

The Old Testament **NAMES OF GOD**

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INTRODUCTION

Psalm 20:7 *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.*

Psalm 113:3 *From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.*

Proverbs 18:10 *The Name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*

1. The knowledge of God and His Character is more essential for the Christian than anything else. It was the prayer of Jesus, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3. We will experience God only in proportion to our knowledge of Him (John 8:19; 14:9-14).
2. When Moses received the commission to be the deliverer for God's people enslaved in Egypt, he asked God to reveal His name Exodus 3:13.
3. It was Paul's great goal in life to "know Him." Philippians 3:10
4. A name in Scripture often described a person's character or a unique quality. The Old Testament contains a number of names and compound names for God which reveal Him some aspect of His character and dealings with mankind.
5. In the Disciples' prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11, "hallowed be your name" (Greek: anoma meaning character), we are saying, "How we admire Your character," or "Who You are."

THE OLD TESTAMENT NAMES OF GOD

Exodus 3:13-15 *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, The LORD, the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob — has sent me to you. This is my Name forever, the Name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."*

Elohim | God - Our Mighty Creator, Covenant God (Throughout Genesis 1 and the Old Testament)

El-Shaddai | The Mighty God (Genesis 17:1-2 and throughout the Old Testament)

Adonai | The LORD our Master (Genesis 15:1-8; Daniel 9:3-19; Malachi 1:6)

El Elyon | The Supreme, Most High God (Genesis 14:22; Daniel 4:34-35)

El Olam | The Everlasting, Eternal God (Genesis 21:33)

יהוה *The following are the compound names, His particular characteristic connected to JEHOVAH, the Self-existent, Eternal, Unchanging, the One who always is.*

JEHOVAH | LORD, the Self-Existent, Holy, Righteous, and Loving God throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 6:2-3)

JEHOVAH Jireh | The LORD our Provider (Genesis 22:1-9)

JEHOVAH Rapha | The LORD our Healer (Exodus 15:22-27)

JEHOVAH Nissi | The LORD our Banner (Exodus 17:8-16)

JEHOVAH Sabaoth | The LORD of Hosts (1 Samuel 17:45; Haggai 2:4-9, 23)

JEHOVAH M'Kaddesh (Mekoddishkem | The LORD our Sanctifier (Leviticus 20:8)

JEHOVAH Shalom | The LORD our Peace (Judges 6:1-24)

JEHOVAH Tsidkenu | The LORD our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

JEHOVAH Rohi | The LORD our Shepherd (Psalm 23)

JEHOVAH Shammah | The LORD IS THERE (Ezekiel 48:35)

El Elyon | The Supreme, Most High God (Genesis 14:22; Daniel 4:34-35)

El Olam | The Everlasting God Who does not change (Genesis 21:33; Malachi 3:5-7; Hebrews 13:8)

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1. **PSALM 23** only mentions one of God's Covenant names, JEHOVAH Rohi, The LORD is my Shepherd. But as David describes the Shepherd's care, he paints a picture of many other characteristics of who God is. As you read through the psalm, see if you can spot the other nine!
 2. **AS YOU "SOAK" IN HIS PRESENCE** take one of the names, read the story and meditate on God's Character.
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ELOHIM

1. The Old Testament Hebrew word "God" is translated as "Elohim" and occurs _____ times. The opening statement of the Bible begins with the name "God" or "Elohim" and occurs in the first chapter of Genesis 32 times. After that, the name Jehovah appears as well, and in many instances as a combination of the two names, Jehovah-Elohim.

2. The name, Elohim, comes from the root word “El,” meaning _____, strong, prominent, the general idea of greatness and glory.
 - In Numbers 23:22-23 God is referred to as The “El” who brought Israel out of Egypt. (Genesis 49:24)
 - Deuteronomy 10:17 “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality...”
3. Elohim contains the idea of _____ and governing power. (Genesis 1:3, etc.; Hebrews 11:3)
 - He speaks and it becomes, He creates what did not exist.
 - It is Elohim who brings order out of chaos, light out of darkness.
 - It is Elohim who creates man out of dust and into His image and then breathes the breath of life into him.
4. It is Elohim who _____ and remembers His promises with man.
 - Noah in Genesis 6:18
 - Abraham in Genesis 18:16-19
 - Joseph on his deathbed in Genesis 50:24
 - Written many times to Israel in connection to the new, everlasting covenant (Jeremiah 31:33, 32:40) and with all who walk with Him with all their heart (1 Kings 8:22-24).
5. The _____ of Elohim.
 - Creation of man in Genesis 1:26, 3:21-22
 - Destruction of the tower of Babel in Genesis 11:7
 - Jacob building his altar at Bethel in Genesis 35:7
 - God saying to Isaiah “Who will go for us?” in Isaiah 6:8
 - The Trinity in Matthew 3:16-17
6. Jesus our Elohim.
 - John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”
 - Colossians 1:15 “He is the image of the invisible God”
 - Hebrews 1:1-3 “... The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”
7. Therefore...
 - Nothing is impossible for Him! (Luke 1:36-37)
 - He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine! (Ephesians 3:20)

JEHOVAH

1. In many translations of the Bible, the Hebrew word, "Jehovah," is usually translated as "LORD" with capitals (a capital "L" and smaller capitals "ord") to set it apart from another name of God, "Adonai," also translated Lord. This is the most frequently used Name of God in the Old Testament and occurs over _____ times.
 - It appears the first time in Genesis 2:4 with Elohim as Jehovah-Elohim. This is used throughout the second and third chapters, except in the serpent's dialogue with Eve in Genesis 3:1-7.

JEHOVAH, The meaning of the Name

1. The word Jehovah comes from the Hebrew verb Havah, _____ or Being (John 8:58) and is similar to the Hebrew verb, Chavah, _____, or Life (John 1:3-4).
 - Jehovah (LORD) is the One who is absolutely self-existent, the One who possess Life and eternal existence. (Psalm 102:27; Isaiah 43:10-11) He is the One who never changes and remains the same. (Deuteronomy 33:27; Malachi 3:6)
 - "All the names of God which occur in Scripture are derived from His works except one, and that is Jehovah. This is called the plain name of God, because it teaches unequivocally of the substance of God." - Jewish commentator, Moses Maimonides
 - "In the name Jehovah the personality of the Supreme is distinctly expressed. It is everywhere a proper name denoting the Person of God... The Hebrew (texts) may say the Elohim, the true God, in opposition to other false gods; but never say\ the Jehovah..." - Girdlestone

JEHOVAH, the Personal God of Israel

1. When God desired to bring a special revelation of Himself, He used Jehovah (Exodus 3:13-15; 6:2-3). Jehovah is frequently used as the God (Elohim) of the Patriarchs, though it was not fully revealed to them. (Exodus 6:2-3)
2. Jehovah was used in connection with God's covenants and promises to the Jewish people. Through Jehovah, God began to reveal Himself as a Personal, Living Being, fulfilling the promises to their forefathers.

JEHOVAH, the God of _____ and _____ ...

1. Jehovah reveals Himself through two great attributes, righteousness (morally right) and holiness (morally clean). His love is conditioned upon moral and spiritual behavior.
 - It is Jehovah who places Adam under moral responsibility and warns him of punishment for disobedience (Genesis 2:15-17) and who banished them from the garden (Genesis 3:23-24).
 - It is Jehovah who says to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book." (Exodus 32:33)

- It is Jehovah who is often angered against His chosen people when they choose to disobey and rebel against His commands. (Judges 10:6-8, etc.)

JEHOVAH, the God of _____ and _____!

1. His love causes Him to grieve over the sins and sorrows of His creation.
 - Judges 10:16 "Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the LORD. And he could bear Israel's misery no longer."
 - Isaiah 63:9 "In all their distress He too was distressed,..."
 - Hosea 11:8 "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel?... My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused."
2. Although Jehovah must _____ sin, His love seeks to _____ sinful man through a substitute sacrifice - Jesus Christ.
 - When Adam sinned, we see Jehovah seeking restoration and teaching them to approach Him by means of a life sacrificed as a substitute for their sin. He did this by slaying an animal and clothing them with the skins (Genesis 3:21), also the story of Cain and Abel's offering in Genesis 4:2-4.
 - The bronze snake: Numbers 21:4-8; John 3:14-17.

Jesus Christ, JEHOVAH'S Salvation

1. Jesus, whose name means _____, was sacrificed as a substitute for us so that we might have fellowship with a Holy God!
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
 - A few other Scriptures: Isaiah 53:4-6, 10; Matthew 8:16-17; John 1:29; Galatians 3:13-14; Hebrews 2:9, 9:27-28; 1 Peter 2:24-25, 3:18
2. As Jesus seeks to redeem the lost, so He desires for us to have the same heart.
 - Luke 15:3-31; Luke 19:10
 - Matthew 10:6-8; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:18-20

El-Shaddai

The first mention of El-Shaddai

1. The first mention of the Name El-Shaddai (God Almighty) is in connection with God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 17:1-2, to make him a great nation (Genesis 12:2), and his seed as numerous as the dust of the earth (Genesis 13:14-17) and the stars of heaven (Genesis 15:4-5).
2. God promised to Abraham a supernatural son and a future nation when he was well advanced in years. For many years their faith was tested and refined. Abraham and Sarah had to learn

that what God had promised, only God could fulfill (Romans 4:18-24; Ephesians 2:8-10)! They had to see God's unlimited power through their own weakness.

- Romans 4:18-24 *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.*

El-Shaddai as the One with unlimited power

1. This name contains the word "El," a form of Elohim, meaning the All-Powerful, Mighty Creator (Deuteronomy 3:24; Psalm 68:35, 77:14; Isaiah 40). This name expresses the idea of might and unlimited power, being All-Sufficient and Self-Sufficient.
2. "Shaddai" itself occurs 48 times in the Old Testament and is translated "Almighty." It also carries with it the meaning of One whose Power can set aside and change the laws of nature or the ordinary course of nature.
 - As El-Shaddai, God is seen as the One who is able to overcome every obstacle to carry out His purposes and plans to their fullest completion.
 - He is able to save completely those who trust in Him! (Hebrews 7:25)
3. Another word similar to it occurs 24 times and is translated "breast," meaning one who nourishes, sustains and satisfies.
 - Connected with the word for God, El, it becomes the One mighty to nourish, satisfy, supply, One who "sheds forth" and "pours" out His blessing (Genesis 49:24-25). In Isaiah 60:15-16 God uses this name in connection with Israel's restoration. "You will drink the milk of nations and be nursed at royal breasts. Then you will know that I, the LORD (Jehovah), am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One (Shaddai) of Jacob." (Also Isaiah 66:10-13)
4. El-Shaddai is used by Balaam who was hired to curse Israel for the pagan king, Balak. Instead of cursing, Balaam was compelled to turn it into a blessing as he saw the "Almighty" and saw Israel as a blessed nation who would have ultimate victory over its enemies (Numbers 24:4, 16).

El-Shaddai as the One who brings about fruitfulness

1. Out of the 48 times in the Old Testament, El-Shaddai appears thirty one times in the book of Job. For Job to experience the incredible fullness as seen at the end of the book, he went through the extremely difficult pruning of his own life. Also, Naomi when she lost her home, husband and two sons, said, "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty (Shaddai) has made my life very bitter." (Ruth 1:20-21) God had taken two upright people and "pruned" them to bring forth God's fullest blessing in their later years.

- Job 42:12, 16-17 *The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first.... After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.*
 - Ruth 4:16-17 *Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.*
2. Jesus describes the same principle in John 15 as He talks about pruning away in order to become more fruitful.
 - John 15:1-2, 16 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.*
 3. The Strength of El-Shaddai comes through our weakness so that He may be glorified.
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me... For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Jesus As El-Shaddai

1. There are so many examples of Jesus healing and restoring people, overcoming nature, etc. in the Gospels. Below are only a few examples.
 - Healing the multitudes of diseases, etc. — Matthew 4:23-25; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 7:21.
 - Healing of demon possessed people — Matthew 8:28-34 and more.
 - Raising Lazarus from the dead — John 11:42-44
 - Feeding the multitudes — Matthew 14:13-21 (more than 5,000 people); Mark 8:1-21 (more than 4,000 people)
 - Power over nature — Matthew 8:23-28 (calming the storm); Matthew 14:22-36 (walking on the water); and more.
2. In El-Shaddai we see the bountiful storehouse of His blessing, His Grace and His self-sacrificing love (John 3:16-17), pouring out upon all who would believe and embrace His promises through Christ. Jesus truly is El-Shaddai!

ADONAI

In The Old Testament

1. The Name of God, "Adonai," is translated in the Bible by the word _____ (capital with small letters) to distinguish it from LORD (capital with small capital letters), meaning Jehovah. Adonai occurs over 430 times in the Old Testament and is related to the word "Kurios" in the New Testament also meaning Lord.
 - John 20:27-29 "Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'" (Luke 6:46; John 13:12-17 and more)

2. Devout Jews began very early to substitute this name for the proper Name of God, YHWH, when reading the Scriptures aloud.
3. Elohim, Jehovah and El-Shaddai relate to His Person, His Glory, His power, gifts, blessing and fruitfulness as promised to His people. The Name of Adonai makes definite claim upon man's _____ and _____.
 - Adonai is also translated several times by the word "_____." God is our Creator and therefore He owns us and expects obedience from us.
 - Malachi 1:6 "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me? says the LORD Almighty."
4. Many times the Name Adonai refers to the _____ Majesty of God.
 - Psalm 110:1 The LORD (Jehovah) says to my Lord (Adonai): 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" This entire Psalm is one of the significant passages concerning the coming Messiah.
 - Jesus used this passage to refer to Himself in Matthew 22:41-46 (Also Peter in Acts 2:34-35).
5. The first usage of this name is in Genesis 14:17 - 15:2. After the rescue of Lot, the encounter with Melchizedek and the offering of the king of Sodom to give him wealth, God tells Abraham to trust that everything he would receive, including a son of Promise, would be through the Sovereign LORD (Adonai Jehovah), his Master.
6. A few instances where people had the revelation of God as Adonai, Master...
 - As Moses was called from the burning bush to be the deliverer of the Israelites from Egypt, he understood His Name to be Jehovah and acknowledged God's right to his life by calling God Adonai. (Exodus 4:10).
 - Joshua looks for guidance from Adonai before attacking Jericho (Joshua 5:14).
 - Gideon, feeling inadequate, submits to Adonai when called to deliver Israel (Judges 6:15).
 - David refers to God as Adonai Jehovah when given the promise that his family would be established as the royal line through whom the Messiah would come (2 Samuel 7:8-22).
 - Isaiah's vision of God as Adonai begins his prophetic calling (Isaiah 6:1-11).
 - When Jeremiah is called as a prophet, he acknowledges God as Adonai Jehovah (Jeremiah 1:6).
 - In Ezekiel's prophecies, Adonai Jehovah occurs some 200 times, used many times in reference to God's Mastery not only over Israel but over the Gentile nations as well.
 - Adonai is used ten times in Daniel 9:4-20 as Daniel prays to ask God's forgiveness and deliverance of Israel from their captivity.

In The New Testament

Matthew 7:21-27 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Also Luke 6:46-49)

1. Throughout the Old Testament, everyone who knew God as Adonai also acknowledged themselves as His servants and slaves. They recognized His right to their lives and His right to do with them according to His will.
 - When the Apostle Paul first encountered the Lord (Acts 9:5), the first words from his lips were, "Who are You, Lord?" This continued to be his cry throughout his life (Galatians 6:7; 1 Timothy 1:12; Acts 20:24).
2. When a Roman Centurion, in charge of 100 soldiers, came to Jesus to ask Him to heal his daughter, Jesus stated that He would come to his house and heal his daughter. The Centurion refused Jesus from coming and made a remarkable statement about Lordship which Jesus equated as _____!
 - Matthew 8:5-10 "The Centurion replied, 'Lord (Kurios, Master), I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.' Jesus was so impressed by his response that He said, 'I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.'"
3. _____. We are in need of guidance and to be under authority (Isaiah 53:6, 64:6; Judges 21:25). If we do not serve God then we will directly or indirectly serve the devil, the usurper of God's authority. As we come to Christ we daily learn the Lordship of Christ and how that affects our daily lives.
 - Are there areas in my life where God's absolute Lordship is not established?
 - How would it change my life if those areas were opened to Him and His Lordship?
 - What steps must I take to open those areas?
4. To understand Lordship is to be able to serve God and man without _____.

COMING SOON

The Compound Names of God

ANSWERS

ELOHIM

2,750

Mighty

creative

covenants

plural form

JEHOVAH

6,800

to be

to live

works

covenant

Righteousness

Holiness

Love

Mercy

condemn sin

Redeem

JEHOVAH Saves

ADONAI

Lord

obedience and service

Owner

plural

great faith

Man needs Lordship

hesitation