

Systematic Theology Week 10

The names of God – The YHWH Names

A name is a description of a person's character (think: Jacob/Israel), or nature.

God (theos) this is the most frequent designation of YHWH in the New Testament and the most common translation in the Septuagint for Elohim. This word is also used in reference to the gods of paganism and even to the devil in two Corinthians 4:4 and sensuality in Philippians 3:19 in Romans 9:5, John 1:1, John 1:18, John 20:28, and Titus 2:13 Jesus is referred to as 'theos' or God.

Lord (Kurios) this word occurs 717 times in the New Testament, mostly by Luke (210) and Paul (275), probably due to the audience to which they were writing – people of a Greek culture and language.

Master (despotes) this word connotes the idea of ownership whereas Lord (Kurios) emphasizes authority and supremacy. It is found only in Luke 2:29 acts 4:24 Revelation 6:10 two Peter 2:1 and Jude 4.

Elohim 2570 times in the Old Testament. 2310 times as a name for the true God. First occurring in the first verse of the Bible. It is also used of false deities. Elohim is a plural word peculiar to the Old Testament and appears in no other somatic language. (This name is consistently used his singular verb forms and with adjectives and pronouns in the singular form. This plural of Majesty might denote God's unlimited greatness and supremacy.)

El Shaddai - this name of God pictures him as the Almighty one standing on a mountain.

El Elyon - "The most high God" first used by Melchizedek when he blessed Abraham Genesis 14:19.

El Olam "the everlasting God" "the God of eternity" Genesis 21:33

El Roi "God who sees" Genesis 16:13

YHWH is a personal name. It occurs 5321 times in the Old Testament. This name was used by Eve in Genesis 4:1. And by Noah in Genesis 9:26. And Abraham in Genesis 12:8, 15:2, 15:8. It was a revelatory name best defined in Exodus 3:14 as "I am that I am."

Among the Israelites, after their exile, this name was considered too sacred to be pronounced. Instead they used the term Adonai and by the sixth or seventh century A.D. the vowels Adonai were combined with the consonants YHW8 to remind the synagogue leader to pronounce the sacred name as Adonai. From this came the artificial word Jehovah.

Adonai – like Elohim, this is a plural of Majesty. RC Sproul says that it denotes sovereignty. It is sometimes translated "Lord, Master, owner."

YHWH Jireh "The Lord sees" / "the Lord will provide" Genesis 22:14

YHWH Nissi "the Lord is my banner" Exodus 17:15

YHWH Shalom "the Lord is peace" Judges 6:24

YHWH Sabaoth "the Lord of hosts" 1Samuel 1:3

YHWH Maccaddeshem "the Lord your sanctifier" Exodus 31:13

YHWH Roi "the Lord my shepherd" Psalm 23:1

YHWH Tsidkenu "the Lord our righteousness" Jeremiah 23:6

YHWH Shammah "the Lord is there" Ezekiel 48:35

YHWH Elohim Israel "the Lord, the God of Israel" Judges 5:3 / Isaiah 17:6

Additional names not mentioned in this lesson:

YHWH Rapha – "the Lord who heals" Exodus 15:26

YHWH Ezer – "the Lord our helper" Psalm 121:1-2