
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES

Institute in the Fundamentals of Church Leadership

Danell Macy

NAMES OF GOD

Session 4

INTRODUCTION

Throughout Scripture, God tells us something about Himself through His names. When we study these names, we will learn more about who God really is.

I. ONE GOD MANY NAMES

- A. Scripture makes it clear that God wants us to know Him. (John 17:3)
 - 1. God gives His people a desire to know Him. (Jeremiah 24:6-7)
 - 2. God promises that when we seek Him, we will find Him. (Jeremiah 29:13)
- B. The more we learn about God, the more we trust Him. (Psalm 31:14)
 - 1. As you get to know God, you find that He is able. (Jude 24; Jeremiah 32:17-19)
 - 2. As you get to know God, you find that He is willing. (Philippians 4:19)
 - 3. As you get to know God, you find that He is good. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- C. The more we learn about God, the more we worship Him
 - a. As we learn more about God's power and character, we worship Him. (Psalm 47:7-9)
 - b. We find that only God is worthy of our devotion, praise, and worship. (Exodus 20:3)

II. NAMES IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES

- A. During Old Testament times, names described the personality, status, appearance, or fame of an individual.
 - 1. When Isaac's wife Rebekah gave birth to twins, "The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau." Esau means *hairy*. (Genesis 25:25)
 - 2. The passage goes on to say, "After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob." Jacob means *he grasps the heel*. (Genesis 25:26)
 - 3. When God made a covenant with Abram that he would be the father of many nations, He changed Abram's name from Abram meaning *Exalted Father* to Abraham meaning *Father of Many*.
- B. God also chose to tell us about Himself, His character, His status, and His glory using a variety of divine names and titles.
 - 1. God told Moses some of His names were "I AM" and "Yahweh." God wanted to share that He is dependable and faithful, and wants the full trust of His people. (Exodus 3:14-15)
 - 2. God is also called "The Eternal God" or El Olam which means that He does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. (Genesis 21:33)
 - 3. Isaiah called God "Adonai" meaning *lord*, and he obeyed God. (Isaiah 6:8-11)

III. “THE NAME OF THE LORD”

- Even when no particular name is used, when we see the phrase “the name of the Lord,” we learn something about God’s character.
 1. To call on the name of the Lord is to seek or worship Him. (Genesis 21:33)
 2. God wants us to honor His name. (Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 22:2, 32)
 - a. Do not attach His name to untruths. (Leviticus 19:12)
 - b. Do not claim His name and continue in sin. (Leviticus 7:9-10)
 3. God wants His people to be different from other people. (Leviticus 22:2, 32)
 4. Priests performed their service in the name of the Lord. (Deuteronomy 21:5)
 5. His name promised the continuation of a nation. (1 Samuel 12:22)

IV. NAMES OF GOD

A. **Elohim** means “The Strong One,” or the mighty leader.

1. God is referred to as Elohim first when He created our world. (Genesis 1:1)
 - a. It means that He exists beyond the physical universe, so He is not controlled by the rules (e.g., gravity) He put in place.
 - b. In relation to His work of creation. (Isaiah 45:18; John 1:9)
2. There are also other references to Elohim found in Scripture.
 - a. In relation to His sovereignty. (Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 32:27; Nehemiah 2:4)
 - b. In relation to His mighty works on behalf of Israel. (Deuteronomy 5:23; Psalm 68:7)

B. **El Elyon** means the “Most High God.”

1. This name calls attention to God’s strength. (Genesis 14:19-20)
2. This name calls attention to God’s rule (sovereignty). (Daniel 7:18, 22, 27)
3. This name calls attention to God as the only God (supremacy). (Daniel 4:2)

C. **Adonai** means “Lord,” or master, owner.

1. This name shares the idea of God’s absolute authority. (Joshua 5:14; Isaiah 8:8-11)
2. To call someone “lord” was to put themselves under the authority of that person.
3. Jesus said, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46)

D. **Yahweh**

1. Yahweh, or “I AM WHO I AM,” was the name Moses was to tell the Israelites for who had sent him to bring them out of Egypt. (Exodus 3:13-14).
2. This name was considered so sacred and holy that His people would not even say it.
3. Yahweh emphasizes God’s changeless self-existence. (Exodus 3:14)
4. Yahweh assures God’s presence with His people. (Exodus 3:12)
5. Yahweh emphasizes that God will redeem His people (bring them out). (Exodus 6:6)
6. Yahweh later came to be known as Jehovah.

E. **Jehovah Names**

1. Jehovah Jireh means “The Lord will Provide.”
 - Abraham referred to God as Jehovah Jireh after God provided a ram to sacrifice in place of his son Isaac. (Exodus 22:14) This showed God’s heart to provide for His people, and a foreshadowing of God’s ultimate provision – His only Son, Jesus.
2. Jehovah Shammah means “The Lord is There” (Ezekiel 48:35)
3. Jehovah Roi means “The Lord my Shepherd”
 - David was a shepherd before he became a king, and he was completely responsible for everything his sheep needed: good pasture, still water, care, discipline, and protection. When David speaks of the Lord as His shepherd, he is saying that he fully understands and calls upon the Lord to be his everything.
4. Jehovah Tsidkenu means “The Lord our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6)
5. Jehovah Maccaddeshcem – “The Lord who Sanctifies Us” (Exodus 31:13)
6. Jehovah Shalom – “The Lord is Peace” (Judges 6:24)

F. **El Roi** means the “God Who Sees.”

1. God sees our pain and suffering. (Genesis 16:1-14)
2. There is no where we can go to escape God’s presence. He is already there. (Psalm 139:7-10)

G. **Father**

1. God gives His children grace and peace, good gifts, and even rules to live by. (Ephesians 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; James 1:17; 2 John 4)
2. Jesus tells us to call God “Father.” (Matthew 6:9, 14-15)

V. **OUR RESPONSE TO THESE NAMES**

A. Think about His names.

B. Claim the truths found in God's names.

1. El Roi – Whatever your problems are, God sees you. He hears you and is concerned.
2. El Elyon – God is sovereign. No matter how out of control things seem to be, God is still in control. Trust that while things are hard, God is going to do amazing things. Nothing, or no one, can stop what He has planned for those who love Him.
3. Jehovah Jireh - When we are hurting, we need to know that God sees our needs, and He will provide for us.
4. Jehovah Roi – As the sheep trust their shepherd to take care of them, God wants us to trust Him to be our caretaker, protector, comforter, and guide.
5. Yahweh – Almighty God is always present. He is the promise-keeping God who longs deeply for relationship with His people. Trust in His promises, rest in His presence, and obey His commands.

CONCLUSION

Think about the times in your life when God revealed Himself to you. Find the names that describe God’s kindness to you. Then, worship God with the name(s) He has shared with you. “I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.” (Psalm 52:9)