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## *Names of God*

Today we give names to our children simply to identify them and distinguish them from other people. However in former times, a person's name had much greater significance, being descriptive of the person and in some cases, prophetic. Different aspects and attributes of God were revealed to his people, the Jews, through the different names by which He was called. We will look at some of these below.

**Elohim** – is the most commonly used name of God in the Old Testament and it's found in the first verse of the bible. It's normally translated 'God' and is actually a plural word, thus giving the first hint that God is three in one.

**El Shaddai** – The Mighty God or God Almighty is the name by which God was known to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. It is connected in some instances, (**Genesis 28:3; 35:11; 49:25**) with fruitfulness, in the sense of God making us fruitful.

**Yahweh or Jehovah** – are anglicised forms of the original name known as the Tetragrammaton. This is the four letter name, YHWH, by which God revealed himself to Moses and thence to the Jews. Exodus 6:3 When Moses asked God what to tell the people of Israel when they asked him the name of the God who had sent him to them, God said "I AM THAT I AM": ... thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." **Exodus 3:13,14** This name was so sacred it was never pronounced except by the high priest on the Day of Atonement. At other

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times when it had to be spoken it was always rendered “Adonai”, which means “Lord”.

**Jehovah-Jireh** – was the name Abraham gave to the place where he offered up the ram caught in the thicket on Mount Moriah, in place of his son Isaac. **Genesis 22:14** It means ‘The Lord will Provide’.

**Jehovah-Nissi** – means ‘The Lord my Banner’ and is the name Moses gave to the altar which he built on the top of the hill where he stood with his hands supported by Aaron and Hur, while Israel fought against the Amalekites. **Exodus 17:15**

**Jehovah-Shalom** is again the name of an altar. This time it was Gideon who erected it on the site where an angel appeared to him. **Judges 6:24** It means the “Lord send Peace.”

**Jehovah-Rapha** – ‘The Lord our Healer’ is God’s own description of himself. We find it in Exodus 15:26 where the Lord tells the Israelites that if they do what is right and keep his commandments and all his statutes, He will put none of the diseases on them which he put on the Egyptians at the time of the Jews flight from Egypt. – Finally we have: –

**Jehovah-Tsidkenu** – which means ‘The Lord our Righteousness’ which is a title given to the coming Messiah and is found in **Jeremiah 23:6**.

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