

The Names of God

1. “God” אֱלֹהִים El or Elohim
2. “LORD” יְהוָה Yahweh or Yah (or Jehovah)
3. “Lord” אֲדֹנָי Adonai

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God (אֱלֹהִים Elohim) created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Genesis 2:1-5 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2And on the seventh day God (אֱלֹהִים) ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

4This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים Yahweh Elohim) made the earth and the heavens, 5before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים) had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;

Genesis 18:1-3 Then the LORD (יְהוָה Yahweh) appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. 2So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, 3and said, “My Lord (אֲדֹנָי Adonai), if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

Genesis 18:11-12 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. 12Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord (אֲדֹנָי), being old also?”

***Exception**

Genesis 15:1-4 After these things the word of the LORD (יְהוָה) came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” 2But Abram said, “LORD God (יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים) -Literally “My Lord YAHWEH,” and thus “My Lord LORD,” but the NIV: “Sovereign LORD”), what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!” 4And behold, the word of the LORD (יְהוָה) came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”

Hebrew: צְבָאוֹת Sabaoth (“hosts” or “almighty”)

4. “the LORD of hosts” (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת) NKJV = the LORD Almighty NIV

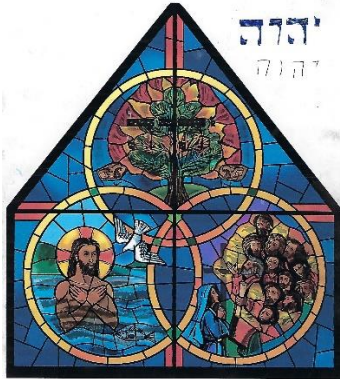
1 Samuel 1:3a, This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts (יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת) in Shiloh.

5. “LORD God of hosts” (יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת) NKJV = “LORD God Almighty” NIV See 2 Sam 5:10

Hebrew: שֹׁדַי Shaddai (“Almighty”)

6. “Almighty God” (אֱלֹהֵי שֹׁדַי);

Genesis 17:1, “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD (יְהוָה) appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God (אֱלֹהֵי שֹׁדַי); walk before Me and be blameless.



God's proper name is Yahweh [יהוה or YHWH] in the same way that my proper name is Michael. God has many titles (e.g., God, Lord, Savior, Christ, etc.). We also have titles (i.e., Pastor, Dad, Mom, Boss, Daughter, etc.).

In our English Bibles, God's proper name "Yahweh" [יהוה or YHWH] is rendered "LORD" (all capitals), while the title "lord" or "master" [אדני] is rendered "Lord" (only the first letter capitalized).

The confusion arose because the Jewish people feared they would take the name of Yahweh in vain and therefore break the second commandment. Rather than take that chance, they never used His name at all. Whenever they saw the word Yahweh, they would say Lord instead. In fact, when vowels were added to the Hebrew consonants centuries later, they wrote the vowels of the title Lord below the consonants of God's proper name Yahweh (YHWH) to remind themselves of this.

Those who had no training in Hebrew would try to pronounce this word containing the vowels of one word and the consonants of another. It would come out as Jehovah (JeHoVaH).

The correct pronunciation is almost certainly Yahweh. This can also be seen in the Hebrew word: Alleluia, Halleluia, or Hallelu Ya. This word means "praise the LORD" or "praise to Ya(hweh)."

Yahweh --> Joshua --> Jesus

Jesus [Ἰησοῦς] is the Greek form of the Old Testament Hebrew name Joshua [יהושע]. Joshua is the oldest name containing the divine name Yahweh [יהוה or YHWH] and means "Yahweh is help" or "Yahweh is salvation" from the verb "to save" [ישע].

Matthew 1:21: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus [Ἰησοῦς], because he will save his people from their sins."

"I AM"

Yahweh

LORD

God = Elohim

Alleluia

Hallelujah

Yahweh

יהוה

H W H Y

(V) ← (J)

LORD

Lord

Yahweh

Adonai

יהוה

אדני

my lord

יהוה

Jehovah

What is in a Name?

A name is more than a mere label (designation which distinguishes one from another)

--it expresses identity = an indispensable part of their personality

Genesis 3:20 And Adam called **his wife's name Eve**, because she was the mother of all living.

--expresses essentiality (of their being/essence)

Matthew 1:20-21 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will bring forth a Son, and **you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**"

--the person does or needs to live up to the name.

Genesis 5:29 And he called **his name Noah**, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed."

--there is a problem if the name is not a true reflection of reality.

Genesis 17:5 "No longer shall your name be called **Abram**, but **your name shall be Abraham**; for I have made you a father of many nations.

The name establishes ownership (dominion) or rights

Genesis 2:19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam **to see what he would call them**. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was **its name**.

--the responsibility of someone (charge it to my account)

Isaiah 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, "We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; **Only let us be called by your name**, To take away our reproach."

When you know someone's name (possess knowledge of it)

--you have access to them.

Genesis 12:8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and **called on the name of the Lord**.

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "**I am Almighty God**; walk before Me and be blameless. (Gen 15:1, 7; 26:24; 28:13, 15; 31:13; 35:11; 46:3; **Exodus 3:6, 14; 6:2**)

--you have a "power" closely associated with the person, Invoking the name accesses the potential energy contained in him.

Exodus 20:24 An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. **In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.**

-Remembrance of the name, invokes the person's energy/ability and inspires faith in it

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will **remember the name** of the Lord our God.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send **in My name**, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.

Psalms 111:4 He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; **The LORD** is gracious and full of compassion.

God's Revealed or hidden knowledge

--What God has told us in His Word is the **revealed knowledge of God**

Exodus 33:19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim **the name of the LORD** before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

Exodus 34:6-8 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "**The LORD, the LORD God**, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." ⁸So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

--The Name stands for the person (and all that it reveals)

Genesis 4:26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then **men began to call on the name of the Lord.**

--so that sometimes we even speak of the revelation of his name (as separate from the person)

Psalms 54:1 Save me, O God, **by Your name**, And vindicate me by Your strength.

--What God has not told us in His Word is the **hidden knowledge of God.**

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable** are His judgments and His ways **past finding out!**

Isaiah 45:15 Truly You are God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!

The Name of someone is synonymous with their reputation (**fame or infamy**)

Genesis 11:4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; **let us make a name for ourselves**, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And **make your name great**; And you shall be a blessing.

God's Name as opposed to God's Essence

--God's throne is in heaven, but His Name can be at the Temple.

Psalms 115:3 But **our God is in heaven**; He does whatever He pleases.

--God puts His name at a place

Deuteronomy 12:11 ...then there will be **the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide**. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the Lord.

1 Kings 9:3 And the Lord said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; **I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever**, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

--God sets His name on a Person (the Christ)

Exodus 23:20-21 "Behold, I send **an Angel** before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹"Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; **for My name is in Him.**

Numbers 6:22-27 And **the LORD** spoke to Moses, saying: ²³"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

²⁴ "**The LORD** bless you and keep you; ²⁵ **The LORD** make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ **The LORD** lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.' "

²⁷"So they shall put **My name** on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."