

## Names and Titles of God

### Introduction:

The God of the Bible is called by a number of different Names, the most common being “God”, “Lord”, and “LORD”. Through these Names, God has revealed Himself in the various aspects of His relationship to His creation. These are referred to as the “primary” Names of deity.

There are also a number of secondary, or descriptive compound names used in the Word of God, such as “Almighty God”, “Everlasting God”, etc. These are “appellatives” or titles of God.

### I. The Primary Name “God”

The Name “God” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon, “The Good,” and is a translation of the Hebrew words, “EI”, “Elah”, and “Elohim” in the Old Testament, and the Greek word “Theos” in the New Testament.”

“EI” literally means “Strength,” thus giving the meaning of the word “God” as the “Strong One.”

This Name is the generic Name for deity, it is a positional Name, and is used over 3,000 times in reference to God as Creator.

See: Geneses 1:1; Psalm 100:3

The most common word is “Elohim” which is in fact a combination of “EI” (Strong One) and “Elah” (to swear), and literally means “Faithful, Strong One.”

Hebrew scholars tell us that the word “Elohim” is “uni-plural.” This means the same word is used in a singular and plural sense. This sense is accurately brought out in our English Bible in:

Genesis 1:26 — plural

Genesis 1:27 — singular

### II. The Primary Name “LORD”

Where the Old Testament has the word “LORD” (printed in all upper case letters) it is a translation of the Hebrew word rendered “Jehovah.”

Where the Old Testament has the word “Lord” (printed with lower case letters) it is a translation of the Hebrew word “Adonai.”

Where the word “Lord” appears in the New Testament it is a translation of the Greek word “Kurios.”

#### A. The Name “Jehovah.”

“Jehovah” is the relative Name of deity, and designates personality. It is used to indicate the special relation of deity to man, first appearing in Genesis 2:4 compounded with Elohim.

“Jehovah” is also the covenant Name of God, and, strictly speaking the only “Name” of deity.

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Whilst the name “Jehovah” is used freely in the Book of Genesis, its meaning was not revealed until Exodus 3:13, 14.

“I AM THAT I AM” is the meaning of Jehovah. In other words, Jehovah is the “self-existent One,” the “One without beginning or ending,” the “Alpha and Omega.”

The word “JHWH” (often pronounced “YAH-WAY”) comes from the Hebrew root word “yahah,” which means “to become.” This indicates continuous self-revelation.

Thus we may define “Jehovah” as “The Self Existent One Who reveals Himself.”

The name Jehovah appears over 1,700 times in the Old Testament. All that the Name “Jesus” means to us, “Jehovah” meant to Israel. In fact, the New Testament teaches very clearly that Jesus is Jehovah. John 8:58

“Jesus” is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew “Joshua.” Joshua, or “Je-hoshua” means “Jehovah-Savior.”

### B. The Name “Adonai.”

This is the possessive Name of Deity, denoting sovereignty, and primarily means “master.”

As such, it is applied also to men — e.g. Genesis 18:12; I Peter 3:6

This word is found over 400 times in the Old Testament.

### C. The Name “Kurios.”

The word “Lord” in the New Testament is used of God in the context of both “Lord” (Master) and “LORD” (Jehovah).

Compare the following Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures to note this important point:

Old Testament	New Testament
Ezra 3:6, 10	Luke 1:9
Joel 2:32	Acts 2:21
Exodus 3:4-10	Acts 7:30-34
Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:3

## III. The Relationship of the Primary Name of God to the Believer

- Elohim — the One Who made me (position — Creator)
- Jehovah — the One Who saved me (Personality — Covenant)
- Adonai — the One Who owns me (possession — Master)

## IV. Compounds of the Primary Names of God

These are two compound Names used in the Old Testament:

### A. LORD God — Jehovah Elohim

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Genesis 2:4; Exodus 34:6

- B. Lord GOD — Adonai Jehovah  
Genesis 15:2

Note that common to both these compound Names is the Name “Jehovah.” In LORD God, we see the personality and relationship of the Creator. In Lord God, we see the personality and relationship of the sovereign.

We can have a personal relationship with the Creator and King.

### V. The “El” Appellatives

There are several adjectival compound applied to the word “Elohim,” which help to emphasize certain aspects of deity.

- A. Almighty God  
See: Genesis 17:1

This is translated from the Hebrew “El Shaddai.”

The word “Shaddai” comes from the word “shad” meaning “breast,” and means “breasted.” Hence the term El Shaddai literally means the “Nourisher,” “Strength Giver.”

- B. The Most High God  
See: Genesis 14:18

This is translated from the Hebrew “El Elyon.”

The word “elyon” means “high.”

- C. Everlasting God  
See: Genesis 21:33

This is translated from the Hebrew “El Olam.”

The word “olam” means “an indefinite period.”

Note:

The names “El-Elohe-Israel,” “El-Roi,” and “El-Bethel,” found in the book of Genesis are locations, not Names for God.

### VI. The “Jehovah” Appellatives

There are 2 compound Names of LORD (Jehovah) which relate to His deity, and 7 titles which relate to man and our redemption in Christ.

- A. Compound Names Revealing Deity
  - 1. The LORD of Hosts  
See: I Samuel 1:3

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This Name is translated from the Hebrew “Jehovah Sabaoth.”

Primarily the term “hosts” refers to the spirit world, and in a secondary way the armies of men. It is a military term, revealing the mighty power of God.

### 2. The Lord Most High

See: Psalm 7:17; 97:9

This is translated from the Hebrew “Jehovah Elyon.” It means “the Transcendent One.”

## B. Compound Names Revealing Redemption

These “Jehovah titles” show the LORD meeting every need of man. The seven titles are as follows:

### 1. Jehovah-Jireh

See: Genesis 22:13-14

This means “The LORD will provide” (a sacrifice)

Just as God provided a substitute for Isaac on the altar of sacrifice, so in Christ God has provided the perfect sacrifice for sinners.

Jehovah Jireh is the Name of Provision.

### 2. The LORD that Healeth

See: Exodus 15:26

This phrase is translated from the Hebrew “Jehovah-Rapha.”

Truly God is our saving health — He heals the sinner, binds the brokenhearted, soothes the troubled soul.

Jehovah Rapha is the Name of Preservation.

### 3. Jehovah-Nissi

Exodus 17:15

It is important to read the context of the above passage in Scripture. Amalek is a picture of the flesh, and the battle between Israel and the Amalekites Typifies the spiritual warfare between the believer’s two natures. Only God can give the victory.

This title means, “The LORD our banner.”

Jehovah Nissi is the Name of Victory.

### 4. Jehovah-Shalom

See: Judges 6:24

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The word “shalom” means peace; thus this title means “The LORD our peace.”

Jehovah Shalom is the Name of Peace.

### 5. The LORD Is My Shepherd

See: Psalm 23:1

This phrase comes from the Hebrew “Jehovah-Ra-ah.”

Jehovah Ra-ah is the Name of Guidance.

### 6. THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

See: Jeremiah 23:6

This Name comes from the Hebrew “Jehovah-Tsidkenu.”

This Name is revealed from a prophetic passage of the Word of God dealing with the future restoration and salvation of Israel.

Jehovah Tsidkenu is the Name of Imputed Righteousness.

### 7. The LORD Is There

See: Ezekiel 48:35

This Name comes from the Hebrew “Jehovah-Shammah,” and means, “The LORD is present.”

Jehovah Shammah is the Name of Personal Presence.

Note:

In all these “Jehovah titles,” we see our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is our substitute, bearing sin’s punishment, healing us from sin; making us to stand righteous in Him before a Holy God; He gives us victory over sin; brings peace within our hearts; is always present to guide us.

## VII. The New Testament “Jehovah” Titles

These are titles given to Christ, Who used the term “I AM” to declare His deity.

See” John 8:58; Revelation 1:8, 18.

These titles are taken from the Gospel of John which is the “Gospel of Deity.”

### A. “I AM the Bread of Life.”

John 6:48

### B. “I AM the Light of the World.”

John 8:12

### C. “I AM the Door.”

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John 10:7, 9

D. "I AM the Good Shepherd."

John 10:11

E. "I AM the Resurrection and the Life."

John 11:25

F. "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

John 14:6

G. "I AM the Vine."

John 15:1

### VIII. Note Concerning the Hebrew Names of God

While it is not essential for one to know these Hebrew titles and appellatives, they do permit some interesting devotional benefit.

One area where this knowledge can be useful in is spelling and pronouncing some of the personal names in the Bible.

Many name of Bible people either end in:

1. "el" — e.g. Michael.
2. "iah" — e.g. Jeremiah.