

## The Names of God, Part One

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### **ELOHIM: The Sovereign, Mighty Creator**

Elohim: the very first title of God in the Bible. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"

Hebrew word for God is "EL, or ELOHIM. Shows up more than 2500 times in the Bible.

EL is the root word of ELOHIM, and it describes God's greatness and glory; it displays God's power and sovereignty.

2 facets of God make up the word ELOHIM:

1. total power, might and complete sovereignty
2. complete creativity

Genesis 1:1 makes the statement that tremendous, unimaginable power is involved in the force of God's creativity. Elohim, in His mighty power and creativity caused our vast universe to exist.

There is yet another facet of Elohim, making him an active part of His creation., It is Elohim who makes covenants with those whom He created.

Later we will discover the name Jehovah in which God reveals His **ways**. Elohim is the name in which God reveals His **power**. It is this very power and creativity that allows God Himself to enter into a covenant relationship with you and me.

**Romans 1:16** says "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Paul said,"God's covenant of salvation with you and me is His power!"

We need to have a renewed image of the God of might and power. The God who is more than able to see you through any difficulty! If God (Elohim) is for you, who can possibly be against you? No one! Elohim is more powerful than any person or thing that exists and He is on your side.

God wants you to rely on Him as your source of power and might. He wants to be Elohim to you, for you and in you.

Every time you see the word "God", say: "That's Elohim, the God of might and power - and He's my God!" Praise the Lord!

### **JEHOVAH: The Unchangeable, Intimate God, the Revealing One**

Derived from the Hebrew word "chavah", which means "to live", the name Jehovah is literally full of life! It is written into the King James Version as LORD, and it means "to be," or "being."

This name of God brings Him forth in a very personal way, and it is the very essence of the present tense.

Jehovah reveals Himself as your intimate, personal God. He walks with you - always in the present tense; and He will never leave you or forsake you. (see Hebrews 13:5) The more we grow in this relationship with Him, the more of Himself He will reveal to you.

Jehovah also denotes the unchangeability of God, as it says in **Psalm 102:27**: "But thou art the same, and Thy years shall have no end."

Jehovah is the One who is now and always has been. This is the God of life, the God of eternity!

Jehovah is the One who revealed Himself to the children of Israel. Not only did He reveal Himself to them, but He also revealed His plan to deliver them from the Egyptians and lead them into the Promised land.

**Exodus 3:14**: "God said unto Moses, I AM that I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

### **EL SHADDAI: The All-Sufficient One**

**Genesis 17:1-2** "When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly."

"God Almighty" does not mean the same as "the God of might and power". The name El Shaddai bears a different meaning entirely.

Basically, this name is derived from the word "field", as in, "the fields produce abundance," It is also translated as "breast", or "the many-breasted One", which signifies nourishment and productiveness. In this sense, God is shown as the One who is more than enough - "He who is all-sufficient." When you see the name El Shaddai, God is saying - "I am more than enough to meet your needs in each situation."

Throughout Abraham's life, God promised to bless and multiply him. And the Bible says that Abraham's blessings are also ours.

God shows His all-sufficiency by turning nature around and providing miracles that are contrary to natural events. Although God Himself set the course of nature in motion, He is more than capable of superseding all natural events as He did when He caused Abraham and Sarah to have a child.

He also did this for Isaac's son Jacob. In **Genesis 28:1-3**, Isaac called Jacob and blessed him saying, "And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people."

Isaac was saying, "Jacob, may El Shaddai, the God who is all-sufficient, bless you and multiply you! He will work contrary to nature to overcome any difficult circumstances."

On the way to Padanaram, Jacob slept and dreamed of a ladder that angels were ascending and descending. God spoke to him, saying, "I'm giving this land to you and your seed, and I am going to protect you."

Some people want everything right away: instant coffee, instant tea, instant answers to prayers; but there's more to it than instant everything. You have to hold fast to your confidence in order to obtain rewards. You have to be patient and know that God is never late. Sometimes, He's just in time, but He is never late. Last minute or not, hold fast to Him the way Jacob did, (all during his time in Laban's charge), and you won't miss the payment of your reward.

The word "almighty" always relates to blessings and multiplication. Because that name speaks of MORE than enough, it speaks of abundance. When Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it MORE abundantly" as it says in John 10:10. He was speaking of El Shaddai, who supplies an abundance of nourishment for body, soul and spirit.

In **Exodus 6:3** God was speaking to Moses: "I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them."

God was saying, "I appeared to them as the God who is more than enough, and I'm speaking to you too."

Moses wrote this in **Psalms 91**: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

The word "dwelleth" actually means to "stake your claim". Imagine this: he who stakes his claim in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Moses said, "I'm staking my claim under the shadow of God who is more than enough. That's where we should live as well!

When Moses staked his claim, he was saying, "My God is more than enough to feed 2 million people. My God is all-sufficient. And even though we're in the wilderness, these 2 million people will have water. No matter how rough my circumstances might appear, I'm counting on El Shaddai to bring us through!

And He always did.

If God could do it back then for 2 million people, don't you think He will take care of you? Stake your claim under the shadow of El Shaddai. He's more than enough - more than you will ever need.

Stake your claim with your mouth. Moses did and we should too. Say: "He's more than enough to heal me. He's more than enough to meet my financial needs. He's more than enough to get my children to repent." We need to live under the shadow of the knowledge of a God who is more than enough. He will turn the natural things around so that we will come through completely whole and completely blessed.

The devil is a claim jumper and he will try to steal what you have claimed. But the Bible says that He who promised is faithful (see Hebrews 10:23), and we have to push the devil right back off our claim. If you move out and don't hang onto your claim, you'll miss it.

### **ADONAI: Lord and Master**

Elohim, Jehovah, and El Shaddai have all related to the **person** of God. Elohim expresses the might and power of God, Jehovah expresses the holiness and righteousness of

God as our redeemer, and El Shaddai expresses Him as a wonderful God of blessings and all-sufficiency.

Translated in the KJV as "Lord", "Adonai", is a somewhat different name for God in that it reflects our responsibilities as His servants.

"Adonai" is used more than 300 times in the Old Testament, and it literally means "Master, Owner, or Lord". This is a name that signifies ownership and indicates the personal responsibilities of being owned by God.

God, as our Adonai, is in the position of being the Master, and we are His purchased possessions. Exodus 21 offers a picture of this relationship.

Read Exodus 21:1-6

Adonai is the God who totally owns His people. He protects them, provides for them, and directs them. Adonai is the Master whose servants have chosen to serve Him because they love Him. This is a beautiful illustration of the Father-Son relationship that exists between God the Father and Jesus. Jesus came to earth - by the Father's will - to redeem us.

Jesus, the bond slave to His Father, willingly hung on the cross. He was willingly pierced because of His great love for you and me. Today, He still carries the scars or signs of His slavery. The Old Testament slaves might have had plugs in their ears, but Jesus' enslavement has marked Him beyond that: He has a scar on His side and scars on His hands and feet. There are scars upon His back and head. These marks say one thing: "bond servant".

Many people cringe at the thought of God having complete ownership of them. A lot of people have been conformed to the world's way of thinking: "I have to be my own person", or "I'm just a free spirit". You are not a free spirit! You have been purchased at the expensive price of the Lord's own blood.

If you are still grasping the reins of your life, then you have not entered into the Lord's fullness. Revelation knowledge of God's word and victory can come to His children only one way: when they put Adonai in the place of control.

Genesis 15 tells the story of some people who decided to make God the Master over their lives. In this chapter, God and Abram made a covenant together. God identified Abram's seed, which would number as the stars of heaven and the dust of the earth. But God did not covenant with Abram until he said, "Lord God - Adonai, Elohim." Abram was saying, "Yes You are the God of power and might. You are also my Master."

The book of Judges has some key things you should read. It explains that God wants to bless His people and deliver them out of negative situations, but He cannot do it if they won't let Him be the Master.

**In Judges 6:13:** Gideon said "Oh my Lord (Master or Owner), if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

Gideon was saying, "If we have such a great Master and Owner, why isn't He protecting us? Why isn't He providing for us?"

Gideon didn't think he was anybody and not able to do what the the angel told him that Gideon should go and save Israel from the hand of the Midianites.

God saw Gideon as a mighty man of valor. God looks at you in the light of His word. He sees you in the image of Jesus Himself. Adonai, as Master, wants you to be completely victorious, so He speaks positive words - His word! Adonai wants to protect you and care for you, but He can't if you won't let Him. Gideon said the right thing, when he said "Master". Then the words of deliverance came.

Commitment is essential in order to have results. If you want to be totally free, be 100 percent committed to the Lord as His bond slave. When you place Him in command and follow His direction, you are freed from worry, fear, and anything from the devil. You are free!

### **JEHOVAH JIREH: The Lord My Provider**

Jehovah Jireh is the first compound name of Jehovah in the Old Testament. Genesis 22 is the first chapter in the Bible in which the name Jehovah Jireh appears, and it comes after the Lord shows Himself to Abraham on the basis of meeting his needs.

When you discover how this name applies to you, you will know that Jehovah Jireh not only met Abraham's needs but also desires to meet your needs.

By calling Himself "Jehovah Jireh", God is saying, "My ways do not change; therefore, I desire to meet your needs, just as the needs of the children of Israel in their exodus from Egypt."

Jehovah Jireh's name was first revealed during the life of Abraham, when he faced perhaps the most difficult trial of his faith. (when God told Abraham to take his son and offer him as a burnt offering.)

Faith is not a static condition: it wasn't for Abraham and it shouldn't be for you. God causes people to move from faith to faith, from glory to glory, and from strength to strength. When God spoke to Abraham to offer up his son, He was giving him an opportunity to MOVE in his faith.

When you receive answers to prayer and get to see God's word perform mightily, that should encourage your faith. That's God's way of encouraging you to take bigger and bolder steps.

We need to practice what God's word says. We cannot afford to let His word depart from our eyes. We must hold fast to His word - our confidence - in order to see our reward.

For example, **Proverbs 11:21** says "the seed of the righteous shall be delivered." If you are in Christ, then you are righteous, and your children will be delivered. Your confidence in the word of God will pay out your reward.

When you pray, believe that you will see God's provision. Let Him direct your eyes to the place in His word that strengthens your belief in Him.

After the ram had been offered up as a burnt sacrifice of consecration, Abraham looked at the place and gave it a name: Jehovah Jireh", "the revealing One who is more than a Provider." This name is actually taken from the verb "to see" in Hebrew.

What does that mean? It means that God has seen ahead and made a provision to fill your need. There is not one trial or problem that you might be encountering that God has not already seen and made provision to take care of. Why? Because He is your Jehovah Jireh, just as He was Abraham's Jehovah Jireh. He knows all things. He already knows what you will encounter in your life, and He has a provision for you to handle it.

If you are in the midst of a trial right now, lift up your eyes and say "God, You saw ahead and knew that I would encounter this crisis. Now, I need Your provision for it." Jehovah Jireh will show you what that provision is because He preplanned it. That shouldn't be a surprise to you - especially if you are a parent. You would do the same thing for your own children, and the Lord is a far more loving parent than any of us could ever be.

When you speak your faith, God creates what you are speaking.

### **JEHOVAH M'KADESH: The Lord My Sanctifier**

This name which is first found in Leviticus 20:7-8, means "Jehovah who sanctifies." It shows the Lord as One who desires to set you apart by making your personality one with His.

The verb "to sanctify" means "to consecrate, to dedicate, or to become holy." Basically, it shows Jehovah setting His people apart to walk in holiness because He is their God. Consequently, the Lord's people were to set themselves apart to walk in total dedication to Him.

Although the Lord commanded that we set ourselves apart, He will never force us to do so.

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** says: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification". This verse talks about keeping your entire spirit, soul and body blameless until Jesus returns. God wants you to be set apart totally to Him.

How can you sanctify yourself? By relying totally on Him in everything.

The name Jehovah M'Kaddesh appears more than 700 times throughout the Bible! It must be because God really wants a people who are set apart to Him.

When Jesus redeemed you from sin and the law and death, what happened? You were set apart - sanctified from the rest of creation. Jesus want you to be set apart in Him. God also set apart a special day, the Sabbath, on which people were not to work; they were only to honor Him. A special year - the year of Jubilee, was ushered in after 7 Sabbath years to proclaim redemption and liberty for all. Every 7 years, an entire year was sanctified to Jehovah M'Kaddesh!

Why should Christians be set apart? Because Jehovah is set apart. He has said in **1 Samuel 2:2**: "There is none other than Me, there is none as holy as Jehovah." Because He is set apart, His people must be set apart.

If you belong to God, you shouldn't be like everyone else; you should be sanctified, different. **Leviticus 19:2** says: "Ye shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy."

When you sanctify yourself by walking in Jesus' own sanctification, you will shine brilliantly to the world. You can't help but be a light of the gospel. On the inside of your spirit dwells a new man who looks like Jesus. When you let Him take over, He'll line up the rest of you.

**Ephesians 4:24** tells us to "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Don't try to work up your own holiness; you don't have it! Set yourself apart in the holiness of Jesus. The Bible says that when we **see** Him, we shall be like Him and that this very hope will purify us.

How can you **see** the One who sanctifies? In His word.

### **JEHOVAH NISSI: The Lord My Banner of Victory**

I don't know what your weaknesses are, but Jesus can overcome them to make you a victor and a conqueror. **2 Corinthians 2:14** says that "Jesus always causes us to triumph in Him." Without Him you can do nothing, but with Him, all things are possible.

Jehovah Nissi actually means "Jehovah, my Banner." This name is found for the first time in **Exodus 17:15**, during a time when the children of Israel were becoming acquainted with the Lord. He is a mighty God! He had sent 7 plagues on Egypt and delivered His people in a miraculous way. They had met Jehovah as the victorious One, step by step in every experience and situation.

In **Exodus 17:11-13**, Moses was holding up the banner of God, which had brought victory to Israel. Moses was carrying a symbol of God's presence. As long as God's presence was established as the high standard, the Israelites prevailed in battle.

When you hear the word, "banner", you probably picture a flag, but that is not necessarily what a banner was in Moses' day. It was often a bare pole with a bright and shining ornament that would glitter in the sun when held high in the air.

The word for "banner" actually means "a glistening pole or ensign, a standard, or a miracle." The banner or "standard" represented God's cause. It was a symbol of His deliverance and mighty salvation that caused His people to be victors over their enemies.

While Joshua was fighting, the rod of Elohim was held up in Moses' hand. With the Lord's banner held high, there was victory.

As long as you say, "God is the victorious One in my life", you will be on top of your circumstances. But when you drop your hands and say, "I'm defeated; the devil has me down," you can count on defeat. Focus your eyes on the Lord, Jehovah Nissi, and keep your hands up in the air, holding His victorious standard high!

Israel's war against the Amalekites is an example of our own spiritual warfare. The Bible says we have a battle going on against our own flesh, not to mention against Satan.

The flesh lusts against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh. Although your members might "war" against each other's desires, and battles are going on, God wants you to be victorious!

That's why He gave you His Spirit to live within you. God is not a loser, and you should not be either!

In Ephesians we are told to put on the whole armour of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

God did not tell us to fight in our own armour. He gave you **His** armour, and if you will wear it, and stand in it, He will bring you the victory. He's the Lord your Banner.

**Isaiah 13:2** says: "Lift up a banner high above the mountain...I have commanded my sanctified ones..."

Righteous Jehovah hates sin. If you will hold high His standard of victory, sin will not overtake you. Other people might come against you with evil, but you are supposed to conquer evil with good.

Jesus did not promise you, "Well, now that I've taken the victory, it's going to be a piece of cake for you." You have to stand, but if you stand, He did promise that not even the gates of hell itself could prevail against you! He has made you a victor in Himself.

Ephesians 6 says that we are not supposed to wrestle against flesh and blood. We must always remember that God does not give us His armor to fight against people. If we fight against people, we're going to lose. We wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness in this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

To wear your armor, you cannot lean on your own understanding; you have to lean on His Word! There is no question that Christians encounter spiritual battles, but you are not supposed to lie down and say, "All right, you win."

God says, "You're not a loser! I am Jehovah Nissi - your Banner, Miracle and Victory - who **MAKES YOU** a winner." That's why you are fighting a good fight of faith. It's good because you win in the Lord!

**2 Timothy 2:3** says: "Therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." The verb "to endure" means "to hold on to God's Word" and "to stand fast in faith."

Why doesn't Ephesians 6 give you any armor to wear on your back? Because you have Jehovah Nissi to go before you into the battle! He wants to be your Victory.

You are not fighting battles in your own strength; you're in **His** strength. When you allow that strength within you to flow by relying on Him as your Banner, then you will overcome.

After Moses' death, the Israelites battled inside the Promised Land and victoriously conquered the city of Jericho. But then they went to take a city called Ai, and they lost the battle. Why did they lose? Because they had not asked God how to take the city. They didn't wait on Him to see His divine military plan. Instead, they raced in and were defeated. But, after Joshua cried out to God why, God showed him what they must do. The people got right with God, he straightened out the whole situation, and they went back to Ai, and this time, God made them victorious in battle.

You will not win in your own strength. You can only win through God's strength and with His plan.

We are supposed to conquer in all situations because Jesus is the Conqueror, and if we are in Him, then we are conquerors through Him!

You have been given everything you need for victory in Jesus Christ. He is your Banner of Victory. You can now rest in His word and know that Jehovah Nissi desires to go before you and make you a winner.

### **JEHOVAH ROPHE: The Lord My Health**

Exodus 15 gives the context of how the name Jehovah Rophe was revealed. When God spoke to Moses and said, "I AM THAT I AM" (Exodus 3:14) He was saying "Whatever you may need is exactly what I am."

The name Jehovah Rophe actually means "Jehovah heals", or "Jehovah my Health." and it arises from one of the earliest situations the Israelites experienced in the wilderness.

In Exodus 15 we see the children of Israel coming to a place where there was no water. Why would God lead them to places where there was no water? Because He wanted them to know that He would provide for them in every way.

No matter what you're going through, God will provide for you and bring you out smelling like a rose - if you let Him.

When the children of Israel arrived at Marah, they found a huge pool of water, but it was terribly bitter, in fact the name "marah", means "bitter". Then the people began murmuring against Moses because they could not drink the water. Then we find out in verses 25-26, the Lord showed him a tree, that when he cast it into the waters, it made it sweet. God then told them that if they would follow His commandments and keep all His statutes, that He would put none of the diseases of Egypt on them, "for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Moses threw a tree into the water. This is significant. Action must accompany faith. You can talk faith, but you must walk in it also. When Moses threw the tree in, the water was sweetened, and Jehovah revealed Himself to His people in a new way. He said, "I am Jehovah Rophe," which means, "the Lord, your health."

Actually it is better to have health than healing: it is better not to get sick at all than to be sick and need healing. God wants His people to walk in divine health.

God's word is like medicine. When you take His word, you are taking in health. That is why God told His people to hearken to His word. God wants His people to be full of His own life. You might believe in healing, but there's more to it. You must RECEIVE healing. And you will receive it only by reading and meditating on God's Word. You must continually feed upon His Words of life, health and healing.

Exodus 15 says that you will not have the diseases of the world if you will read and meditate upon His Word.

**Deuteronomy 34:7** tells us that "Moses was 120 years old when he died; but his eye was not dim nor his natural force abated."

Why? Moses fed on God's Word. It was spirit and life to him because he believed it and acted on it. Moses trusted in Jehovah Rophe.. God's life and health were a personal revelation to him, and he received it for himself.

Jehovah Rophe wants to be personal to you too. He wants to heal you and make you whole.

Healing is not just for you; it is for you to bring forth in others.. Jesus said in **Mark 16:18**, we are to lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

Jehovah Rophe brings health in every area of life.. Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1-2 in Luke **4:18-19**: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

**Isaiah 53** the prophet said, that Jesus "is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief. Surely he has born our grief's, and carried our sorrows."

Jesus was bruised in your place. He came to give you liberty. When He was hanging on the cross, soldiers tried to give him a sponge soaked in myrrh, but Jesus refused to drink it. Why? Because myrrh works as an anesthetic and would have deadened His pain. Jesus carried **ALL** of your anxieties, fears, and rejections. He carried **ALL** your physical afflictions. They're not yours anymore, so why are you carrying them? Why would you carry something when Jesus took it to the utmost for you? He refused the myrrh.

When you allow Jesus to heal the wounds in your soul - not just physical wounds - you will really begin to smell victorious! You will start smelling sweet, like He does.

When the Israelites left Egypt, they ate lamb with bitter herbs. we'll encounter bitter circumstances at times, but if we'll mix them with the Lamb of God, He will bring healing.

