

THE LORD'S DIFFERENT NAMES

Psalm 9:10

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Parents name their children for different reasons. Sometimes it is after a relative, sometimes after a friend, sometimes after some person of great historical importance, sometimes after a movie star, and sometimes there is no particular reason, just that a certain name sounds "good." Also true is that sometimes a person's name is changed such as some mentioned in the Bible. Adam means "red earth," indicating from where he came. Jacob means "cheat, etc." but God changed his name to "Israel" meaning "prince with God." Remember that Moses was found in a basket in a stream and therefore Pharaoh's daughter named him "Moses" which means to "draw forth." The Lord God has many names for no single word/name is sufficient to identify all that He is. The names applied to God in the Bible describe His character, His attributes, His redemptive acts. In the Bible there are ten specific names given to almighty God.

1. "ELOHIM" - *"...In the beginning "God" created the heaven and the earth..."*

- "Elohim" means "to worship."
- God is the "worshipped One."
- He is the only object of true worship, praise, adoration and trust.
- "Elohim" is a plural word but refers to the ONE and ONLY God.
 - Remember, we worship ONE God, but there are three persons:
 - The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

2. "EL" or "ELI" - "Genesis 12:7-8"

- The Lord appeared to Abraham and made a covenant with him.
 - Abraham built an altar there and the place was called "Beth-El" - "The house of God."
- Jesus cried out from the cross: *"Eli, Eli, lama sa-bach-tha-na?"*
 - *"...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?..."*
- Thus the name "EL" means "strong, or might God."

3. "ELOIM" - "Genesis 14:18-22"

- It means the most high God.
- Expressing God's supremacy and majesty.
- Jesus is called "the Son of the Highest."
- "Eloim" is the high and lofty One who is eternal.

4. "SHADDAI" - "Genesis 17:1"

- Means "almighty."
- It means God all-sufficient.
- It expresses the power and sufficiency of God to bestow His grace and fulfill His promises.
- "El-Shaddai" is God able to save, able to do His will, able to shed His blessings upon His people.

5. "THE LORD OF HOSTS" - "1 Samuel 1:9-11"

- "The Lord of Sabaoth" is God.
- It points to God's sovereign dominion and power over all His creation.
- The Lord of Hosts has His way in the armies of heaven and all mankind and none can stay His hand or ask Him what He is doing.

6. "ADONAI" - "Genesis 15:2"

- It means "the Cause or the Support."
- He is the original cause of all things and supports and maintains all things.
- He upholds His Saints with the right hand of His righteousness.

7. "EJEH" - "Exodus 3:13-14"

- It means "I Am that I Am."
- It refers to God's unchanging.
- With God there is no variableness and no shadow of turning.
- God is eternally the same.
- "I Am" is God who changes not.

8. "LORD" - Kurios - Greek - "New Testament"

- It means "God who is sovereign."
- It refers to God's dominion, power, authority and right of ownership over all things.
- "Lord" is used to describe Christ as Mediator King.
- Often translated "master or sir" and is a title of respect often applied to any man.
- Applied to Jesus Christ, it implies His dominion and authority as LORD over all things.
- Jesus Christ is "LORD."

9. "GOD" - Theos - Greek - "New Testament"

- It means "one" who is holy, who sees all things and knows all things and disposes of all things.
- "God" who is light and is perfect holy.
- "God" who sees all things with perfect clarity.

10. "JEHOVAH" - "Exodus 6:3"

- It means "Savior or Deliverer."
- God in Jesus Christ is God mighty to save.
- It means "to be."
- Jesus declared that He was the "ONE" *"...which is, which was, and which is to come..."*
- Jesus is the eternal God of salvation, redemption, and deliverance.
- The name "Jehovah" was not allowed to be spoken by the Jews in normal conversation or read aloud, or even written. It was so holy that if a Scribe did write it, He would take a bath before writing it.
- *"...Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who taketh His name in vain..." (Exodus 20:7)*

CONCLUSION:

1. These names of God tell that God is infinite, eternal, almighty, self-existent, self-sufficient, ineffably glorious and holy.
 - He is to be feared, worshipped and obeyed.
 - He is a consuming fire, unapproachable and glorious.
2. Thankfully there is Jesus Christ to stand between sinful mankind and the most high, almighty God.
 - It is through Jesus Christ that the Christian dares to approach the almighty God.
3. Let every Christian give proper reverence to his/her almighty God and not take lightly any name God is called by.