

YHWH, *Jahwe*, or *Yahweh*). All that the verse actually says is: "... then began men to call upon the name of the LORD." The earlier part of the chapter, which the critics assign to the same document, uses this particular name for God a number of times. Therefore, according to their own interpretation, verse 26 can hardly mean that the name did not originate or become known until verse 26, but simply that at that time it began to assume a large place in men's devotional life.

When it comes to Exodus 6:3, the situation is somewhat similar. As it reads in the English of the King James Version, it seems, if superficially interpreted, to say that this name was previously unknown: "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them." The critics claim that this means that according to the P document this name was first introduced at this time and completely unknown to the patriarchs. If that, however, is the only proper way to interpret it, then we can only conclude that the unknown redactor who combined the JE and P documents must have been an utter fool, rather than a skillful editor. After putting together portions of documents in such a way as to show this name being frequently used in Genesis and the early parts of Exodus, he then includes a statement that it was unknown until the time of Exodus 6:3. Very evidently the redactor (if there ever was such a person) must have interpreted the verse in some other way. There are several ways of interpreting it which avoid any inconsistency.

It is probably the most likely interpretation of Exodus 6:3, that the word "know" is used here, as is frequently the case elsewhere in the Old Testament, not in the sense of simply becoming aware of something, but in the sense of really understanding or experiencing it. Thus we read in Hosea 6:3 that we should "follow on to know the LORD." Does that mean that Hosea thought his readers had never heard the name before, and that if they would follow on to know the LORD, they would eventually find out that this was God's name? It is perfectly obvious that he means that they should seek to know the LORD in a far deeper sense. Most conservative scholars feel that Exodus 6:3 means that God had revealed Himself to the patriarchs principally in the character that is represented by His name of *El-Shaddai* (which is, not very accurately, translated "God Almighty" in the King James Version), but that now He was going particularly to reveal Himself