

God's Eternal Name

Scripture Reading — Exodus 3:1-15

God said to Moses, “. . . Say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you. . . . This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. — Exodus 3:14-15

By the grace of God, I have survived many earthquakes. Once, I remember, the earth throbbed as the rocks below us ground against each other. Another time, it felt as if a freight train had slammed into our house. The most terrifying times are when earthquakes come in the dark of night and the house sways and groans; you don't know whether it will collapse and bury you. Once, in a half-awake state, I dreamed that dinosaurs were attacking the house as it shook, and in terror I huddled against my wife, trembling. It was reassuring to read Psalm 46:1-2: “God is our refuge and strength Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.”

Francis Schaeffer, a missionary in Europe a few decades ago, called the God who revealed himself in the Bible “The God Who Is There.” That perfectly describes the eternal name of God: I am. Not only does God exist, but he is also there, and we are saved by his love poured out among us. When the people of Israel were in -misery, enslaved by Pharaoh, God let Moses know he had heard their cries for help; he cared about them in their suffering and had come to rescue them. It was then that he revealed his eternal name: I am.

Prayer

O God, you are an ever-present help in times of trouble. Thank you that you are not a figment of wishful thinking but that you have existed from all eternity and are mighty to save. Amen.

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