

**GOD
HAS A**



NAME

**Do you know
Him?**

SESSION 1 God Exists

- ⇒ Do you know the story behind your parents naming you? What does your name mean?
- ⇒ If you are a parent, what is the name you gave your children and did it have special meaning?

A person's name is more than a label to distinguish one from another. Names, especially in Biblical times, describe a person's character. They often reveal your identity; especially nicknames can indicate something about your personality and nature.

The names of God tell us the truth about God. They provide knowledge and understanding of God's person and purpose. We can know God in a greater way when we study His names.

Two distinctions in knowing God:

- 1) General Revelation reveals God's existence.
 - Psalm 8; Psalm 19; Matthew 16:2-3; Luke 12:54-56; Romans 1:19-20
- 2) Special Revelation reveals God's name and identity.
 - God's Name:
 - God is more than a god; either a created idol or a removed deity.
 - God said "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). This is God letting us know that His existence is infinite. We may not know God fully but we can know Him truly based on His self-revelation in the Bible, and through a study of His names.
 - God wants us to live and lead others to the glory of His name (Deut 18:5, 21:5)
 - See also Jesus
 - "Hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9)
 - gather in His name (Matthew 18:20)
 - pray in His name (John 14:13-14)
 - salvation in His name (Acts 4:12)
 - all to the glory of the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11; Colossians 3:17)
 - God warns us not to profane His name (Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 13:21; 22:2, 32; Deuteronomy 5:11)

⇒ From the two distinctions above, which helps you to know and worship God? (ex. nature walks, reading Scripture, prayer, etc...)

⇒ How would you explain God's name "I Am Who I Am"?

⇒ What does it mean that we may not know God fully but we can know Him truly? Is this encouraging or discouraging to you?

Motivation and purpose on studying the names of God:

- We have confidence with God
 - o *1John 4:13-14 "that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."*

 - We have a calling from God to serve Him and spread His message through our time, talents and treasures.
 - o *Psalm 1:3 "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does he prospers."*

 - We have courage before others
 - o *Daniel 3:16 "our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace"*
 - o *Daniel 11:32 "the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action"*
 - o *Acts 4:19-20 "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."*
 - o *Acts 5:29 "We must obey God rather than men."*
- ⇒ Can you think of other motivators or purposes (with coinciding Scripture references) in studying the names of God?

I believe that in the 21st Century, God's people are being refined from those who are committed followers and those who are counterfeit frauds (Sound harsh? Aren't there only two ways: narrow and broad? Can you follow God halfheartedly?). There may be trials and testings, perhaps even persecution. And the one thing that will determine the difference upon those who stand or fall is a right understanding of God. Faith in God will encourage and embolden you to serve more faithfully.

SESSION 2 OUR GOD AND FATHER

⇒ What is your mental picture of God?

Theos: A Greek word that is translated “God.” It is the most primary and simple name for God used in the New Testament. Essentially, this name indicates that God is the sovereign creator (John 1:1; Acts 17:24; Romans 1:19-20; 1Timothy 1:17) and the salvation provider (John 3:16; 1Timothy 1:1). God is the same God between the OT & NT (Hebrews 1:1-2; 1Timothy 2:3-6) and most specifically is uniquely linked and labeled of Jesus (John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:8; 2Peter 1:1; Titus 2:13; 1 John 5:20).

⇒ What is a Scripture verse(s) that come to mind on the name of God (Theos)?

God of patience (Romans 15:5)

God of hope (Romans 15:13)

God of peace (Romans 15:33)

God not of confusion but of peace (1Corinthians 14:33)

God of all comfort (2Corinthians 1:3)

God of love and peace (2Corinthians 13:11)

God of all grace (1Peter 5:10)

God of the spirits of the prophets (Revelation 22:6)

Father: The OT reveals God as Father only in a few instances (1Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 68:5, 89:26; Isaiah 9:6; Malachi 2:10). Yet, the NT does so with great frequency (~245x). As one of God’s names it indicates a personal relationship, loving care, provision as well as accountability and discipline. Christians are invited to address God as Father in prayer (Matthew 6:9, 7:11; Luke 11:1, 13; John 15:16, 16:23; Romans 8:15; 2Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 1:3, 2:18, 3:15; Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:11; Hebrews 12:5-11; James 1:17; 1John 2:1).

⇒ What is a Scripture verse(s) that come to mind on the name of God as Father?

⇒ How does God’s infiniteness and sovereign transcendence cause you to think and feel?

⇒ Some people say the OT is filled with God’s wrath and not much of His love. Are you surprised that the OT also reveals God as Father?

⇒ Beyond what was noted, how else does God’s Fatherhood impact or relate to us?

⇒ How does God’s invitation to intimacy as your Father cause you to think and feel? Note the combination God = Father.

⇒ Is there a distinction between God as Father and Jesus as Son, or is it just two separate ways of looking at God? Note the doctrine of the Trinity is impacted by the answer of this question.

SESSION 3 OUR GREAT GOD

Elohim: In Hebrew, the plural form of EL, meaning “strong one.” It is used of false gods, but when used of the true God, it is a plural of majesty and intimates at the Trinity. It is especially used of God’s sovereignty, creative work, mighty work for Israel and in relation to His sovereignty (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:5, 18, 54:5).

Compounds of El

- **El Bawsar:** “God of all flesh/people”. Indicates God’s sovereignty over humans (Jeremiah 32:27).
- **El-Berith:** “God of the Covenant”. God related to His people through covenant relationship; one in which depended upon His faithfulness to uphold the covenant requirements (Judges 9:46).
- **El Bethel:** “God of the House of God”. This was the place where Jacob built an altar and named it such to indicate the presence of God in worship. (Genesis 31:13-35:7)
- **El Deaw:** “God of knowledge”. Wisdom and understanding come from God alone. (1Samuel 2:3)
- **El Dore:** “God of all generations”. Typically this is noted more personally as in “of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”. (Exodus 3:15)
- **El El:** “God of gods”. The supreme deity over all others (Daniel 2:47).
- **El Elyon:** “The Most High God.” Stresses God’s strength, sovereignty, and supremacy (Genesis 14:19; Psalm 9:2; Dan. 7:18, 22, 25).
- **El Emeth:** “God of Truth”. There is no falsehood, no darkness, nor anything incoherent about God’s nature. He is by nature truth and cannot lie (Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16) Further, truth can indicate faithfulness (Deuteronomy 32:4).
- **El Ibree:** “God of Hebrews”. The Jews were God’s special people (Genesis 3:18)
- **El Gemuwal:** “God of recompense” (Jeremiah 51:56). God executes justice and brings about His judgments and consequences all throughout His creation and creatures. It is not for man to bring about judgment as we are called to forgive and entrust revenge to God.
- **El Gibhor:** “Mighty God” (Isaiah 9:6) – name describing the Messiah, in Isaiah. As a powerful and mighty warrior, the Messiah, the Mighty God, will accomplish the destruction of God’s enemies and rule with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15).
- **El Hesed:** “God of steadfast love”. Hesed is a rich word implying mercy, kindness, love and grace (Psalm 59:17).
- **El Kabod:** “God of glory”. The honor, significance and even weight deserving of God (Psalm 29:3)
- **Kahee El:** “Living God” or “God of life”. God is unlike created idols; He speaks (Deuteronomy 5:26; Psalm 42:8).
- **El Misgab:** “God is a fortress”. The word implies a refuge, defense or stronghold (Psalm 59:17; Daniel 11:38).
- **El Mishpat:** “God of justice”. The one who issues verdict for right and wrong; pronounces judgment.
- **El Neqama:** “God of vengeance”. The act of avengement or passion for avenging wrong or evil (Psalm 94:1)
- **El Olam:** “The Everlasting God.” Emphasizes God’s unchangeableness and is connected with His inexhaustibleness (Genesis 16:13; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28).
- **El Qanna:** “Jealous God”. God’s jealousy is His rightful zeal and desire to glorify Himself and expect worship due to His name (Exodus 20:5). See also Yahweh Qanna (Nahum 1:2).
- **El Qarob:** “God who is near.” God is omnipresent in a very personal way (Deuteronomy 4:7).

- **El-Roi:** “God who sees/of vision” God sees the needs of His people and responds (Genesis 16:13).
- **El Ruach:** “God of the spirits”. The giver of the breath of life is God over all flesh (Numbers 16:22, 27:16).
- **El Shaddai:** “God Almighty.” Some think it stresses God’s loving supply and comfort; others His power as the Almighty one standing on a mountain and who corrects and chastens (Genesis 17:1, 28:3, 35:11; Exodus 6:1; Psalm 91:1, 2).
- **El Shama:** “God who hears.” God listens and is attentive to the cries of His people. He loves us perfectly and hears every prayer, even when it feels or seems like circumstances are out of control (Exodus 2:24; Psalm 17:6; Romans 8:26; Hebrews 4:14-16)
- **El Shamayim:** “God in heaven”. Locating God’s home indicates his sovereignty above creation and supreme rule. (Genesis 24:7, Joshua 2:11; Ezra 5:11; Nehemiah 1:5). El Shamayim and Ehrets is “God of heaven and earth (Genesis 24:3)
- **El Tehilla:** “God of praise”. Hallelujah and hymn of worship belongs to God (Psalm 109:1).
- **El Tsedeq:** “God of righteousness”. The holy truthfulness, faithfulness and perfection of God is implied here (Psalm 4:1).

⇒ Choose 1 name that has been significant for each timeframe of your life: past, present, and future. Use them as a prayer to God.

⇒ Which of these names raises questions to you?

⇒ Which of these names raises challenge or conviction to you?

⇒ Which of these names raises hope and encouragement to you?

SESSION 4 OUR COVENANT GOD

Yahweh (YHWH): Hebrew name of God was written without vowels for fear of mispronouncing God's name or taking it in vain (Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 24:16). It comes from a verb which means "to exist, be." This, plus its usage, shows that this name stresses God as the independent and self-existent God of revelation and redemption (Gen. 4:3; Ex. 6:3 (cf. 3:14); 3:12). This is the covenant and personal name in relation to the people of God.

Compounds of Yahweh/Jehova:

- **Yahweh Awrek and Hesed:** "The Lord is patient [slow to anger] and steadfast love" Describes the grace and mercy of God (Numbers 14:18).
- **Yahweh El:** "The Lord is God". Indicates God's supreme deity; he is greater than all gods (Exodus 18:11; Deuteronomy 4:35; Isaiah 42:5).
- **Yahweh Ehad:** "The Lord is one". Indicates God's unity
- **Yahweh Elohim Israel:** "The Lord, the God of Israel." Identifies Yahweh as the God of Israel in contrast to the false gods of the nations (Jud. 5:3.; Isa. 17:6).
- **Yahweh Hazaq:** "The Lord is mighty" Indicates strength (Joshua 4:24).
- **Yahweh Jireh (Yireh):** "The Lord will provide." Stresses God's provision for His people (Gen. 22:14).
- **Yahweh ish-Milkhama:** The Lord is a man of war". God is a warrior, one who fights battles (Exodus 15:3).
- **Yahweh Labash:** "The Lord is robed/clothed". Symbol of God's kingship, splendor, wealth and authority (Psalm 93:1)
- **Yahweh Maccaddeshcem:** "The Lord your Sanctifier." Portrays the Lord as our means of sanctification or as the one who sets believers apart for His purposes (Ex. 31:13).
- **Yahweh Manah:** "The Lord is my portion". God is a chosen belonging out of everything else (Psalm 16:5)
- **Yahweh Melek:** "The Lord is king". Portrays God's authority (Psalm 10:16).
- **Yahweh Nahala:** "The Lord is my inheritance" Shows the reward to those called of God by faith (Deuteronomy 18:2).
- **Yahweh Natan:** "The Lord is able to give". Indicates God's resources to provide (2Chronicles 25:9; cf. 2Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 2:18, 7:25).
- **Yahweh Nissi:** "The Lord is my Banner." Stresses that God is our rallying point and our means of victory; the one who fights for His people (Ex. 17:15).
- **Yahweh Olam:** "The Lord is everlasting" God is eternal and without end (Psalm 103:17)
- **Yahweh Ore:** "The Lord is my light" A declaration of God's guiding truth (Psalm 27:1).
- **Yahweh Oz:** "The Lord is my strength". Indicates force and security. (Exodus 15:2).
- **Yahweh Oz and Magen:** "The Lord is my strength and shield" (Psalm 28:7).
- **Yahweh Rakhum and Hannun:** "The Lord is merciful and gracious" He is patient with grace and quick to give kindness and forgiveness (Psalm 103:8).
- **Yahweh Ramam:** "The Lord is high". God supersedes all created things. Yet, His greatness does not exclude His regard for the lowly (Psalm 113:4; 138:6)
- **Yahweh-Rapha:** "The Lord Who Heals" (Exodus 15:26) – "I am Jehovah who heals you" both in body and soul. In body, by preserving from and curing diseases, and in soul, by pardoning iniquities.
- **Yahweh Ro'i:** "The Lord my Shepherd." Portrays the Lord as the Shepherd who cares for His people as a shepherd cares for the sheep of his pasture (Ps. 23:1).
- **Yahweh Rûm Rosh:** "The Lord who lifts my head." God knows our guilt and our grief and takes initiative to save and care for us (Psalm 3:3).

- **Yahweh Sabbaoth:** “The Lord of Hosts.” A military figure portraying the Lord as the commander of the armies of heaven (1 Samuel 1:3; 17:45; Psalm 59:5; Malachi 2:17). See also El Sabbaoth (God of hosts) in 2Samuel 5:10, etc.
- **Yahweh Sela-Mesuda-Palat:** “The Lord is my rock, fortress, deliverer”. A full declaration of God’s protective security and salvation (2Samuel 22:2).
- **Yahweh Shalom:** “The Lord is Peace.” Points to the Lord as the means of our peace and rest (Judges 6:24).
- **Yahweh Shammah:** “The Lord is there.” Portrays the Lord’s personal presence in the millennial kingdom (Ezek. 48:35).
- **Yahweh Shamar and Sel:** “The Lord is your keeper and shade”. God actively guards and protects His children (Psalm 121:5)
- **Yahweh Shapat and Haqqaq:** “The Lord is our judge and lawmaker”. God decrees rules and judges obedience (Isaiah 33:22).
- **Yahweh Tob:** “The Lord is good” A statement of God’s generous and gracious character (Psalm 34:7)
- **Yahweh Tsidkenu:** “The Lord our Righteousness.” Portrays the Lord as the means of our righteousness (2Chronicles 12:6; Jeremiah 23:6).
- **Yahweh Elohim Yeshua:** “The Lord, God of salvation” God delivers, saves, rescues and redeems (Psalm 18:46; 88:1).
- **Yahweh Zimrat:** “The Lord is my song”. Indicates praise by musical instrument (Exodus 15:2).

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SESSION 5 OUR LORD GOD

⇒ The gods and goddesses of this world have fame and carry authority in that people want to copy reflect their image. Can you think of some... try to list 10?

⇒ How does this take away from God's glory and authority (cf. Isaiah 42:8, 43:7)?

Adonai: Like *Elohim*, this too is a plural of majesty. The singular form means "master, owner." Stresses man's relationship to God as his master, authority, and provider (Gen. 18:2; 40:1; 1 Sam. 1:15; Ex. 21:1-6; Josh. 5:14).

Despotes: A Greek word translated "Master." Carries the idea of ownership while *kurios* stressed supreme authority (Matthew 20:1, 25:33; Luke 8:24, 9:33, 16:8; 17:13; John 15:15; 2Timothy 2:21; Jude 1:4).

Kurios: A Greek word that is translated "Lord." It means one whom has authority or even supremacy. It can sometimes be a polite respect as "sir" (John 4:11), or mean owner (Luke 19:33), master (Colossians 3:22), or even refer to idols (1 Corinthians 8:5), or to husbands (1 Peter 3:6). Ultimately, it is used mostly as the equivalent to "Yahweh" in the Old Testament.

Further, it is used as a title for Jesus numerous times in the Gospels (Matthew 7:22, 22:44, 25:44; Mark 16:19; Luke 2:11, 6:46, 24:34; John 6:68, 13:13, 14:8, 20:28) and also the rest of the NT (Acts 1:6, 2:36, 9:5; Romans 10:9; 2Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 2:11; Colossians 3:17; 1Thessalonians 4:15; 1Timothy 6:3; Hebrews 13:20; James 2:1; 1Peter 3:15; Jude 1:25; Revelation 19:16, 22:20).

The Lord is Lord of all (Romans 10:12)

The Lord is the Spirit (2Corinthians 3:17)

The Lord is at hand (Philippians 4:5)

The Lord is an avenger (1Thessalonians 4:6)

The Lord is faithful (2Thessalonians 3:3)

The Lord is my helper (Hebrews 13:6)

The Lord is compassionate and merciful (James 5:11)

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise, but is patient toward you, not wishing any should perish but that all should reach repentance (2Peter 3:9)

⇒ What does God's Lordship imply for your life? Think through various areas and evaluate if your actions are in proper respect and surrender to God as your Master and Lord (ex. lifestyle, relationships, finances of spending & debt, eating habits, decision making, personal & corporate worship, etc.).

◇ Understand that this magnificent God does not expect you to come to Him by your personal merit or net worth, but simply to receive His mercy by grace through faith. Repent, turn away from self-sufficiency and turn to the Savior's works. Jesus has earned righteousness in your place. Jesus has been punished for your sins and evil deeds. He has taken your place and you must take Him and allow His Spirit to transform every area of your life.

Jesus is

- Savior (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11)
- Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23)
- King of the Jews (Mat 2:1-2, 27:37)
- The bridegroom (Matthew 9:15)
- Son of David (Matthew 15:22)
- The Christ (Matthew 16:16)
- The Prophet (Matthew 21:11)
- The Son of the Highest (Luke 1:32)
- The Son of God (Luke 1:35)
- The consolation of Israel (Luke 1:68)
- The horn of salvation (Luke 1:69)
- The Son of Man (Luke 19:10)
- The word of God (John 1:1)
- The Lamb of God taking away sins of the world (John 1:29)
- The Son of God (John 1:34)
- Rabbi (John 1:38, et. al)
- The sent only Begotten Son of God (John 3:16)
- Water of life (John 4:14)
- The bread of life (John 6:35)
- Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5)
- I Am (John 8:58)
- The gate (John 10:7-10)
- The good shepherd (Jon 1:11-14)
- The resurrection and the life (John 11:25)
- The way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)
- The true vine (John 15:1-5)
- The second/last Adam (Rom 5:14)
- The Passover lamb (1Cor 5:7)
- The rock (1Corinthians 10:4)
- The chief cornerstone (Eph 2:20)
- The head of the church (Eph 5:23)
- Firstborn over all creation (Colossians 1:5)
- Mediator (1Timothy 2:5)
- Righteous judge (2Timothy 4:8)

- The radiance of the glory of God and exact imprint of God's nature (Hebrews 1:2)
- High Priest (Hebrews 2:17, 3:1, 6:20)
- The author and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2)
- The chief Shepherd (1Peter 5:4)
- True God (1John 5:20)

Jesus in Revelation

- The faithful witness and the Ruler over the kings of the earth (Rev. 1:5).
- The Alpha and the Omega (Rev. 1:8; 22:13).
- The First and the Last (Rev. 1:17).
- The Living One (Rev. 1:18).
- The Son of God (Rev. 2:18).
- The Holy One and True One (Rev. 3:7).
- The Amen, the faithful and true Witness (Rev. 3:14).
- The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David who has conquered (Rev 5:5)
- The Lamb deserving blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever (Rev 5:13)
- Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11).
- The Word of God (Rev. 19:13).
- The King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16).
- The Groom receiving the Bride, the Church, (Rev 21:8)
- The Lord God (Rev 22:5-6)
- The Root and the Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16).
- The Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16).
- The Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 22:21).

NOTES