

## Understanding Elohim

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The second line of "The Lord's Prayer", that is so familiar to all of us, says, in

### Luke 11:2 CJB

(2) He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, May your **name** be kept holy. May your Kingdom come.

Have you ever wondered what that **name** is?

Today we are going to talk about the personal name of the Elohim we all talk about and sing about.

In the bible names are much more than a handle. There is great significance in many names, and they often depict the essential nature, character, reputation, and authority of a person.

Yahweh our Elohim will tell us anything that we need to know about Himself. Therefore, He has told us that knowing His name, Yahweh, is important. We read this in:

### Jeremiah 16:21 CJB

"Therefore, I will make them know, once and for all, I will make them know my power and my might. Then they will know that my name is Yahweh

The name of Elohim appears **6828** times in the Bible. and yet some Christain believers have no idea what it is.

Because so few believers read or study the Old Testament they are ignorant, to a degree, of Yahweh the father. Yet he wants his people to understand him better. Because having a better understanding of who Elohim is and how he interacts with his covenant people will greatly enhance our worship of him and our relationship with him.

In Hosea 4:6 Elohim says

"My people are destroyed for want of knowledge. Because you rejected knowledge, I will also reject you as priest for me...."

There are many believers today who reject knowledge about Elohim. Religious Tradition hinders them from walking in the revealed knowledge of truth in Elohim's word. Therefore, when you know the truth and walk in the truth, you will be set free from ignorant and tradition. when you learn the truth, you have the responsibility to walk in the light that Elohim has shown to you from his word.

Since Elohim wants his people to know him and to understand him better, he

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has provided two avenues through which his people can come to know him.

1. through His name, Yahweh and
2. through His son, Yeshua

Today will look at understanding Elohim through His name.

I was approached by a young woman inquiring about the name of Elohim. She said to me, "when I read my bible, I see written throughout it such words as honor your name, or for your name's sake; in Romans 10:13 "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

But when I look in the bible I cannot find what his name is.

The reason she cannot find Elohim's personal name in her bible is because most bible translators have substituted other words for the name of Elohim in most of our English translations.

You will find noted in the preface of your bible such notes as in the NIV version.

*"in regard to the divine name YHWH commonly referred to as the Tetragrammaton, the translators have adopted the device used in most English version as rendering that name as LORD in capital letters to distinguish it from Adonai another Hebrew word rendering "Lord for which small letters are used. Whenever the two names stand together in the Old Testament as a compound name of God, they are rendered sovereign lord"*

In consequence of this substitution, most believers have never even considered the fact that Elohim has a personal name other than **God**.

Therefore, since this is true, it is important that we understand the definition of the word "GOD".

To begin with, "god" is not a proper name. Rather it is an adjective which describes what a person or thing is. The Hebrew word which god is translated from is Elohim. Elohim is a plural word which basically means "mighty one". It is not only used for deity but is also used in scriptures for judges, angels, men and also for idols.

In Exodus 7:1 Yahweh said to Moses, See, I have made you an Elohim to Pharaoh. And Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

Here Yahweh is not speaking of a deity to be worshipped, but of a person who has been empowered by Elohim to execute His judgment, in Egypt.

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Yahweh is the one and only Elohim who is alive; He is the Elohim who is sovereign over all. He is the Supreme Being; the eternal and infinite spirit, he is the creator, and the ruler of the universe.

### [Psalms 83:16](#)

(16) Fill their faces with shame, so that they will seek your name, Yahweh.

### [Psalms 83:18](#)

Let them know that you alone, whose name is Yahweh, are the Most High over all the earth.

The one Hebrew title that sets the creator apart from all other gods is **EL**. It is the most used name for greatness, strength or deity and is used to set the creator superiority over all. Only "El Elyon," the Most High Elohim, is the creator and sustainer of the universe. and his name is Yahwah.

The word Jehovah is a transliteration of Yahwah. Transliteration is a word used in the place of another word. It does not translate it but replaces it. It was used first in the Latin vulgate translation and is also used in other English translation that has not substituted the word LORD in place of the name of Elohim.

El- Elyon, the most High Elohim, the omnipotent, [all powerful] omniscient, [all-knowing] omnipresence [all presence] Elohim, has chosen to reveal himself to humanity through the different attributes, of his name that reveals his character.

Elohim's name is his self-revelation of himself. His name signifies his active presence in the fullness of his revealed character.

The word LORD or Adonai means to rule sovereign, a human or divine controller. Thus, the word lord can refer to human rulers as well as to the sovereign Elohim. Therefore, Elohim's character is not revealed in the name lord, though he is the sovereign ruler. His character and attributes come through his personal name Yahweh.

When believers reflect on Elohim's name, Yahweh, we get a greater revelation of who He is; a greater revelation of how He deals with those who are faithful to Him, as well as how he deals with those who are unfaithful to him.

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When we reflect on the name Yahweh, we get the full assurance that he is always the same; that he is who he says he is, and that he will do what he promises to do in his word. And we can depend upon him to be with us in our times of needs.

### Psalms 9:9-10

(9) Yahweh is a stronghold for the oppressed, a tower of strength in times of trouble.

(10) Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you have not abandoned those who seek you, Yahweh.

Those who know the name Yahweh. Not the name God for that is a title. it is what he is [a mighty one] not the name Lord because it is also a title that is what he is, [a sovereign ruler and controller]. They are not His name.

Those who know Elohim's name will trust in Him, because they have the knowledge of the authority and power behind his name.

Therefore, it is beneficial for all believers to know and to understand the name of the Elohim that we worship.

All other nations who serve idol gods, call them by their names. Only Christian believers, avoid using the name of the most important person in the universe, as well as the most important person in our life. Some because they do not know his name. some believers do know his name but would rather continue to call him God. If Elohim's name is listed **6828** in the bible, it must be because he wants his people to use it.

When Elohim called Moses to go to Egypt and bring his people Israel out of bondage, he introduced himself as the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim Isaac, and the Elohim Jacob. (Exo, 3:6)

However, the knowledge that this was the Elohim of his forefathers was not enough information about Elohim, for Moses to take to Egypt. Why? Because Moses grew up in Egypt, and he knew that the Egyptians gods were distinguished by their names.

The Egyptian worshipped many gods. Among them were:

1. **Ra** the Sun god
2. **Hathor**, the god of music.
3. **Isis**, the god of magic.
4. **Osiris**, the god of death.
5. **Bastet**, the god of cats; and

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### 6. **Sekhmet**, the god of destruction

That is why Moses needed to know the name of the Elohim who was sending him to Egypt.

Moses, having grown up in pharaoh's palace, in Egypt, knew about these gods. He also knew their names. Even though the Bible does not specifically mention it, but there is a great possibility that Moses even worshiped some of these Gods when he lived in Egyptians.

Yahweh told Moses in Exodus 12:12 --

#### **Exodus 12:12 CJB**

"For that night, I will pass through the land of Egypt and kill all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both men and animals; and I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt; I am Yahweh.

The power and might manifested by his name Yahweh showed Egypt as well as Israel that the Egyptians gods were impotent.

And so, Moses asked to know Elohim's name.

#### **Exodus 3:13-15**

(13) Moshe said to Elohim, "Look, when I appear before the people of Isra'el and say to them, 'The Elohim of your ancestors has sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

(14) Elohim said to Moshe, "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh [I am/will be what I am/will be]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: 'Ehyeh [I Am, or I Will Be] has sent me to you.' "

(15) Elohim said further to Moshe, "Say this to the people of Isra'el: 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [Adonai], the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham, the Elohim of Isaac and the Elohim of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation.

Ahyah-Ashar-Ahyar is not Elohim's proper name but describes his state of being. The expression is mostly translated 'I AM THAT I AM', or I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE". It means to exist or to be.

Remember it had been 430 years since Israel went to Egypt. No doubt they had forgotten the living God.

#### **Exodus 12:40 CJB**

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(40) The time the people of Isra'el lived in Egypt was 430 years.

Therefore, the first message Moses was to give to them was I am Elohim, I do exist, and I will be to you whatever I need to be, and I will do for you whatever is necessary to bring you out of Egypt.

Elohim's proper name is given in verse 15 as 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh [Hebrew letters] which correspond to our English letters YHWH and is commonly called the Tetragrammaton, meaning the four-letter word.

Though the correct pronouncement of his name has been lost, the acceptable name among scholars is Yahweh. It is arrived at by Adding the vowel a and e to the consonant YHWH.

Thus, Yahwah is saying "my nature will become evident by my action". His nature was revealed not only by his power which was demonstrated in Egypt and among the Israelites by the miracles he performed for them. But also, in the lives of believers even today.

Elohim did not reveal his name Yahweh before he gave it to Moses in Exodus 3. He only used it when it became necessary to reveal that aspect of his character. That is to show his power, strength, and his Grace, mercy, and redemptive character.

in Exodus 6:2-3. 5-6 "Elohim spoke to Moshe; he said to him, "I am Yahweh. (3) I appeared to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as El Shaddai, [Elohim almighty] although I did not make myself known to them by my name, Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [Yahweh].

(5) Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Isra'el, whom the Egyptians are keeping in slavery; and I have remembered my covenant.

(6) "Therefore, say to the people of Isra'el: 'I am Yahweh. I will free you from the forced labor of the Egyptians, rescue you from their oppression, and redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

When interacting with his people, - Yahweh always demonstrates an aspect of his character through his name.

In exodus 34 Yahweh gave to Moses a different aspect of his name Yahweh.

### **Exodus 34:5-7 CJB**

(5) Yahweh descended in the cloud, stood with him there and pronounced the name of Yahweh.

(6) Yahweh passed before him and proclaimed: "YUD-HEH-VAV-HEH!!! Yud-

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Heh-Vav-Heh (יהוה) [Yahweh] is God, merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace and truth;

(7) showing grace to the thousandth generation, forgiving offenses, crimes and sins; yet not exonerating the guilty, but causing the negative effects of the parents' offenses to be experienced by their children and grandchildren, and even by the third and fourth generations."

Here in this passage Yah reveals himself as a loving Savior; a merciful and compassionate Elohim; who forgives sin and shows grace. While in Exodus 3:6 he is the self-existence Elohim whose purpose it is to keep his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to deliver their seeds out of bondage.

When we think on the name Yahweh, we see an Elohim who is slow to anger, rich in grace and truth; one who shows grace to the thousandth generation; one who forgives offenses, crimes, and sins.

We can rejoice in the fact that we have been delivered from our sin and are saved by grace through faith in his son Yeshua, whose very name means Yahweh saves. Yeshua Messiah, the one who stands knocking at the heart's door of all sinners. Wanting to come in and change their lives.

Just as Yahweh set Israel free from bondage in Egypt by the hands of Moses, He has set you free from your bondage to sin through the death and resurrection of his son. It is through Yeshua that you can have victory over temptation and over the devil. You have only to believe in him.

### Romans 10:13 TS2009

**(13) For "everyone who calls on the Name of Yahweh shall be saved."**

Yahweh's nature was also revealed on many occasions by what he did in the lives or presence of his people.

His nature was revealed through the following names:

**1. Yahweh** -----the Elohim who Exists and always is.

Exodus 3:15 CJB

**(15)** ... "Say this to the people of Isra'el: 'Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh ( יהוה ) [Yahweh], the Elohim of your fathers, ... has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered generation after generation.

**2. Yahweh Elohim** ----- The universal majestic Elohim who rules over all and

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is worthy to be praised.

[Isaiah 46:9-10 TS2009](#)

“Remember the former *events* of old, for I am Ėl, and there is no one else – Elohim, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from of old that which has not yet been done, saying, ‘My counsel does stand, and all My delight I do,’

**3. Yahweh - Rapha**--- Elohim, our healer.

[Exodus 15:26 LEB](#)

And he said, "If you carefully listen to the voice of Yahweh your God and you do what is right in his eyes and give heed to his commands and you keep all his rules, then I will not bring about on you any of the diseases that I brought about on Egypt, because I am Yahweh your healer.

**4 Yahweh -M'kaddesh** -the Elohim who sanctifies.

[Exodus 31:13 TLV](#)

“Speak now to the people of Isra'el, saying, ‘Surely you must keep My Shabbats, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, so you may know that I am Yahwah who sanctifies you.

**5. Yahweh - Tzidkenu** --- Yahwah our righteousness.

[Jeremiah 23:6 CJB](#)

In his days Y'hudah will be saved, Isra'el will live in safety, and the name given to him will be Yahweh Tzidkenu

**6. Yahweh - Shamah** ----- Elohim who is there.

[Ezekiel 48:35 CJB](#)

(35) .... And from that day on the name of the city will be Yahweh Shamah [*Yahweh is there*].' "

**7. Yahweh -Jireh**----- Elohim, our provider

[Genesis 22:14 CJB](#)

Avraham called the place Adonai Yir'eh [*Yahweh will see (to it), Yahweh provides*]—as it is said to this day, "On the mountain Yahweh is seen."

**8. Yahweh -Rohi** (râ'âh) ---- Elohim, our shepherd.

[Psalms 23:1 TS2009](#)

Yahweh is my shepherd; I do not lack.

**9. Yahweh - Nissi** ----- Yahweh is my banner.”

[Exodus 17:15 TLV](#)

(15) Then Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Yahweh -Nissi.



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10. **Yahweh - Shalom** Elohim, our peace.

### **Judges 6:24 CJB**

Then Gid`on built an altar there to Yahweh and called it "Yahweh -Shalom";

Have you ever wanted to know the name of the God you worship and serve?  
Or are you satisfied with just referring to him by his nature, God?

Would you be satisfied if someone called you man all the time? Or woman  
whenever they speak to you?

Is it not good to hear people speak your personal name? Your name  
distinguishes you from all other men or women in a group. Otherwise, you  
would not be able to answer when you are called, if everyone is called man  
or woman.

Perhaps if we call the Father by his name, instead of just "God" more of our  
prayers will be answered.