

# Foundational Truths of the Bible: The Names of God

## I. Introduction

Have you ever wondered about all the different names for God used in the Bible, and what they mean? In this study we will examine some of the names and what they mean. Much of the information discussed was taken from the book, The Names of God, by Andrew Jukes; a booklet called “Names of God,” by Rose Publishing; and the KJV of the Bible.

## II. God or Elohim-All Powerful Creator

### A. The first mention of God appeared in Genesis.

**Gen 1:1** In the beginning **God** created the heaven and earth.

**God:** Strong’s 430 Elohim-Hebrew-great and mighty God;  
Rose-plural of El; All-Powerful Creator

*God identified Himself as the Supreme God above all gods, the All-Powerful Creator.*

### B. One God-Three Persons

**God referred to Himself in the plural form.**

**Gen 1:26** And God said, *Let us make man in our image*, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

**Mt 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

*God referred to Himself in the plural form, indicating the three parts of God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

## III. LORD God-Jehovah

**A second name for God also appeared in Genesis: LORD.**

**Gen 2:4** These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD God** made the earth and the heavens

**LORD:** Strong’s 3068-Jehovah, self-Existent or Eternal; Jewish national name of God

*Jehovah, the Jewish national name of God, means The One Who Is, or the Self-Existent One.*

#### IV. El Elyon, God Most High

**Another name for God found in Genesis was El Elyon, meaning Most High.**

**Gen 14:18-19** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth

**God:** Strong's 410-Almighty, mighty one

*After a big battle, Abram was blessed by Melchizedek who was the priest of the most high God.*

#### V. El Shaddai

**God referred to Himself as El Shaddai when he confirmed His covenant with Abraham.**

**Gen 17:1-2** And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God [El Shaddai]; walk before me, and be thou perfect. 2And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

**Almighty God:** Strong's 7706-the Almighty

*God declared to Abraham that He is El Shaddai, the Almighty God.*

**Note: All four of these names of God appear in Ps 91:1-2:**

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the **Most High [El Elyon]** shall abide under the shadow of **the Almighty [El Shaddai]**. 2I will say of the **LORD [Jehovah]** He is my refuge and my fortress: my **God [Elohim]**; in him will I trust.

**Dwelleth:** Strong's 3427-sit down, remain, marry, abide, endure, habitation, tarry

**Secret:** Strong's 5643-cover, hiding place, protection

**Abide:** Strong's 3885-stay, continue, dwell, lodge, tarry

**Shadow:** Strong's 6738-shade, defense

**Refuge:** Strong's 4268-place of refuge, shelter, trust

**Fortress:** Strong's 4686-castle, defense, stronghold

V14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because *he hath known my name*.

**Known:** Strong's 3045-to know, ascertain by seeing, acknowledge, acquaintance or acquainted with; discern, discover, endued with, familiar friend, understand

**Jn 17:12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name....

*If we remain under the cover of the Most High, we continue under His protection, because God is our shelter and defender.*

## **VI. El Roi-The God Who Sees Me**

**A. Hagar, Sarai's handmaiden ran away from her because she was harsh with her. The angel of the Lord found her and told her to return to her mistress and submit to her.**

**Gen 16:11, 13** Then the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction...13And 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?

*The Lord appeared to his servant girl and comforted her in her affliction.*

**Ps 139:7-10** Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

*There is no circumstance in our lives that escapes the Father's awareness for He knows all of our troubles.*

**B. Jesus-the God Who Sees**

**Jesus saw the people weeping, and felt the grief of Lazarus' death.**

**Jn 11:32-35** Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 33When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jew also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled. 34And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. 35Jesus wept.

## **VII. Lord/Adonai**

**Jukes noted that Adonai is simply the plural of the Hebrew word, Adon, which means lord or master, and both are consistently applied to God. This word is used to express two well-known earthly relationships:**

**A. Relation of a master to his slave or servant.**

**Gen 18:27** And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes.

*As Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah (because of Lot), his attitude was one of as servant or slave speaking to his master.*

## **B. Relation of husband and wife.**

**Gen 18:12** Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

**I Pet 3:6** Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord....

*God revealed Himself as more than a master to a servant, but as a husband to his wife. The Lord wants to be our husband!*

## **VIII. Everlasting God/El Olam**

**El Olam is the Age-God, or God of Ages, that is, the God who worked His will not all at once but through successive times and varied dispensations. This name revealed a truth and fact as to God's ways with fallen man, showing Him to be patient and wise as well as righteous and all-loving.**

**Gen 21:33** And Abraham planted a grove in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the everlasting God.

*Jukes stated that God reveals Himself in varying degrees, according to man's capacity to receive the growing revelation.*

## **IX. Jehovah Jireh-The Lord Will Provide**

**The Lord wanted us know that He is Jehovah-Jireh, which means The Lord Will Provide. Abraham is instructed by God to take his only son Isaac up to a mountain and offer him as a burnt offering. When Abraham raises his knife, the Lord called to him to prevent it.**

**Gen 22:12-13** Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou ant thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13and Abraham lifted up his evyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

*Paul comforted others by writing from prison that God had provided for him while there.*

**Phil 4:19** But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

*Jesus was going to the cross and Paul was imprisoned, yet they could talk about the peace and provision of God in their circumstances. Do not be troubled: God is our peace and supply.*

## **X. El Elohe (El-o-HAY) Yisrael (yis-raw-ALE)-God, the God of Israel**

- A. Jacob was concerned about meeting his brother, Esau, after many years. Jacob wrestled with the Pre-Incarnate Christ and received a blessing and a name change to Israel.**

**Gen 32:26-28** And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. 26And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

*Jacob's name was changed to Israel, after wrestling with the angel of the Lord, Jesus.*

- B. After successfully meeting up with his brother, Jacob names a well after God.**

**Gen 33:18-20** And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan-aram; and pitched his tent before the city. 20And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money. 20And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel.

*God gave Jacob favor with his brother Esau and he honored God by naming a well for Him.*

## **XI. YHWH –Yahweh (Yah or Jah is the short form)**

**God revealed Himself to Moses as I AM THAT I AM.**

**Ex 3:13-14** And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? 14And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

**God told Moses to tell the Israelites that I AM, or the self-existent one, sent him to them.**

**Ex 6:2-3** And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the **LORD [YHWH]**: 3And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah [YHWH] was I not known to them.

**God gave His personal name to Moses. It is also called the tetragrammation or “four letters”, occurs about 6,800 times in the Bible, and is translated as “LORD” in English translations.**

## **XII. Jehovah Rapha-The Lord Who Heals**

- A. When Moses was leading the Israelites through the wilderness of Shur, they did not**

**find water for three days. When they found some, it was bitter or not fit to drink. Moses cried out to God, and the Lord provided a cure for the water. This was a test from God.**

**Ex 15:25-26** And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved [tested] them. 26And said, 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.

**The Lord tested the Israelites, and made it clear that IF they obeyed Him, He would not put any diseases on them that He put on the Egyptians. He is the God who healed them.**

## **B. King David recognized that God was the Healer.**

**Ps 103:1-3** Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2Bless Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. 3Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

**David said that benefits of the Lord are forgiveness of sin and healing of all diseases.**

**Ps 147:3** He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds [sorrows].

*David mentioned another type of healing that involved emotional healing of the heart.*

## **C. Jesus Christ, our Healer**

**Lk 4:18** The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he that anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

*Jesus died on the cross and took all of our sin, diseases, and emotional wounds.*

**1 Pet 2:24** Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.: By whose stripes ye were healed.

*God provided the final cure for spiritual, physical, and emotional sickness in Jesus.*

## **XIII. Conclusion**

**As a man sat reading the newspaper, he was overcome with emotion as he scanned an article describing a tragic accident which killed a couple in another state. He frantically read the rest of the article to see if there were any surviving relatives. When he found that a 12-year-old boy, Christian, was the sole survivor, he knew what he had to do.**

**Christian sat in silence at his friend's house as the officer explained the details of the in the crash. He was too numb to cry; he just could not believe that it had happened. He heard his friend's parents tell the officer that he could stay with them for awhile until arrangements could be made, but they had six children and were expecting another so, they could not take Christian in and raise him as their own. They all knew that if no distant relative could be found to adopt Christian, he would have to go to foster care. Christian's world was torn apart and things seemed so hopeless.**

**A few days later there was a knock on the door of Christian's friend's house. Everyone thought the authorities had arrived to take Christian to foster care, and Christian was trying to be brave. To everyone's surprise, a well-dressed man walked in and asked to speak to Christian privately.**

**The man pulled out a picture of Christian's mother and explained that they were childhood sweethearts and had planned to marry one day. He had planned to go to med school, and return to ask her to be his wife. After a misunderstanding, he left for med school without saying goodbye or rectifying the situation. He was devastated when he found out that her parents had talked her into marrying another man. There was nothing that he could do to change the situation, but she remained his one true love. He had moved away to another state, started a thriving medical practice and became wealthy through investments. He kept a respectful distance, but heard news of her from time to time through others. He knew she had a son, and pulled out a few newspaper clippings of Christian playing baseball and basketball for local teams.**

**Christian did not know what to say. After a while, the man said he thought Christian must be wondering why he came all the way to tell him those things about his mother. The man said that he had loved Christian's mother, and had always wanted to have a family with her, especially a son. Then the man said the unexpected: he wanted to adopt Christian as his own! He said that he was able to provide him a life that he would not be able to have otherwise: a home, an education, a partnership in his business, and he would become the heir to all that he had. That even included free medical benefits for life!**

**Christian again did not know what to say, but remembered that his mother had at times talked of a life that she could have had. He did not understand at the time, but he did now. Just at that moment his friend and his friend's parents came into the room. They could not help overhear the conversation, and said that they knew the man's reputation and integrity, and what he said was true. They advised Christian to accept his offer.**

**This story is about a great love that leads to the adoption of a son. This is about us. We are lost and alone, in need of Father of great reputation and integrity, who is able to do all that He promised. The Father in His great love for us, waits until the right moment when we need Him the most, to search for and find us. He has revealed Himself by names such as the All Powerful Creator, Almighty, Most High, One Who Sees, Lord, Everlasting, Self-Existent, Healer, Protector, Provider, All Sufficient One, and I AM THAT I AM.**