

1. HISTORICAL RECITAL: KNOW GOD BY WHAT GOD HAS DONE

The most frequently mentioned act of God in the OT is the Exodus from Egypt.

--Motivation for keeping the Pentateuchal laws (Exod 22:21; Deut 5:12-15).

--Prophets: reminders that God saved (Hos 11:1; Amos 3:1-2).

Short passages of “historical recital” with a purpose:

--Praise God’s steadfast love and faithfulness (Pss 78; 105; 106; 107; 136;
1 Chron 1-9; Matt 1)

--Acknowledge sin and rebellion (Pss 78; 106; Neh 9:1-38; Dan 9:1-19).

--Call to commit to exclusive allegiance and obedience to the LORD (Deut 26:1-11; Josh 24)

God will be known for:

--Returning Israel from exile (Jer 16:14-15)

--Raising Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11)

The Bible as a whole makes God known by what God has done.

2. GOD WHO MAKES AND KEEPS COVENANTS

Covenant with all flesh, human & animal (Genesis 6:18; 9:8-17)

Covenant with Abram/Abraham, for his and Sarai/Sarah’s descendants through Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 15 & 17)

Covenant with Israel at Sinai/Horeb (Exodus 19—Deuteronomy 34)

--God had chosen Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exod 19:3-6; Deut 7:7-8) and had delivered them from Egypt in order to be known (Exod 6-14). So, God invites Israel into a formal covenant relationship as suzerain and vassal.

--Covenant violation and renewal (e.g., Ex 32-34; Dt 9:8-10:11; 2 Kgs 22-23; 2 Chr 29:5-11; Ezr 9-10; Neh 9-10; Jer 34:8-22).

--Covenant violation and judgment: covenant curses and the loss of the sworn land (Lev 26; Deut. 28-30; 2 Kgs 17; Jer 11).

Covenant with David, regarding his dynasty and the Temple (2 Sam 7; 23:1-7; Pss 2; 72; 89; 110; 132; Isa 55:3)

Promised: a new, eternal covenant (Jer 31:31-34; 32:36-41; Ezek 34:23-31; 37:15-27)

3. THE CREATOR WHO REIGNS: --YHWH, who is the Creator, is graciously Present at the sanctuary and reigns there as King over all creation.

(Gen 1:1-2:3; Gen 1 – Exod 40; Gen 1 – 1 Kgs 9; Exod 15:1-18; Pss 46; 93; 96)

Creator God conquers the forces of chaos (Pss 74:12-17; 89:9-13)

The Creator reigns as king, and has a temple built from which he reigns (Exodus 15:1-18; Genesis 1--1 Kings 9; Psalm 89:14)

The creator blesses and maintains order in creation and among humankind (Genesis 1; Psalms 33; 104)

Revelation & blessing flow out to all the earth through Zion (Pss 29; 50; 134:3)
Praise, offerings, thanks & pleas reach God through Zion (1 Kgs 8:38-39; Dan 6:10)
Heaven & earth touch at the Temple in Zion (Isa 6:1-5)

God chose to dwell with Israel. God's glory or Name were graciously present at the sanctuary (Exod 25:8; 40:34; 1 Kgs 8:11-13, 20-21; 9:3; Ps 132:13-14.

God reigns, and the Temple is God's palace:

--YHWH permits access and sets the standards and practices by which people may approach (Lev; Ps 15)

--YHWH reigns & judges with justice & righteousness – Pss 94; 96; 97; 98; 99.

--The peoples & lands of the earth belong to the LORD, the God of Israel, the Creator, who, therefore, can give them to the chosen king – Pss 2:8; 24:1-2; Isa 45:12-25; Jer 27:4-7.

The Davidic king in Jerusalem is YHWH's *messiah* (Pss 18; 20:6-8; 89:20-29)

--The king should reign with justice, righteousness, compassion and peace (Pss 45:4-9; 72; Isa 9:7; 11:4-5; 32:1)

The nations will acknowledge YHWH's reign (Isa 2:2-4; 66:18-23; Hag 2:6-9; Zech 8:22; 14:16)

YHWH's *messiah* will reign from sea to sea (Zech 9:9-10; Isa 11:9-10; Phil 2:9-11; Rev 21)

4. GOD WHO GIVES LIFE AND ANSWERS PRAYER

The God who helps & the God of justice are held together in the practice of prayer, particularly the prayers for help "laments" (Jer 30:12-17; Pss 42-43; 65; 71)

Israel has only one God, YHWH, who is simultaneously High God and personal & clan deity. (Jacob's vow in Genesis 28:20-21) (Pss 22:3-11; 71:6, 15-16)

A personal synthesis that identifies "my God, and my family's God" with the LORD, the God of Israel, who is the Creator of heaven and earth:

YHWH IS.....THE LIVING GOD WHO GIVES LIFE the God who took me from my mother's womb.....to individuals the God who gave my family our land and livelihood..... to a family line the God who chose and preserves Israel.....to the nation/people the God who created and preserves the creation..... .to all

Evidence about individuals' beliefs may be found in the meaning of personal names.

--They use the key verbs from prayers: bless; redeem; judge; be gracious; teach; save; help; ransom, redeem; deliver, rescue; be merciful; heal; hear; vindicate; remember; visit; answer. God is the subject of these verbs.