00:42:41] **Corina:** Thank you for listening to Know God Deeply from Precept, a nonprofit Bible study ministry. For over 50 years, Precept has equipped people just like you in nearly 190 countries to discover the truth of scripture for themselves. You can get to know God more deeply through Precept's inductive Bible study resources.

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