

Several times this week I'll ask you to listen to U2's song YAHWEH. It's on [the How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb](#) album. You can download the individual track from iTunes. Have it handy each day and consider listening to it often this week as an act of worship. I've included the lyrics on the last page.

Day #1

- 1) Read Exodus 5:20-7:5. It's a long passage. Don't worry about trying to grasp it all today. We'll be considering different parts of it each day.
- 2) Go through the passage again and highlight/underline the six times God says, "I am the LORD."
- 3) God has much to say about the past and the future in the passage. He especially details what he will do in the future, but Moses main questions are about the present. About all God has to say about the present is, "I am the LORD." I am the LORD is a statement about the present time.
- 4) Take some time to dwell on this, even if it's frustrating that God doesn't explain the present. God makes this statement six times. Why is God so repetitively concerned that Moses, the people, and we know that he is the LORD in the midst of their present struggles?
- 5) What would it look like for you to enter into the present reality (right now) and hear God say, "I am the LORD"?
 - a. Where is he today?
 - b. Who is he today?
- 6) Let this lead you into worship. Remind yourself often today that he is present.

Day#2

- 1) Read Exodus 5:20-7:5. Pay special attention today to Moses and the people's struggle.
- 2) Read the following passages again. How would you characterize the emotions and "faith" of those who are struggling? In some ways Moses and the people respond differently, in some ways their response is similar:
 - a. Their initial struggle – Exodus 5:20-23
 - b. Their continued hopelessness – Exodus 6:2-9
- 3) How does God respond to these accusations and refusals to "trust and obey"? If you were God, how would you? What does that tell you about God and his grace and patience?
- 4) In what ways can you identify with these responses and emotions (from question #2)? Yes, that's a risky intrusive question, but it's just you and God right now and he already knows. Given the complexity of what happens when we put up walls in our heart and retreat from hoping in God, take some time to consider especially the people's response in Exodus 6:9 and the prior words of God they won't let in. Given present or past pain and disappointment, ask God to show you where you might have become numb, cynical, self-protective, and self-reliant.
- 5) Read the lyrics to U2's song [Yahweh](#) (see the end of this document). Once you've read through them, listen to the song. Listen especially for the change that takes place with the words, "The sun is coming up." Listen to it again and enter into Worship.

Day #3

- 1) Before you read, take a few minutes to quiet your heart and remember that he is the LORD. He is present now. He is YOUR LORD. He is THE LORD. How does that change things right now?

- 2) Read Exodus 5:20-7:5. Pay special attention today to what God says about the past.
- 3) Read chapter 6:3-4 where God speaks about the past. Why does God speak now to Moses (who is struggling greatly about the present) about the past? Consider:
 - a. The lives, faith, failure, sin, and struggle of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - b. "Almighty" means "sufficient."
- 4) In 6:1-8, God speaks to Moses about the future. Moses and the people's future is our past – especially our past in Jesus. Consider how God speaks here about
 - a. Liberation (from oppression = the oppression of sin)
 - b. Redemption (which requires a "purchase" or "price" to be paid)
 - c. Adoption
- 5) Why is it important for you to know your past in present struggles?
- 6) Take some time to consider your own past in Jesus and enter into worship, rest, and hope for the day ahead.

Day #4

- 1) Take some time to read over the lyrics and listen to U2's YAHWEH. Take some time to enter into God's presence and worship.
- 2) Read Exodus 5:20-7:5 and focus in on what God says about the future.
- 3) Moses future is largely fulfilled in Jesus, i.e., a large part of his future is our own past. Read the following passages that speak of our own future. Read these passages slowly and take some time to enter into what God says about him, you, and the church for the future.
 - a. Matthew 28:16-20
 - b. Revelation 21:1-8
- 4) Let these passages sink and place yourself in this future.
- 5) Why is it important for you to know the future as you consider your present struggles?
- 6) Take some time to ask God to open your eyes to his future promises and help you live today in light of them.

Day #5

- 1) Read Exodus 5:20-7:5 this one last time and focus in on the six times God says, "I am the LORD."
- 2) Consider and reflect on all you have learned and pondered this week about your past and your future. Take some time to review and remember.
- 3) God rarely answers our questions about the present. While it's not a mystery to him, often our present is a mystery to us. But what God has to say (repeatedly and emphatically) is that he is present in the present and that he is the LORD.
- 4) Review your week.
 - a. How much have you lived your present as if God was with you in it as the LORD?
 - b. Where and when did you live as if he was present and how has that changed things?
 - c. Where and when have you lived as if he was absent and what was the cost of that?
- 5) Take some time to meditate on Psalm 46 and enter into worship.

Yahweh

Take these shoes
Click clacking down some dead end
street

Take these shoes
And make them fit

Take this shirt
Polyester white trash made in
nowhere

Take this shirt
And make it clean, clean

Take this soul
Stranded in some skin and bones

Take this soul
And make it sing

Yahweh, Yahweh
Always pain before a child is born
Yahweh, Yahweh
Still I'm waiting for the dawn

Take these hands
Teach them what to carry
Take these hands
Don't make a fist no
Take this mouth
So quick to criticize
Take this mouth
Give it a kiss

Yahweh, Yahweh
Always pain before a child is born
Yahweh, Yahweh
Still I'm waiting for the dawn

Still waiting for the dawn, the sun
is coming up
The sun is coming up on the ocean
His love is like a drop in the ocean
His love is like a drop in the ocean

Yahweh, Yahweh
Always pain before a child is born
Yahweh, tell me now
Why the dark before the dawn?

Take this city
A city should be shining on a hill
Take this city
If it be your will
What no man can own, no man can
take
Take this heart
Take this heart
Take this heart
And make it brave