

Introduction The first step in any relationship is knowing someone's name. In the Bible, there is a great significance in names, often names reflect an aspect of the person themselves. The first task given to humans was to give a name to each of the animals, Genesis 2:19. Names can be changed to reflect a new nature, Jacob became Israel Genesis 32: 24-30. In the New Testament Simon became Peter, Saul became Paul. Having a name gives you a 'handle' on the person, see Mark 5:9. The word 'God' is found throughout the Bible, but he reveals Himself more personally through different names with which He introduces Himself in the

Scriptures, each name reveals something different about the nature and character of God. For non believers a God without a name is safer, just a concept, but a God with a name, a definite identity, demands a response. A 'force' or 'higher power' doesn't demand a response, a person with a name, can.

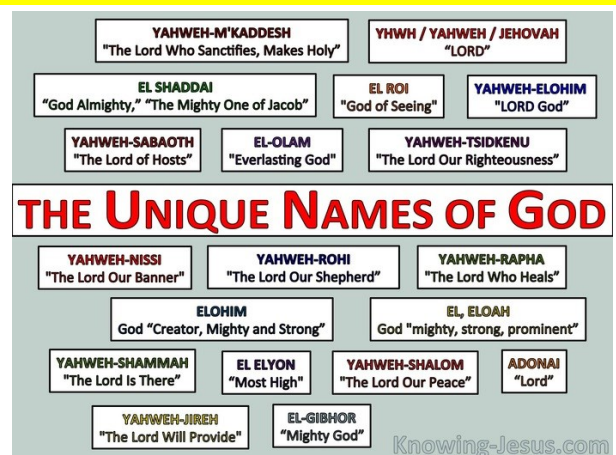
For God himself, his name is linked his reputation. Exodus 9:16, Numbers 6:22-27. In the Lord's Prayer we pray that God's name would be 'Hallowed' or respected, Exodus 20:7. How many names of God can be found in the Bible? Answer -Some say 24. Depending on your definition of what a name is. Tonight lets, Psalm 34:3

Questions

How do you address God in prayer? Does it matter?

There are three main names for God in the OT & then sub-sets of them.

Elohim This is the first name given in the Bible, Genesis 1:1. Interestingly it is plural. Critics have suggested this shows early Jews were polytheistic, but the Jews unusually among all other groups were monotheistic. It is sometimes called the majestic plural, e.g. Queen Victoria once said 'We are not amused'. So you could say it can be in context, singular. It is used over 2,500 times in the Bible. The word itself can refer to false gods Exodus 20:3. *El*, is God, the name suggests power and might, the *im*, bit makes it plural. It has been suggested El comes from the root *ul* which means 'to be strong'. In ch1 v26 it points to the trinity, a God who can create something out of nothing. Our God is the one that can do anything. Just think of the impossible things God did in the Bible!



THINK

Think of all the people and places in the Bible have an 'El' in them?



Yahweh YHWH This is God's personal name, first revealed to Moses in, Exodus 3:13-15. In v15 God makes clear it is an eternal name. Yahweh is 'I AM', It literally means 'one who is' or 'one who causes to be' or 'I will be what I will be'. Having this name shows God is Self Existing, which separates Him from created beings, we depend on oxygen, water, food etc, God needs nothing. People before Exodus 3 only knew forms of Elohim, although the name is used by the writer of the Torah, Genesis 1:4. Exodus 6:2-3. Yahweh is used in the O.T. 7,000 times. The name 'Jehovah' is a false version of Yahweh, when a monk mistranslated Yahweh, but the name Jehovah stuck, and is found in many hymns. We cannot even be sure of 'Yahweh', as written Hebrew doesn't have vowels. In our Bible Yahweh is printed as LORD. This name is the holiest name given by God, Jews will not even say the word, lest they misuse the name. Exodus 20:7. So the name Adonai was felt it was safer than Yahweh Lev24:16.

Adonai The first use of this name by a person to God is in Genesis 15:2. *Adon* simply means a lord or master. Adding 'ai' makes it makes it lord of lords. Adonai can be applied to a human, but was sometimes used to refer to God without having to use Yahweh. However many times in the OT the name Adonai is a prefix to Yahweh, making 'Lord God'. When we think of the name Lord God, it makes us think of His Lordship or sovereignty over all.

Variations on the names of God There are many names of God that begin with the root of El or Yahweh.

Yahweh Sabaoth is one of God's names in the Bible. It occurs more than 270 times in the Old Testament. It combines God's personal name, Yahweh, with the Hebrew word, *Sabaoth*, meaning "host" or "multitude." As used in Psalm 33:6, so Yahweh Sabaoth means "The Lord of Hosts." Daniel 7:10. It has military connections, however, the first time of its use is in 1 Samuel 13, 11. showing a very personal tender use from a humble woman.

Yahweh-Jireh Meaning 'God will provide', first used in Genesis 22:14 when Abraham named Moriah, with that name. NB, it says will, not did. It echoes Calvary when God provided for us on the cross. The cross is all we need.

El Shaddai This name first appears in Genesis 17:1-2. There is a debate about the meaning Shaddai, the most widely accepted meaning is Almighty. One suggested root meaning for El Shaddai is "The Overpowerer," meaning God will do what He purposes to do, overpowering all opposition. Some interpret Shaddai as "sufficient," and God is the "All-sufficient One." The name is found most often in Job e.g. Job 5:17, 6:4

The Ancient of Days Found firstly in Daniel 7:9, 13. *Attiyq Youm* refers to God as eternal, existing before time began. This name emphasizes God's wisdom, authority, and timelessness. The mention in v13 points to Jesus.

Yahweh Nissi This is 'The Lord Our Banner'. The people had been in a battle Exodus 17: 8-16

Yahweh Rohi This name is rooted in Psalm 23, 'The Lord is my shepherd'. A theme that Jesus later took up when he described himself as the Good Shepherd John 10: 14



In the N.T. Jesus introduced the name Abba/Father, Matthew 6:8-9, he used it in the Garden before his arrest Mark 15:36. It is used twice in the epistles Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6. It is a privilege of our new status as believers that we can call Yahweh, 'Father'.

Questions

How is it helpful knowing these different names?

Names of Jesus	<u>Names of Jesus</u> Jesus too has been called by multiple names and titles. The prophecy in Isaiah 9:6 gives many names and titles to Jesus.
Jesus /Yeshua	The name <u>Jesus</u> is the Greek version of 'God saves', the Hebrew version is 'Yeshua', but in the Northern Aramaic dialect would be pronounced 'Eshod'. He would be known at the time as Jesus Bar Joseph, or Jesus of Nazareth. Parents always decide the name of their child, hence it was God himself who names his son, Jesus. Luke 2:21. It is the same root of the name Joshua, found in the O.T.
Christ	
Lord	
Son of God	The N.T. writers most commonly refer to him as <u>Christ</u> , (a title, Messiah or 'Anointed One'. The term "Messiah" (or "Mashiakh" in Hebrew) refers to someone chosen and consecrated for a holy purpose. It was first used about him in Matthew 1:17-18 and in Luke 2:11.
Son of Man	
Saviour	The second most common word in Greek for Jesus is ' <i>Kurios</i> ' in Hebrew, ' <i>Adonai</i> ' <u>Lord</u> . They consciously used a word kept for God, to emphasise he is God, Philippians 2:9-11. The most quoted OT verse in the NT is Psalm 110:1.
Redeemer	
Lamb of God	In Matthew 1:23 the name <u>Immanuel</u> is given 'God with us'. This is first used in Isaiah 7:14, 8:8. The same concept is used in another name ' <u>The Word</u> ' John 1:14. Explained in Colossians 2:9.
Light of the World	
Good Shepherd	Many approaching Jesus called him <u>Rabbi</u> (Teacher or My Master) Mark 9:5, John 20:16. The term in the First Century didn't refer to the formal priesthood, but to a wise teacher, who had a group of followers. Jesus was different from other teachers, who based their teachings on what other teachers had previously said, he had authority. Matthew 7:28.
Prince of Peace	
Emmanuel	Jesus often referred to himself as ' <u>The Son of Man</u> ' 82 times in the NT. Luke 12:8. This had dual meanings, he stressed his humanity, but hinted at his divinity Daniel 7 and Psalm 8:4-6.
King of Kings	
Alpha & Omega	
Teacher	
Messiah	

Questions

Questions or Comments?

Next time - Numbers in the Bible