

"Milk & Meat" - Answering Questions on Christianity
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School

KNOWING GOD - Theology - part 3

18. What can we learn about God from His Hebrew Names?

- a. ***El, Elohim, Eloah*** (from *alah* to be strong) - **God**, the one true God, God as Creator to be revered/feared (Ps 19:1; Deut 32:15, Gen 31:42), the general name of God.
- b. ***Yahweh, Jehovah*** - usually **LORD** in KJV (Gen 2:4, 9:26, 15:2; Ex 3:14) - the proper, personal name of God. It means "I AM that I AM" (Ex 3:6, 13-15). God used a verb "to be" to describe Himself: I AM that I AM. It speaks of God as being eternally faithful to His people and unchangeable in His mercy toward them. Jehovah is often associated with the Mosaic covenant. He remains true to covenant promises - He will save His people from their sins. Scholars call this the "Tetragrammaton," a Greek term referring to the four Hebrew letters YHWH. The exact pronunciation of YHWH is uncertain because the Jewish people considered the personal name of God to be so holy that it should never be spoken aloud. Instead of reading the word YHWH, they would say the Hebrew word "adonai" which means Lord. When the vowels of the word adonai are placed with the consonants of YHWH, it results in the word Jehovah that was used in the early English translations.
- c. ***Adonai*** (Hebrew)- **Lord, Master** (*Kurios* in Greek New Testament), God as sovereign ruler/ King. "The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD (Yhwh), at the presence of the Lord (Adonai) of the whole earth." (Ps 97:5).
- d. ***El Shaddai*** – **God Almighty**; the sufficient God. "And God Almighty (El Shaddai) bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people." (Gen 28:3).
- e. ***El Elyon*** - **Most High God**. Psalm 91:1 "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High (*Elyon*) shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (*Shaddai*)."
- f. ***El Olam*** - **Everlasting God**. Psalm 90:2b "even from everlasting (*olam*) to everlasting, thou *art* God." Gen 21:33 "And *Abraham* planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God."
- g. ***El Roi*** (ro-ee)- **God that Sees**. Spoken by Hagar in Gen 16:13 in gratitude to God's gracious treatment: "And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me (: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?"
- h. ***El Gibbor*** - **Mighty God** (Isa 9:6, 10:21).
- i. ***Jehovah Sabaoth*** - **LORD of Hosts**. "Except the LORD of hosts (Sabaoth) had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like Gomorrah." (Isaiah 1:9). Sabaoth means the unconquerable one, the God who is mighty in battle through His angelic armies.
- j. ***Jehovah Jireh*** - **The LORD will Provide**. After the Angel of the Lord had provided the ram to be offered in the place of Isaac, Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-Jireh, which means Jehovah provides (Gen 22:14), which speaks of the Gospel of Jesus Christ i.e. God provides the Saviour for sinners.
- k. ***Jehovah Rafa*** - **The Lord who Heals** (Ex 15:26). "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

- l. **Jehovah Magaddishekem - The LORD who Sanctifies you.** "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I *am* the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I *am* the LORD which sanctify you." (Lev 20:7-8).
- m. **Jehovah Shalom** - The Lord is Peace. "And the LORD said unto him, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom." (Judges 6:23-24)
- n. **Jehovah Roih - The LORD My Shepherd** (Psalm 23:1). The good shepherd lays down His life for His sheep (John 10:11, 14).
- o. **Jehovah Tsidkenu – The LORD our Righteousness** (Jeremiah 23:6). "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Paul picks up this thought in 1 Cor 1:30 "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:"
- p. **Jehovah Shamamah - The LORD is There.** It describes the city that Ezekiel saw in his vision: "*It was* round about eighteen thousand *measures*: and the name of the city from *that day shall be*, The LORD is there." (Ezekiel 48:35). It depicts the glory of the final consummation when God shall be with His people forever. See also Gen 17:7 and Rev 21:22-23.
- q. **Jehovah Nissi - The LORD is my Banner** (Exodus 17:15). After the Lord had given Israel victory over the Amalekites, Moses built an altar unto God, naming it, Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord is my banner / standard.

19. What can we learn about God from His Greek names?

- a. **Theos - God.** *Theos* is the Greek name for God which replaces the Hebrew titles El, Elohim, Elyon. "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that **God** (*Theos*) is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." (Mt 3:9)
- b. **Kurios - Lord.** This is the New Testament name used for Yahweh, Jehovah, Adonai. Matt. 3:3 "For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the **Lord** (*Kurios*), make his paths straight."
- c. **Despotes - Lord.** In the New Testament, other than kurios, another term *despotes* is used to refer to Jesus' authority as Lord (Jude 4; 2 Pet 2:1). "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only **Lord** (*Despotes*) God (*Theos*), and our Lord (*Kurios*) Jesus Christ." (Jude 4).
- d. **Pantokrator - The Almighty.** This replaces the Hebrew name "Shaddai." Rev. 1:8 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the **Almighty** (*Pantokrator*)."
- e. **Pater - Father.** This is a special and predominant name for God in the New Testament (although the name Father, is also used of God in the Old Testament). "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, **Father** (*Pater*)." (Rom 8:15) "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our **Father** (*Pater*) which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." (Mt 6:9).