

THE NAMES OF GOD

The Beginnings of the Beginning

The Bible contains many types of literature. Poetry, history, narratives, prophecy, parables, etc. The 66 books of the Bible was written over a period of a thousand years. It is special and unique in that the different writers, who were all chosen by God to give us the Word, were special in their own way were bound together by the same vision. The first five books of the Old Testament were written by Moses and was called the Pentateuch. They were in Hebrew. Later there were translations in Greek and Latin. John Wycliffe and William Tyndale were led by God to translate the Bible into English. Spoken language slowly, but surely changed through the years and much of the structure and wording was alien to the English speakers. In 1885 the most reliable version was presented. The King James Version of the Bible as we know it today was written in 1611. It maintains the basic structure and rhythms of the Authorized Version. Other version have been introduced through the years, and while they are controversial, I believe that they can be used in conjunction with the KJV version and add to the strength of our Bible Study.

Over the last several weeks I have been doing a study on the names of God. It has amazed me that so much has been written in a specific, special way and I didn't notice it before. I hope you can gain some insight into this wonderful blessed study. You can check into these words and find that they are sometimes used by themselves or together to have a deeper meaning,

EL: "MIGHTY, STRONG, PROMI-NENT" used 250 times in the OT See Gen. 7:1, 28:3, 35:11; Nu. 23:22; Josh. 3:10; 2 Sam. 22:31, 32; Neh. 1:5, 9:32.

ELOHIM:

God (a plural noun, more than two, used with singular verbs); Elohim occurs 2,570 times in the OT, 32 times in Gen. 1. I think that it is interesting that Elohim is used as a verb. You can check it out. "God created," "God said" etc. God as Creator, Preserver, Mighty and Strong. Ecclesiastes, Daniel, and Jonah use Elohim almost exclusively. See Gen. 17:7, 6:18, 9:15, 50:24; I Kings 8:23; Jer. 31:33; Isa. 40:1.

EL SHADDAI:
"GOD ALMIGHTY or GOD ALL SUFFICIENT" 48 times in the OT, 31 times in Job. First used in Gen. 17:1, 2. (Gen. 31:29, 49:24, 25; Prov. 3:27; Micah 2:1; Isa. 60:15, 16, 66:10-13; Ruth 1:20, 21) In Rev. 16:7, "Lord God the Almighty." The Septuagint (Greek Bible) uses Greek "ikanos" meaning "allsufficient" or "self-sufficient."

ADONAI: Lord in our English Bibles

(Capitol letter 'L', lower case, 'ord'). "Master" or "Lord" 300 times in the OT is always plural when referring to God. First use of Adonai, Gen. 15:2. (Ex. 4:10; Judges 6:15; 2 Sam. 7:18-20; Ps. 8, 114:7, 135:5, 141:8, 109:21-28). Heavy use in Isaiah (Adonai Jehovah). 200 times by Ezekiel. Ten times in Dan. 9.

OTHER NAMES AND TITLES OF GOD IN THE TENACH

JEHOVAH: "I AM WHO I AM"

LORD in our English Bibles (all capitals). **Yahweh** is the covenant name of God. Occurs 6823 times in the OT First use Gen. 2:4 (Jehovah Elohim). From the verb "to be", havah, similar to *chavah* (to live), "The Self-Existent One,"

"I AM WHO I AM" or "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE" as revealed to Moses at the burning bush, Ex.3. The name of God, too sacred to be uttered, abbreviated (. . .) or written "YHWH" without vowels. The books of Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings use Jehovah almost exclusively. The love of God is conditioned upon His moral and spiritual attributes. (Dan. 9:14; Ps. 11:7; Lev. 19:2; Hab. 1:12).

JEHOVAH-JIREH: "THE LORD WILL PROVIDE"

Gen. 22:14. From "jireh" ("to see" or "to provide," or to "foresee" as a prophet.) God always provides, adequate when the times come.

JEHOVAH-ROPHE: "THE LORD WHO HEALS"

Ex. 15:22-26. From "rophe" ("to heal"); implies spiritual, emotional as well as physical healing. (Jer. 30:17, 3:22; Isa. 61:1) God heals body, soul and spirit; all levels of man's being.

JEHOVAH-NISSI: "THE LORD OUR BANNER"

Ex. 1:15. God on the battlefield, from word which means "to glisten," "to lift up," See Psa. 4:6.

JEHOVAH-SHALOM: "THE LORD OUR PEACE"

Judges 6:24. "Shalom" translated "peace" 170 times means "whole," "finished," "fulfilled," "perfected." Related to "well," welfare." Deut. 27:6; Dan. 5:26; I Kings 9:25 8:61; Gen. 15:16; Ex. 21:34, 22:5, 6; Lev. 7:11-21. Shalom means that kind of peace that results from being a whole person in right relationship to God and to one's fellow man.

JEHOVAH-ROHI: "THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD"

Psa. 23, from "roeh" (to pasture).