

The Names of God in the Old Testament

With Applications

THIS is only a concise list of the names of God in the Old Testament. None of the names of people in the Old Testament are without any significance. For example, Hannah named her son “Samuel,” which means “heard by God” because she has asked for him from the LORD (1 Samuel 1:20) and Lamech named his son “Noah,” which means “rest,” saying: “This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed” (Gen. 5:29). Likewise the names of God in the Old Testament have meanings behind them and reveal the character and attributes of God to us. In this study we will not only endeavor to learn the meanings of some of the names of God in the Old Testament but also to derive benefit and comfort from them for our lives.

El Shadai (Lord God Almighty)

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless." (Gen. 17:1)

God is almighty. He is all-powerful and has absolute power. Nothing is too hard for Him! There is nothing in your life whether small or great that God cannot help you with. No circumstance and no situation is beyond His control and power.

Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner)

"And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner." (Exo. 17:15)

In the passage in Exodus 17:8-16, we read of how Amalek came and fought with Israel. Nations when they go to war usually would raise their own flag (banner) on a pole as a sign of power and encouragement to their people. Moses saw the Lord as his “banner,” which was a sign of his dependence on the Lord and his trust that the Lord would deliver him from his enemies. Thus Israel defeated Amalek because of their trust in Him. This should encourage us to have God as our “banner” who alone can save us from our enemies (Psalm 18:3) and from those who rise up against us (Psalm 18:48).

Jehovah-Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

God is our Shepherd. He is the one who nourishes us and strengthens us and who guides us in “the paths of righteousness” (Psalm 23:3). Christ revealed Himself to us as the

“Good Shepherd” in the New Testament (John 10:11). He is the One who laid down His life for us.

Jehovah-Rapha (The Lord That Heals)

"...For I am the Lord who heals you." (Exo. 15:26)

The Lord is the one who heals us whether physically (Psalm 103:3), emotionally (Isaiah 61:1), or spiritually (Jer. 3:22). He is our Great Physician who has the balm of Gilead (Jer. 8:22).

Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There)

"All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE." (Ezek. 48:35)

God is Jehovah Shammah. He is always there for us. He Himself has said: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5) and He will never forget us but has inscribed us on the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16). Christ said before ascending to the Father that He will be with us “always even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20). And He has sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who will abide with us forever (John 14:16).

Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)

"In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Jer. 23:6)

The Lord is our Righteousness. Apart from Him our righteousness are but “filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). He made Christ to be sin for us that “we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21). He has clothed us with Christ’s “robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10).

Jehovah Mekoddishkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)

"...that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you." (Exo. 31:13)

God is the One who sanctifies us “through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb. 10:10). Christ “became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30).

Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)

"And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided." (Gen. 22:14)

God is the One who supplies all our need "according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19) and He is the One who supplied a substitute for us, namely the Lord Jesus Christ who became that sacrifice who was slain in our place.

Jehovah-Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)

"So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites." (Judges 6:24)

God made us know His peace because of Christ who is our "peace" (Eph. 2:14). Through Christ we have peace with God (Rom. 5:1). He is the One who gives us peace in our hearts in this troubled world (John 14:27; 16:33).

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