

Following is a short study on some of the names of God. It gives scriptures references for each name mentioned as well as the strong concordance meaning and number. I pray this will be an encouragement to you to continue to study the names of God. Learning who He is helps in your worship and service to Him.

YADA, YADA, YADA

This has become a term used by people to express such things as: and so forth... or you get the idea. It is used in place of not expressing the whole idea or story. It expresses leaving out the details that are not important.

Yada in fact is very important. Yada is a Hebrew word and it means to know. Yada is used 947 times in the Old Testament.

Yada has a wide variety of meaning depending on the context. In this lesson we will look at the importance of knowing God. One of the definitions of yada is to know personally or intimately. This is how God wants us to know Him.

In the Strong's concordance yada is #3045 and some of the words associated with this number are as follows

Observation	Endued with familiar friend
Recognition	Make know
Acknowledge	Knowledge
Acquaintance	Regard
Be aware	Have respect
Comprehend	Be sure
Consider	Understand
Be diligent	

God's intention is for us to know Him

Isaiah 43:10

Jeremiah 9:23-24

In the Old Testament God made Himself known unto Moses and the children of Israel

Psalm 103:7

In the New Testament God has made Himself known to us through His Son

Ephesians 2:12-14

Philippians 3:9-10

God has and does continue to make Himself known, but how do we learn to know God?

Salvation is the beginning of knowing God (John 17:3). After salvation the Holy Spirit works in us through the study of God's Word and prayer to give us understanding. Learning to know God is a lifetime process of learning and obeying His Word. As we see God work in our lives we are learning to know Him. Learning God's different names helps to know Him better also. As we see the LORD, JEHOVAH, Lord (Adonai) , God Most High (Elyon) and Almighty God (El Shaddai) work through His people we gain better insight of who He is.

Psalm 9:10

If we know His name we will trust in Him.

The NAME of GOD

Introduction

Hebrew – as a mark or a memorial of individuality; implies honor, authority, character

Webster – a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing; reputation

In this series of studies we will look at the character of God, learn the meaning behind some of His Hebrew names, and what the Bible says on how we should honor His name.

His Character is made known throughout the Bible!

The Psalms give us many words to describe His character

Beauty – Psalm 90:17

Holy – Psalm 33:21

Compassion – Psalm 78:38

Lovingkindness – Psalm 36:7

Faithfulness – Psalm 36:5

Merciful – Psalm 103:8

Glorious – Psalm 72:19

Mighty – Psalm 50:1

Good – Psalm 25:8

Power – Psalm 59:16

Gracious – Psalm 112:4

Righteous – Psalm 116:5

Great – Psalm 95:3

Strength – Psalm 21:13

How to give honor to His name?

Honor – a good name or public esteem; reputation; respect

Bless – Psalm 103:1

Love – Psalm 5:11

Call – Psalm 105:1

Praise – Psalm 54:6

Declare – Psalm 22:22

Remember – Psalm 20:7

God

El Elohim Eloah Elahh

El – used 245 times, it means god and is the root word of the other names and characters of God

Elohim – used 2,606, it is a plural form of El but when mentioning God it is giving reference that He is the God, is above all gods, or He is the Supreme God

Eloah – used 57 times, it is the singular form of Elohim. It means the mighty, powerful One

Elahh – used 95 times, it is Aramaic in origin. It is found in the books of Ezra and Daniel and one time in Jeremiah.

El – Hebrew word meaning god. Used for the True God and false gods

Strong's (**410**) strength, power, might, Almighty or True God but also used of false gods

Strength – power to resist force; power of resisting attack

Power – ability or right to control people or things; ability to act or produce an effect

Might – the power, authority, or resources wielded by an individual or group

The meaning El comes from Strong's # 193 and # 352

(193) – powerful, mighty, strength

(352) – strength, anything strong, specifically a chief, ram, oak or other strong tree, mighty man

Genesis 14:18

Deuteronomy 7:9

Psalm 5:4

Psalm 31:5

Isaiah 45:21

Elohim – Hebrew word meaning god. Used in the plural but when giving reference to God it is used with singular verbs, pronouns, or adjectives

Strong's (**430**) – gods, Supreme God, magistrates; angels, exceeding, great, judge, mighty

Supreme – highest in rank or authority; ultimate, final

Exceeding – exceptional in amount, quality, or degree

Elohim is used in the creation- Genesis 1 and 2

Exodus 7:16

Joshua 24:19

Psalm 30:12

Isaiah 17:10

Eloah – Hebrew word meaning god. Singular for Elohim and relates to God being the strong and mighty One

Strong's (**433**) – this second form is rare; deity or the deity; God, god

The meaning Eloah comes from Strong's # 410 and # 430

(410) see El

(430) see Elohim

Job 22:26

Job 36:2

Psalms 18:31

Psalms 114:7

Nehemiah 9:17

Elahh – Aramaic (chaldee) word meaning god.

Strong's (**426**) – corresponds to Strong's # 433. God, god

Ezra 4:24

Ezra 5:2

Daniel 2:11

Daniel 2:47

Daniel 4:9

There are many different names of God. These different names can be put under 3 categories:

Actual name – Yahweh (Jehovah)

Title – King of Kings, Shepherd, Creator (these names denote different jobs)

Metaphor/Descriptors – God is our Rock, God is merciful, God is our shield (denoting the qualities or characteristics of God)

Root Word El (the generic name for God)

The word is found in 3 main forms in the Old Testament

El, Eloah, and Elohim, together they are found 2,600 times in the Old Testament

Most often appears as the plural form Elohim (the plural)

The basic meaning of the root word El means strong having to do with power

El then is the strong and powerful One.

El' Elyon – The exalted God (Most High God)

El = strong and powerful one Elyon= most high

This name expresses the exaltedness and overwhelming majesty of God

Psalm 97:9

Abraham knew God as this name – Genesis 14:22 (read below)

Abraham's ancestors were idolaters and worshippers of many gods. The Sumerian culture had 7 main gods in its Pantheon, yet hundreds of lower gods. Joshua 24:2

God called Abraham out of idolatry to serve Him – Genesis 12:1-2

- ♦ He obeyed in faith
- ♦ God made a covenant with Him
- ♦ Friend of God – James 2:23

El' Elyon was used in a conversation between Melchizedek and Abraham – Genesis 14:17-24

Because of how they referred to God in these verses, both men see God as totally supreme over everything in earth and heaven – total supremacy (nothing higher)

Referred to also in Psalm 78:35

Polytheism v Monotheism

many gods one god

Yet, those cultures that worshiped many gods, still counted one god as supreme and overall. (Greek god Zeus)

In Near Eastern society the greater king would conquer weaker kingdoms, thus be known as king of kings or king of all kings.

God is known as God of gods and Lord of lords – Deuteronomy 10:17, Psalm 136:3 (denoting all power and might to Yahweh, and to him alone does faithfulness and mercy endure forever)

After the exodus from Egypt, the Israelites were given the Ten Commandments. The first commandment: Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Living in Egypt and being surrounded by idolatry they had an understanding of what God was commanding.

The power of God seen in the exodus

God continued to reveal Himself as God of gods (supreme above all)

Deuteronomy 4:35, 39

Deuteronomy 6:4

Deuteronomy 32:39

Psalm 83:18

Isaiah 44:6

Most High is found in 110 references including The LORD most high, God most high. In some references Most High stands alone as a title given to God

Psalm 91:1

Luke 2:14

The name El' Elyon (Most High God) is to be exalted above all others. Because of who He is, He is worthy.

High and Lofty One – Isaiah 57:15

Exalting God in or because of His glory

Glory – praise, honor or distinction; worshipful praise, honor and thanksgiving

My glory

Psalm 3:3

It is our honor to serve such a God, He is our joy, our contentment

We are to boast in Him – Psalm 44:8

Praying that God would be El' Elyon (Most High God) in our life

- ♦ To acknowledge God as God above all else
- ♦ Asking that God would reveal Himself
- ♦ Asking for conviction of anything in our life that we exalt more than Him
- ♦ Spend time thanking and praising God not for what He has done, but for who He is

Elyon – Most High God or God Most High

Strong's (5945) - Elevation, lofty, as a title – Supreme, higher, highest, upper

Lofty – rising to a great height; elevated in character and spirit; deserving to be admired

Supreme – highest in rank or authority

Psalm 7:17

Psalm 9:2

Psalm 47:2

Psalm 50:14

Psalm 57:2

Psalm 83:18

Psalm 91:1, 9

Psalm 92:1, 8

Daniel 4:34

Daniel 5:21

Mark 5:7

Luke 8:28

In Isaiah 14:12-15, Satan says he will be like the Most High. In the two New Testament scriptures above the demons proclaim Jesus as the Son of the Most High God. Even though Satan and his demons continue to do evil, they know and acknowledge God as the Most High. He is highest in rank, there is no one like Him and they know that (James 2:19).

EI' Shaddai

The God of Might

'El Shaddai names God as the Mighty Warrior, God Almighty, LORD of Host/Armies, and LORD our Banner. These names give reference to a God who fights for us.

The name appears as 'El Shaddai 7 times and as Shaddai 41 times in the Old Testament. It appears 9 times in the New Testament.

Meaning of the word Shaddai

The early Greek translators translated the Hebrew noun shadday with the Greek word pantokrator, meaning "he who holds sway over all things, the ruler of all, to have power, be master of, rule" They linked shaddai with the verb shadad, meaning "to destroy, overpower" (Almighty)

Shaddai = all mighty, all powerful, omnipotent

God appears to Abraham and Jacob as "El Shaddai

- ♦ Genesis 17:1-2
- ♦ Genesis 35:11

English usage – In English pronouns are used to distinguish the noun that is being used. In Hebrew, because of the verb usage pronouns are not usually used except as a special point of emphasis.

God uses the pronoun "I" so He is deliberately revealing something personal about Himself.

The LORD of Hosts

This is found 250 times in the Old Testament. Naming God as the mighty war Commander. This is the angelic army that appears on God's behalf

He appears to Joshua as this in Joshua 5:13-6:2

Joshua was in the presence of Almighty God, just as Moses was with the burning bush

Joshua courageously goes forward to conquer Jericho. He has been given a reminder of Joshua 1:9. This same promise is given in the New Testament – Hebrew 13:5, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:45-47

Mighty Warrior

Consists of two words

gibbor meaning, mighty, strong, valiant, mighty man, heroes or champions

aris meaning, mighty, awe-inspiring, in great power, strong, terrible, violent,

- ♦ Exodus 15:3
- ♦ Jeremiah 20:11

God is a God who can and wants to fight for us. Being in any battle is hard. But these are what strengthens our faith.

Sometimes we doubt. We ask, "Where are you God?"

But we have promises to remind us that God is with us and will fight for us. We have a mighty Commander, though unseen, fights for us

In Israel's time the battles were against other nations, but we can take the same scriptures and reference them to the battles we go through whether it is physical, emotional or spiritual.

- ♦ Exodus 14:14
- ♦ Deuteronomy 1:30
- ♦ Joshua 10:14
- ♦ 2 Chronicles 20:15, 32:7-8

New Testament

We know we are in a battle

- ♦ Galatians 5:17
- ♦ 1 Peter 2:11

God fights for us, just as He did Israel

- ♦ 2 Corinthians 10:3-4
- ♦ Ephesians 6:11-17
- ♦ 1 Thessalonians 5:8

El Shaddai – Almighty, God Almighty, Lord God Almighty

Strongs (7706) Almighty, most powerful

Strongs (7703) to be burly, powerful, impregnable

Almighty – having complete power; unlimited in power, absolute power

Power – ability or right to control people or things; ability to act or produce an effect

Burly – strong and heavy

Impregnable – not able to be captured; not likely to be weakened or changed; unconquerable

Job 32:8

Job 33:4

Job 37:23

Psalms 91:1

Isaiah 13:6

2 Corinthians 6:18

Revelation 1:8

Revelation 4:8

Revelation 11:17

Revelation 15:3

Revelation 21:22

Adonai – lord, master, owner, ruler

Strong's – (113) to rule, sovereign, controller (human or divine) lord, master, owner

Strong's – (136) an emphatic form of 113, the Lord, used as a proper name of God

Sovereign – one possessing or held to possess supreme power; one that exercises supreme authority

Lord – one having power or authority over others

Master – one having authority over another; one that conquers; superior

Genesis 15:8

Exodus 4:10

Joshua 3:11

Joshua 7:7

Judges 6:13, 22

Judges 16:28

Job 28:28

Psalms 8:9

Psalms 35:24

Psalms 62:12

Psalms 68:19

Psalms 71:5

Psalms 86:3, 5, 12, 15

Isaiah 1:24

Isaiah 6:8

113 occurs 335 times and is translated Lord, lord, lords, lord's, master, and owner. It is used for God (Lord) 30 times

136 occurs 434 times and is always translated Lord, Yahweh

Adonai has two translations

1. It can refer to a man or men
2. It can refer to the Lord

When translated Lord (God) it refers to the Lord being your master, owner, ruler. He becomes our master through salvation. We should be humble servants to our Lord, as He has good things for us.

God's Eternal Names

Yahweh

Old Testament Hebrew had no vowels, so the Divine name for God was spelled YHWH. A strong movement among devout Jews caused the name YHWH to be announced or read as Adonai, meaning lord and master. The reason for this is because they feared miss use of the name and did not want to break the second commandment. "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain."

To this day orthodox Jews avoid spelling the name of God and will leave out the o when doing so, G-d. They refer to YHWH as the Ineffable Name, the Unutterable Name or the Distinctive Name.

From Yahweh to Jehovah

This change took place over a period of time as new languages were being introduced. By 906 AD, Hebrew scholars became concerned that the use and the memory of the Hebrew language would die out, since fewer people were speaking it. To retain the right pronunciation they introduced vowel points which were a series of dots and dashes under the consonants to indicate the vowels for each word. When new languages were introduced in cultures this also created new consonants and vowels. In Latin there was a shift from the "I" and "Y" to "J". In some cultures the "J" is pronounced silently or softly giving it a "Y" or an "H" sound, but in English the "J" is pronounced with a hard sound, so today the Divine name of God is pronounced Jehovah.

The Meaning of Yahweh

"I AM, "The One who is", "The Self Existent One"

The Divine name of God first appeared in Genesis 2:4 and is used about 6,800 in the Old Testament.

When God appeared to Moses through the burning bush, God for the first time revealed Himself by His divine name, Exodus 3:13-14

When God said I AM, He was saying, "I AM WHO I AM –HE who is, the Self Existent One and I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE – He who will continue to be

God was telling Moses that He was and will continue to be present with His people. By relaying this name to the Israelites, they knew the LORD would be with them.

Knowing God as Yahweh/Jehovah lets us know that God will always be with us, for He has also said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

Declared Yahweh

- Isaiah 42:8
- Psalm 68:4
- Psalm 83:18

Some uses of God's Divine Name

Jehovah-Jireh (The LORD our provider), Genesis 22:14
Jehovah-Nissi (The LORD our banner, protection) Exodus 17:15
Jehovah-Rapha (The LORD our healer) Exodus 15:26
Jehovah-Shammah (The LORD is there) Ezekiel 48:35
Jehovah-Shalom (The LORD our peace) Judges 6:24
Jehovah-Raah (The LORD is our Shepherd) Psalm 23:1

El' Olam

The meaning 'El was introduced in the first lesson; this name is a generic name for God and means the strong and powerful one.

'Olam means forever, ever, lasting, evermore, perpetual, old, and ancient.

The name 'El 'Olam means the Everlasting, Eternal God

This name is declared in scriptures several times

Abraham said this name for God, Genesis 21:33
God's power and man's insignificance, Isaiah 40, Jeremiah 10, Psalm 90
He is our refuge, Deuteronomy 33:27
God identifies Himself with eternity, Isaiah 57:15

Ancient of Days

Daniel saw God in a vision and referred to Him as the Ancient of Days, Daniel 7:9, 13, 22

This part of Daniel is written in Aramaic. The translation of the word Ancient means, advanced, aged, or very old. While this word implies one of age, we understand God to have no age. We call something ancient when we don't know the age of it, only that it has been in existence for a very long time. God has no age, in our finite minds we only know He has been in existence for a very long time. To try to think that God has existed for eternity, something that has no limit, is hard for our minds to grasp because in our human existence we are limited. But one day when we shall be like Him we will worship Him and learn of Him for all eternity.

Job 36:26

The First and the Last

Jesus identifies Himself with eternity, Revelation 22:13

God identifies Himself the same as Jesus, Revelation 1:8
In Isaiah God identifies Himself the same way, Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12
The One who lives forever, Daniel 4:34

The Living God

The key verb for Living God is *chaya*, meaning live, have life, remain alive, sustain life, live prosperously, live forever. If we understand that He is the eternal One, then we understand He lives, Jeremiah 10:10. God is known by the Living God throughout the Bible.

Serve the LORD, the living God not idols

Leviticus 19:4

Psalm 96:5

Psalm 115:3-8

2 Corinthians 6:16

The Living God was among the Israelites, Joshua 3:10

Israel heard His voice, Deuteronomy 5: 24-26

King Darius referred to the LORD as the Living God, Daniel 6:26

David knew Israel was the army of the living God, 2 Samuel 17:26

David longed to know the Living God, Psalm 42:2, 84:2

To know the Living God is for all people, Romans 9:23-26

Peter declared Him as the Living God, Matthew 16:16

Paul referred to Him as the Living God, Acts 14:15

Conclusion

How can knowing God's eternal names help in our understanding of Him? Does this help us grow in the knowledge of God and who He is? Does this help us in our worship of Him?

Personal Note: I have always referred to the LORD as God. I often speak of His mighty acts and who He is and what He does. God's Word holds power. As I was learning some of these names and reading the scripture references, I was able to see God more clearly in who He is and what He does. Knowing God's names and how they are used definitely increases one's ability to stand in awe of Him and to give Him the reverence He so deserves.

Proverbs 1:7 – The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...