

## Old Testament Names of God

Name (original language)	Name (Translit.)	Meaning	Scripture Examples	Notes
אֱלֹהִים	'Elohim	God	Gen. 1:1	God makes himself known by this name as the Lord of intense and extensive glory and richness as he exercises his preeminence and power in the created cosmos (Tyndale Bible Dictionary -TBD). This name is in the plural, but the verbs and pronouns associated with <i>Elohim</i> are always singular. The idea then is a plural of majesty, and not a reference to multiple gods. Other shortened forms of this name are <i>El</i> (Ps. 19:1) and <i>Eloah</i> (Ps. 18:32).
אֵל עֶלְיוֹן	'El Elyon	God Most High	Gen. 14:19-20	The One who is above all things as the maker, possessor, and ruler. He is incomparable in every way; he is subject to no one and no thing; he is the Exalted One (TBD).
אֵל שַׁדַּי	'El Shaddai	God Almighty	Gen. 17:1	The all-powerful One, totally self-sufficient, absolute ruler, and the One who can and does make final disposition (TBD). Translated in the LXX and the NT as <i>Pantokrator</i> (Rev. 16:7).
אֵל עוֹלָם	'El 'Olam	Everlasting God	Is. 40:28	God's everlastingness or eternity speaks of his infinity in relation to time (TBD).
אֵל גִּבּוֹר	'El Gibbor	Mighty God	Is. 9:6	'El Gibbor is a name that speaks of God's power and might (TBD).
אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה	'Ehyeh 'asher 'Ehyeh	I AM WHO I AM	Ex. 3:14	'Ehyeh is probably a wordplay on Yahweh (LORD) in verse 15. Thus, the name Yahweh, related to the verb "to be," probably speaks of God's self-existence, but it means more than that. It usually speaks of His relationship to His people (The Bible Knowledge Commentary).
יהוה	YHWH (Yahweh)	LORD	Ex. 6:2-3	Yahweh is a distinctly proper name of God. It is never used to refer to any pagan gods; neither is it used in regard to men. Yahweh is the name par excellence of Israel's God. As Yahweh, he is a faithful covenant God who, having given his word of love and life, keeps that word by bestowing love and life abundantly on his own (TBD). Usually denoted by the all-caps "LORD" in most English Bibles. The universal term "Hallelujah" comes from the Hebrew meaning "Praise Yah!"
יהוה אֱלֹהִים	Yahweh Elohim	LORD God	Gen. 2:7	The sovereign Creator ("God") of chapter 1 is also the covenant-making Yahweh (LORD). Thus Israel would know that her LORD had created everything, and that He had formed mankind by special design (The Bible Knowledge Commentary).
יהוה צְבָאוֹת	Yahweh Tseva'oth	LORD of Hosts	2Sam. 6:2; Zech. 1:3	Used to remind [the Israelites] that their covenant God had great hosts to fight and work for him on behalf of his people. Thus, though Israel's armies failed, their covenant God was sufficient for every possible circumstance (TBD).
אֲדֹנָי	Adonai	Lord	Ps. 110:1	'Adonai is correctly described as the name of personal communication between the believer and God. In such communication the worshiper acknowledged God's intense majesty and greatness and also the sense of belonging to this God (TBD).

### Elohim and Yahweh in Genesis

- 1:1-2:3 – *Elohim* creates the heavens and the earth and all that is in them
- 2:4-28 – *Yahweh* breathes life into man and places him in the Garden of Eden
- 3:2-7 – Satan only mentions *Elohim* in his dialogue with Eve, and Eve follows
- 3:8-24 – *Yahweh* comes to curse His creatures and to promise restoration of the broken relationship with mankind
- 6:1-8 – *Yahweh* sees the wickedness of man and only finds favor in Noah
- 6:9-22 – *Elohim* sees the corruption on the earth and tells Noah to build the ark; 2 of every animal
- 7:1-5 – *Yahweh* speaks of the immanence of the Flood; 7 of the clean animals
- 7:6-16 – *Elohim* brings the Flood; *Yahweh* shuts them in the ark and saves them
- 8:15-19 – *Elohim* tells Noah, his family and the animals to exit the ark
- 8:20-22 – Noah sacrifices to *Yahweh* who establishes His covenant

## New Testament Names of God

Name (original language)	Name (Translit.)	Meaning	Scripture Examples	Notes
θεός	<i>Theos</i>	God	John 1:1	The NT equivalent of the OT names 'El and 'Elohim. This name was used not only to express God's transcendency, power, sovereignty, and lordship, but also to express that God is one who has a close relationship with his people (TBD).
κύριος	<i>Kurios</i>	Lord	Phil. 2:10-11	Kurios, "Lord," is used to express the OT names Yahweh and 'Adonai in the Septuagint, and the NT follows it (TBD).
Ἰησοῦς	<i>Iesous</i>	Jesus	Matt. 1:21	"Jesus" is the personal name of the Son, the second person of the triune Godhead. It means "savior" (Mt 1:21). The root of this name "to save" gave rise to names such as Joshua, Hoshea, and Hosea (TBD). This is the only name by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12), and it is at this name that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess He is Lord ( <i>kurios</i> ) (Phil. 2:10-11).
ἐγὼ εἰμί.	<i>Ego Eimi</i>	I AM	John 8:58-59	When Jesus referred to Himself with <i>ego eimi</i> , He usually sparked a reaction (see below). Why? Because Jesus was clearly making Himself out to be the Great I AM of the Old Testament, <i>Yahweh</i> .
λόγος	<i>Logos</i>	The Word	John 1:1	The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The Word is God (John 1:1), the God who created all things (John 1:3). Therefore, John equates Jesus with <i>Elohim</i> who created the heavens and the earth in Gen. 1:1.

### Jesus as the I AM

I AM	Scripture	Audience	Promise	Reaction
I AM	<i>Matt. 14:27; Mark 6:50; John 6:20</i>	Disciples		comfort and faith
The Christ, the Son of God	<i>Mark 14:62</i>	High Priest		charges of blasphemy, wanted Him to die
I AM	<i>John 4:26</i>	Woman at the Well		she dropped everything and ran through town telling others about Christ
The Bread of Life	<i>John 6:35</i>	The Crowd	He who comes and believes will never hunger or thirst	the Jews grumbled, even some of His followers turned away
The Light of the World	<i>John 8:12</i>	Pharisees	He who follows Him will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life	called a liar
I AM	<i>John 8:58</i>	Jews		they picked up stones to kill Him
The Door of the Sheep	<i>John 10:7,9</i>	Pharisees	He who enters will be saved and will find green pastures	division, they said He's insane and is demon-possessed
The Good Shepherd	<i>John 10:11,14</i>	Pharisees	He would lay down His life for His own	division, they said He's insane and is demon-possessed
The Resurrection and the Life	<i>John 11:25</i>	Martha, Lazarus' sister	He who believes in Me, though he die, will live	belief
The Way, the Truth and the Life	<i>John 14:6</i>	Thomas	No man comes to the Father, but through Him	
The True Vine	<i>John 15:1,5</i>	Disciples	Whoever abides in Him will bear much fruit	
I AM	<i>John 18:5,8</i>	Roman soldiers		they drew back and fell to the ground

"...unless you believe that I AM you will die in your sins." (Jesus – John 8:24)

**\*\*From Scripture it is clear that Jesus was claiming to be the Great I AM, Yahweh, Himself\*\***

יהוה + אֲדֹנָי = יהוה

YHWH + vowels from Adonai = YeHoWaH (JeHoVaH in English)

**So, Who is Jehovah?**

Jews wanted to avoid blaspheming the Name YHWH (Lev. 24:16)  
7<sup>th</sup> Century AD - Vowels of Adonai were added to YHWH to remind reader to say "Adonai"  
1520 AD – Galatinus conceives idea of combining two words into Jehovah

*That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, Art the most high over all the earth. (Ps. 83:18 – KJV)*