



THE PRAYER CLOSET

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Praying The Names of God

In biblical times, a name would tell you a great deal about a person. Biblical names often had special meanings—they revealed truths about the person. It would show you what a person would be like. It would predict how a person would act. It would teach what that person's purpose was.

An example of this is Jacob. His name means "deceiver." Jacob lived out the meaning of His name. His life was characterized by deception. As you read the story of his life, he deceived person after person. His name declared his nature—what he would be like and how he would act.

In the Bible, you will find several names for God. **These names declare His nature—what He is like and how He will act!** These names teach you about God and what He can be to you. They also reveal His greatness. God is so great and glorious that He must have many names to describe Him.

God has revealed these names to you so that you can know and worship Him. You are to learn these names and gain a deeper understanding of who God is. This will radically change your life. Knowing who He is will lead you to put your trust in Him (**Psalm 9:10**). It will cause you to have confidence in Him (**Psalm 20:**). It will strengthen your prayer life (**Matthew 6:9**).

The purpose of this study is to teach you about the names of God and how to apply these names to your prayer life. You should use every truth you learn about God in your prayer life. This is especially true concerning the names of God.

You can apply your knowledge of the names of God to your prayer life in four ways. **First, determine how you can praise God for what you learn about Him through His names.** As you study each name and the passages where these are found, seek to discover what you can praise God for concerning this name. An example is "El Shaddai." Most English translations render these Hebrew words as "God Almighty." This name of God points out that God is the Sufficient One. He always gives more than is needed. Praise Him for this! Think about the times in your life when God sufficiently and abundantly provided for you. Record these instances and praise God for this.

The second way that you can use the names of God in your prayer life is by confessing and repenting of sins that relate to this name. "El Shaddai" reveals that God will sufficiently provide; He will not abandon His people, but will abundantly provide. Have you failed to trust God for this? Have you doubted God's abundant providing of your needs? This is sin; this is the failure to trust God. Confess this sin, repent, and determine to trust the sufficient God. You need to do this type of examination with your life. When you fail to depend upon and trust in God's character, this is sin and you must deal with it.

The next way that you can use the names of God in your prayer life is to thank Him for what He is to you. As "El Shaddai," the sufficient One, He is always abundantly blessing you and providing for you (**James 1:17**). As God provides, thank Him for being true to His name. You need to discipline yourself to do this for all of God's names. Determine how God is being true to His name and thank Him for acting according to His character.

The final way that you can use the names of God in your prayer life is by using them as the basis of your requests. If you are in need, then call on God to be true to His name. He is the sufficient God; plead with God to sufficiently and abundantly provide because of who He is. You must realize

that God has a characteristic for every crisis. His nature can meet your every need. His Person is sufficient for every problem that you face. In your God, you can find strength for your worst trials, comfort for your heart's deepest pains, and provision for your soul's greatest need! This is why the Bible says, "The *name* of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run into it and are safe (**Proverbs 18:10**).

Whatever problem or need that you have, God can help you. As you face these problems and needs, discover what name or names of God relate to the problem or need. Then, call on God to be true to His name; plead with Him to work according to His nature. As you learn about who God is, use this to make requests of Him.

The following study will help you get started. The names of God are given below. The Hebrew words and the English translation of the Hebrew are given. The passages where this name is used are listed. There is also a description of the name. You need to read and study each name and the passages that are given. Plead with God to teach you about Himself so that you praise Him. Then, use what you learn in your prayer life.

God

"Elohim" The God of Absolute and Total Power

Genesis 1:1, 2, 27, 28, 31; 9:6; Exodus 20:2; Numbers 27:16; Deuteronomy 23:5; Joshua 24:19; 1 Samuel 6:20; Psalm 7:9-11, 42:9, 47:7-9, 50:6, 77:13-14, 99:9; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Isaiah 37:16, 40:28, 41:13, 45:21, 46:9, 49:5, 52:10, Jeremiah 3:23, 32:37.

In English translations, the word "God" is a translation of the Hebrew word "Elohim." This is the name for God as Creator. It reveals that God is the God of absolute power who has created everything. This name exalts the power of God. God's existence and power is made known through the creation of all things (**Romans 1:19-21**). God has made all things and all these things came about as a result of His mighty power. As you look at God's creative work, it shows how powerful that God is. The God of the Bible is a God of power who can do all that He has purposed. God's power flows from His person to accomplish all His purposes.

The Most High God

"El Elyon" The Sovereign Ruler

Genesis 14:18-20; Numbers 24:16; Deuteronomy 32:8; Psalm 9:2, 21:7, 47:2, 50:14, 56:2, 57:2, 87:5, 91:9, 78:35, 82:6, 83:18, 97:9; Isaiah 14:14; Daniel 4:17, 24-25, 32:35, 7:18, 22, 25, 27.

In English translations, the English phrase "The Most High" or "The Most High God" is a translation of the Hebrew name "El Elyon." This name for God reveals that He is the sovereign ruler over all things. Since God has created all things, He can therefore control all things. God's control over all things flows out of the fact that He has created all things. Nothing is greater than God. No one is greater than God. Because of this, He rules over all things, controlling the universe that He has created by His own power. This name of God shows that nothing can stop or overcome God and His will. He works out all things according to His own will. God causes all things to work together for the good of His people.

The God Who Sees **“El Roi” The Ever-Seeing God**

Genesis 16:1-14

The phrase “The God Who Sees” is the English translation of the Hebrew “El Roi.” This name of God teaches that God sees all and knows all. There is not one single thing that happens in time that escapes the attention of God. God sees and knows everything that happens. The believer is always under God’s watchful care. He sees you when nobody else does. He sees your sins, your motives, your desires, and your actions. He sees when you are lonely, brokenhearted, and discouraged. Even if no one else sees or knows, your God does. He is the God who always sees. You can absolutely trust God for this fact.

GOD ALMIGHTY **“El Shaddai” The God of Sufficiency**

Genesis 17:1, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3, 49:25; Job 11:7, 33:4, 34:10; Psalm 91:1.

When you see the phrase “God Almighty” in an English translation, it is a translation of the Hebrew words “El Shaddai.” This name of God exalts the sufficiency of God. God is able to bless and bless beyond the asking and thinking of His people (**Ephesians 3:20-21**). Your God is sufficient for your every need, problem, and task. God is able to pour out His blessings on His people. Your God can take a situation where there are no answers and no hope and do mighty and wonderful things. An example of this is Abram. “God Almighty” turned fruitless, fatherless Abram into Abraham, “the father of multitudes. God is sufficient for you in everything.

Lord **“Adonai” The Rightful Lord**

Genesis 18:14, 19:16, 20:4, 20:18; Leviticus 11:44, 19:2-4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 32, 20:8, 26; Deuteronomy 5:9, 11, 6:15, 7:6-8; Psalm 37:33, 40:5, 17, 89:1, 6, 103:13, 146:8, 147:1, Romans 14:9.

When you see the word “Lord” in an English translation, it is a translation of the Hebrew word “Adonai.” This name of God refers to His total possession of all things. Because He has created all things, controls all things, and owns all things, He has the right to expect and demand submission and worship. He must be submitted to; He is the Master of all. Those whom He has created and saved from sin are to submit to and obey Him. He is worthy because He is the rightful Lord of all (**Luke 6:46, 14:25-27**). By submitting to Him, a person finds mercy, hope, and peace. One cannot expect His blessings without submission to Him.

The LORD **Yahweh (Jehovah) The Eternal, Unchanging God**

Genesis 2:7, Exodus 3:14-15, 6:2, 15:11, 20:2, 33:19, 34:5-7, Deuteronomy 10:17, 28:10, 1 Kings 2:3, Psalm 10:16, 103:6, 130:3-5, 146:10; Isaiah 33:22, 43:3, 45:24, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Daniel 9:14, Amos 5:8, Malachi 3:6.

It is important to notice the difference between "Lord" and "LORD." The reason that both these words appear in English translations is to show that two different Hebrew words are being translated. When you see "Lord," this is a translation of the Hebrew word "Adonai," as stated above. Yet, when you see "LORD," it is a translation of the Hebrew word "Yahweh" or "Jehovah." "Yahweh" or "the LORD" is the most frequently used name for God in the Old Testament. This name refers to the fact that God is self-existent, that He has no beginning or end and that He has always existed in and of Himself. God always has been, He is now, and He always will be. God is eternal and does not change. He eternally stays the same. He is always true to His character, His Word, His promises, and His people. God is always with the believer and will always keep His promises to the believer. God will never fail to do what He has promised.

The LORD Will Provide **Jehovah-jireh The Providing God**

Genesis 22

This name of God reveals that He provides for His people. This is clear from the account of Abraham's life that is found in Genesis 22. When Abraham needed a ram to sacrifice, God provided one. This name of God teaches that God can provide everything that you need. He is able to meet your every need. You will never have a need that is too great for God to meet. Notice that this is a combination of the word for "LORD" and the word for "provide". This reveals that the unchanging God will always provide for His people. He will never fail to provide what His people need. He will supply all that is needed to save, to strengthen, to make holy, and to bless His people. He cannot fail in this. He has provided, He is providing, and He will always provide for the needs of His people. In every circumstance of life, you can trust God to provide what you need.

The LORD Who Heals **Jehovah-rapha The God of Healing**

Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 32:39; Psalm 103:3, 147:3.

This name of God reveals that He is the Healer of His people. God can heal a person physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Only God can heal a person, a church, and a nation. He and He alone has the power to do this. Again, this is a combination of "Jehovah" and the Hebrew word for "healing."

This is declaring that God does heal and delights in doing this. God has healed, He is healing, and He will heal. You can cry out to Him and trust Him for healing. There is no case too hopeless for the God of healing.

The LORD Is My Banner **“Jehovah-nissi” The God of Victory**

Exodus 17:15

In biblical times, a banner was an object, a flag, or a pole with a bright shining object at its top. This was used as a rallying point for an army. When the army was going into battle, it would gather at the banner. Then, the army would march behind the banner into battle. The eternal, unchangeable God is the Banner of His people. We must look to Him and trust Him as we fight the battles of faith. This name for God shows that He is able to give victory. He is able to enable and empower His people to overcome every enemy that they must face. There is no need to be faint-hearted or afraid. There is no need to panic or tremble. God can give victory to His people. God has given victory, God is giving victory, and God will give victory. God can always enable you to be victorious if you will cry out to Him and trust in Him. No enemy can overcome you when you trust in and call upon the God of victory.

The LORD Who Sanctifies You **Jehovah-mekoddishkem The God of Holiness**

Exodus 31:13

The word “sanctify” means “to set apart.” This name of God refers to the fact that He is working to make His people holy. God has determined to make His people holy. He desires that they grow in freedom from sin and live obedient lives. God has saved you from sin. Now He wants to make you holy. This is God’s primary desire for your life. He wants you to deal with the sin in your life so that you can grow in living a life that pleases Him. He will grant you the power you need to do this. He can enable you to overcome temptation. He can empower you to root sins out of your life no matter how powerful they may seem. This is something that God is always working at in your life. You can depend on the God of holiness to help you in your battle against sin and temptation.

The LORD Is Peace **“Jehovah-shalom” The God of Peace**

Judges 6:22-24

In the dark hours of Israel’s history, God revealed Himself to Gideon as “Jehovah-shalom,” the LORD is peace. Gideon and the entire nation needed peace. The hour was dark and the situation was desperate. Yet, God granted Gideon and the nation peace in the midst of trying circumstances. God can give you a peace that passes understanding no matter what your circumstances. The circumstances of your life can be utter chaos on the outside, but, on the inside, you are calm and restful due to God’s peace. You can only find this in God. You can always find this in God. There is no other source for true and unshakable peace. God has given peace, He is giving peace, and He will give peace to His people. He will keep you in perfect peace when your mind is fixed on Him (**Isaiah 26:3**).

The LORD of Hosts **“Jehovah-sabaoth” The General of The Angelic Army**

1 Samuel 1:3, 11; 2 Samuel 5:10; 2 Kings 19:31; Psalm 24:10, 46:7, 11, 84:1, 3, 8, 12, 148:2; Isaiah 14:27; Haggai 1:2, 5, 7, 9, 14, 2:4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 23; Zechariah 1:4, 4:6-9, Malachi 1:4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 2:2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16, 3:1, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 4:1, 3.

This name of God teaches that God is the General of the armies of heaven. The “hosts” refers to the angelic army that God has created, controls, and commands according to His will and purpose. No matter how powerless you may feel, God is able to help you. No matter how inadequate your resources may be, God has an army of angels that He can send to aid you, help you, and rescue you. You can find deliverance no matter what the circumstances of your life. Your God is the mighty General of an army that is always able and willing to do whatever He commands.

The LORD Is My Shepherd **“Jehovah-raah” The God of Constant Care**

Psalm 23

This name of God shows that the eternal, unchangeable God is your Shepherd. This means that God has an intimate love for you. He exercises a continual care and protection over your body and soul. He is the One who is leading you and sustaining you. In this Psalm, David reveals all the blessings that God grants to His people as their Shepherd. God has always been the Shepherd of the believer, He is the Shepherd of the believer, and He will always be the Shepherd of the believer. This will not change regardless of a person’s circumstances or feelings.

The LORD Our Righteousness **“Jehovah-tsidkenu” The God of Righteousness**

Jeremiah 23:6

This name reveals that God gives righteousness to His people. To be accepted with God, one must be righteous. This is impossible for the sinner. Yet, when the sinner turns to Christ from sin and trusts in Him, that person is credited with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. In this way, the believer is accepted and received by God into a personal relationship. He brings us into relationship with Himself through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. You stand perfect and complete before Him. You are totally forgiven, accepted, and loved by God. However, God does not stop there. He works to make the believer righteous in his life. He works to lead the believer to right thinking, right feeling, and right behavior based on the Word of God. This is God’s desire and God’s demand. He can enable you to obey His Word.