

NAMES OF GOD EXODUS 20:7

Names often more than just personal titles - are often descriptive:

Genesis 17:5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

Genesis 17:15-16 And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Princess/mother of nations

God's names likewise are of great importance as they are Divine in origin and help reveal His nature, character and power.

No surprise there are many names used for God in the Bible.

Can one name contain the whole of His essence?

God's names are significant, holy. Not be used in common or flippant manners. Hold His name in reverence as it stands for Him.

Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

"EL" (GOD)

One of the oldest designations for deity in the ancient world. Common name for Jehovah and idols as well (a generic name).

Define: to be strong; to have extended sphere of control; to possess binding force; prominent

Genesis 17:1-2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."

Had the power and authority to make such a covenant and carry it to completion; beyond what a mere human could have done.

2Samuel 22:31-33 This God--his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him. "For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? This God is my strong refuge and has made my way blameless."

Strong authoritative figure who can't be surpassed in power or compassion

Nehemiah 1:5 And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

Nehemiah 9:32 Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day.

Strong, awesome; superiority to any on earth; One capable of granting petitions - authority and power.

All of these ideas stress power and authority; distance between God and man; fear and trembling in face of overwhelming majesty.

"Elohim" is the plural of "EL" - used over 2000 times in the OT

Plural of intensity - show Jehovah over and beyond any idol God.

Multiple personages possessing that Divine essence

"YAHWEH" (JEHOVAH)

Uniquely Jewish name for Deity; closest we have to a personal name for God; used infrequently prior to Moses, but with development of nation grew in popularity.

KJV often as "Lord"; ASV most as "Jehovah" - used 6,823 times.

Define: He which is; He who is truly present - from Hebrew root "havah" which means "to be" suggesting the

One who in Himself possesses essential life, permanent existence.

The name Jehovah places an emphasis on the ever-presence of God.

Prefaces Ten Commandments; Shows authority basis; From existing One.

Exodus 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

There is a closeness associated with this name; often used when men implored God for some favor or protection.

Jews would not pronounce this name in fear of profaning it. Scribes would wash hands before writing this name.

Leviticus 24:16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

"ADONAI" (LORD)

Master, Owner. Designates One having authority, surpassing power.

Shows that we are under the rule of God. He is to be in control, not us. His will is to be done not ours. "Master-Slave" relationship.

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

"EL SHADDAY" (THE ALMIGHTY GOD)

Stresses the role of God as creator, sustainer of the universe; the initiator and keeper of covenants.

Not conceited or haughty when using this name - just stating facts.

Selected uses:

Genesis 17:1-2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."

Psalms 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

Comfort and security in serving such a God.

Almighty God possess all power:

Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

2Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

How should we view this Almighty God?

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:17-18 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Ezekiel 1:24-28 And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings. And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When they stood still, they let down their wings. And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

"EL OLAM" (THE ETERNAL GOD)

Stresses the eternal duration of God.

As such God is without:

Beginning

Psalms 90:1-2 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

End

Psalms 102:26-27 They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.

Gives us reason to trust and fear.

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Other names - The Most High God; Holy One; Righteous One; God of Sabaoth (Hosts)

"THEOS" (GOD)

General term for deity (equates to "EL" of the OT) expresses self-sufficiency, self-determination and absolute righteousness

Used in reference to all three in the "God-head"

Father

John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Son

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Holy Spirit

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

"KURIOS" (LORD)

Similar to Adonai - Master, Control

After resurrection used of Jesus

Luke 24:34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Popular to use the names of God as common exclamations when no honor is intended for Him at all - be warned we are on "holy ground."

His names are precious as they help us to understand the One who sent His only Son and He who died for us.

Jim Sasser