



The NAMES OF GOD, A Bible Study for the Alabama Legislative Staff

We have thus far surveyed 13 names which God reveals in Scripture about Himself. Here is a list of our updated names covered: #1 *Elohim* (God), #2 *Jehovah*, or *Yahweh/YHWH* (covenantal name for I AM, the self-existing One), #3 *El Shaddai*, God Almighty, #4 *El Elyon*, God Most High, #5 *El Olam*, Everlasting God, #6 *El Roi*, God Who Sees, #7 *El Gibbor*, Mighty Warrior God, #8 *YHWH Yireh*, The LORD Will Provide, #9 *YHWH Rapha*, The LORD Who Heals, #10 *YHWH Nissi*, The LORD is My Banner, #11 *YHWH Shalom*, The LORD is Peace, #12 *YHWH Tsidkenu*, The LORD Our Righteousness, #13 *YHWH Ra'ah*, The LORD is My Shepherd.

NOTE: Past Bible Studies are posted at: <https://capitolcom.org/bible-studies/alabama/> .

14. YHWH TSEVA'OT - יהוה צבאות "The LORD of Hosts"

This name continues the compound names using YHWH (the contraction for *Yahweh*, or *Jehovah*). This name occurs repeatedly in the writings of Samuel, the Kings, and the Chronicles and speaks to the LORD as the commander of the celestial army of angels. In this way there is relation to *El Gibbor*, God the Mighty Warrior. We may forget that God commands unseen spiritual forces to carry out His will in creation. Here it is used in Isaiah 1:24--

Therefore the Lord declares, **the Lord of hosts,**
the Mighty One of Israel:

"Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes."

This name also appears in Martin Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", where he writes "Lord Sabaoth his name / From age to age the same / For He must win the battle (over Satan, sin and death)". Although it appears to us English readers to be a reference to the weekly Sabbath day, it actually speaks to the imagery of Jesus as the all-powerful commander of the LORD's army, as noted by Luther in the rest of that stanza (cf, Joshua 5:13-15, Revelation 19:11-14). This underscores why vengeance is for the LORD (Deut 32:35)

As your State Minister, I, unashamedly, serve the Lord Jesus Christ through the organization of Capitol Commission. Capitol Commission brings gospel hope and spiritual strength to government leaders through prayer, presence, and proclamation in capitols across the USA and National Ministries Beyond America. Our state ministers are pastor-missionaries who in session teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for all those in our state capitols. The Bible studies are hand distributed to each legislative office, are available online at capitolcom.org, and shared across the Capitol Commission community. This ministry is an extension of the church, seeking to proclaim the gospel message and help believers mature through Biblical expositional instruction. Prayer is foundational to this ministry, consistent with proper submission to governmental authority (Rom 13:1-7) and obedient to the command to pray for our appointed leaders (1 Tim 2:1-4). Our desire is to witness God's work in transforming hearts.

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15. YHWH SHAMMAH – יהוה שמה “The LORD is There”

When we studied God’s attributes last year, we settled that God is omnipresent (that is, present everywhere), at all times. So, what does it mean that the “LORD is there”? Certainly, throughout Scripture God has given His special presence in some physical manifestation. For example, when introducing Himself to Moses, in a burning bush; when leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, as a pillar of cloud and fire; when inhabiting the tabernacle and the temple, in a cloud of *shekinah* glory.

But in the prophecies of the book of Ezekiel, we learn there will be a future City of God, complete with a new temple and holy district which carries a promise of restoration for Israel. I believe this is the same city which the Apostle John saw in his visions which are now the book of Revelation.

The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be, **The LORD Is There.**”

Without getting into the different eschatology debates, it suffices to say the endgame for God’s creation is a New Creation and a new City (called New Jerusalem) which are described in Revelation 21. What is key about this is for the first time since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God may dwell in all His holiness with His people. What keeps Him from doing so today? Our sin. If God were to reveal Himself to us in all His power and glory, His holiness would consume us because of our sinfulness. This is why repentance and forgiveness for our sins by having Jesus’ blood pay the sin price is so very important. Ensure you are on the correct side of the cross, my friend! And the blessed assurance is one day you, too, will dwell perfectly with your Creator.

16. ADONAI - אֲדֹנָי “Lord (Master)”

As opposed to the usage of LORD (all caps) to signify the name *Yahweh* (see lesson 1), *Adonai* means lord and master in a typical subservient usage, as when addressing a superior. It is therefore a title, as opposed to *Yahweh*, which is a proper name. Sometimes it is used as a preface for one of God’s names, as in Genesis 15:2, where Abraham address God as “O *Adonai Elohim*”, which we read in English as “O Lord God”.

But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my **Lord**, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”

Exodus 4:10

We see Moses, making excuses for why he should not be the one to go before Pharaoh, saying to *Yahweh* (the LORD), “Oh my *Adonai*, I am not eloquent...” God’s response indicates His anger with Moses, perhaps in part because Moses is not using the name revealed to him at the burning bush. God’s response is basically, “who made your mouth, was it not I, *Yahweh*?” When Moses again addresses *Yahweh* as *Adonai* (and asks God to send someone else) then the scripture tells us “the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses.” How we approach God is paramount. Only through Christ and His forgiveness of our sins may we avoid angering our Holy God.

Questions? Please feel free to contact me if I can be any assistance in helping your understanding of God’s Word!

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