



Equipping the Saints  
to do  
the work of the ministry

# Teachers' Manual

2004

The Names of God

## LESSON PLAN THE NAMES OF GOD

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Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are from the Authorized Version of the Bible. (AV=KJ)

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This month we will focus on developing a more personal relationship with God. Because in order for us to grow spiritually we must have a strong, viable relationship with God. This requires us to know God.

Knowing God necessitates us to develop an intimacy with Him through

prayer and studying His word. The depthness of your relationship with God depends solely upon how much you are willing to invest in it. Throughout the bible we are told that God longs to have a relationship with us.

This month we will look at the attributes and characteristics of God as



*Thy word is a light unto my path*

we move forward in our relationship with Him.

*And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flat-teries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.***  
Daniel 11:32

## What's In a Name ? - Lessons Preview

*Please read prior to first lesson*

In biblical days personal names were more than labels to distinguish one person from another. Names expressed not only identification, but also attributes. There was significant meaning attached to a name. The names served as an explanation of the character and various attributes a person possessed. Remember what Abigail said about her husband Nabal? "He is just like his name — his name is Fool" (1 Sam 25:25).

God's covenant names reveal His character and His relationship to us in the various areas of our lives. The names or titles given to God in the Bible reveal much about His characteristics - who He is, what He is like, and what He does. When the Bible uses the phrase the "name of God" or "in the name of the Lord" it refers to His total person - all that He is.

There are three main names of God: Jehovah, Adonai, and Elohim. They are indicated throughout the Bible in very unique ways. The word *Jehovah* (*Yahweh* / *I AM*) is often spelled out as Jehovah. It

is also spelled as LORD (all capital letters). Jehovah is the most frequently used name of God in the Bible. It expresses the totality of God and what He is and what He represents. It is in Genesis chapter 3 when God first revealed Himself as "I AM". Because the Hebrews misinterpreted the Commandments in referencing "taking the Lord's name in vain" they feared to pronounce the name of *Yahweh* (Ex. 20:7; Deut. 5:11). Therefore they substituted in text with the word Adonai.

In the Bible *Adonai* is spelled out *Lord*, with the first letter capitalized. **Jehovah** and **Adonai** are both translated in the New Testament Greek and as **Lord** in most English versions of the Bible (see Mark 12:36).

The word *God* is used to represent *Elohim* in our English bibles. You first see reference to Elohim in Genesis 1:1. Jonah and Daniel used Elohim almost exclusively.

### Other Names Referred to as Names of God

Jehovah Nissi - The Lord my banner (actually this was the name of an altar Moses built [Ex. 17:15-16]).

Jehovah Shalom - The Lord send peace. This too was the name of an altar (Judg. 6:24).

Jehovah Jireh - The Lord will provide. (This was the name Abraham gave to the location where God provided a ram in the bush [Gen. 22:14]).

Jehovah Makaddesh—The Lord Sanctifies (this was taken from the statement in Ex. 31:13 when God told Moses 'I am Jehovah who sanctifies.'

There are numerous other names listed today as names of God. This month we will only take the primary ones found in the scriptures to enlighten our understanding of God and who is to us.

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

## Studying For Yourself

Below is a list of names and meanings commonly known as the names of God. We invite you to study the scriptures for yourself to see where the names derived from. Although today they are being called the names of God, many of them are actually names of locations and/or altars.

**Elohim** (God) means "might or strong one"; it denotes the power and pre-eminence of God and is especially used in relationship to creation and strength. (Genesis 1: 1; Psalm 68: 1)

**Adonai** (Lord) means "master, sovereign ruler or Lord" and generally denotes the authority and position of God. (Psalm 68: 32; Isaiah 6: 8-11)

**Yahweh or Jehovah** (Lord) means most likely the self-existent one (I am who I am or I am the One who is) and denotes God's personal name and His eternity. It is often used in relationship to God as redeemer and covenant keeper. Yahweh is the most common name for God in the Old Testament. God's personal name was so sacred to most Jews that they feared to write or say it lest they misused it and usually substituted Adonai for Yahweh. Jehovah is an English word created from the other two to stand for God's personal name. (Genesis 2:4; Exodus 3:14; Psalm 68:14)

**El Shaddai** means "God Almighty" and pictures God as the all powerful source of

blessing and comfort. (Genesis 17:1; Exodus 6:3; Psalm 68:14)

**El Elyon** means "God most High" and pictures God's strength and sovereignty. (Genesis 14:18; Psalm 9:2)

**El Roi** means "God who sees" and denotes God's personal care and presence (Genesis 16:13)

**El Olam** means "Everlasting and Eternal God" and pictures God's eternity and infinite strength. (Genesis 21:33; Isaiah 40:28)

The following are the main Old Testament Yahweh/Jehovah **compound names**:

**Yahweh Jireh** means the "Lord provides" and was used by Abraham when God provided a sacrificial lamb instead of Isaac. (Genesis 22:14)

**Yahweh Sabaoth** means the "Lord of hosts" (hosts is sometimes translated almighty or army) and pictures God as the commander of the heavenly armies. (Joshua 5:14; I Samuel 1:3; Psalm

24:10)

**Yahweh Rophe** (or Rapha) means the "Lord who heals" and denotes the physical and spiritual healing power of God. (Exodus 15:26)

**Yahweh Shalom** means the "Lord is peace" and denotes the lack of tension, conflict and strife in God. (Judges 6:24)

**Yehweh Nissi** means the "Lord is my banner" and signifies that the battle is the Lord's. (Exodus 17:15)

**Yahweh Tsidkenu** means the "Lord our righteousness" and signifies God as the only source of true righteousness. (Jeremiah 23:6)

**Yahweh Maccaddeschem** means the "Lord our sanctifier" (or the Lord who makes you holy) and signifies that God is the one who sets people apart and makes them holy. (Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 20:8)

**Yahweh Raah** (rohi) means the "Lord our Shepherd" and denotes God's loving care, protection and provision for His people. (Psalm 23:1)

Unit 1  
Lesson 1

# Elohim - God Our Creator

**Memory Verse:** Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth (Isaiah 40:26).

**Lesson: Genesis 1:1 - 3; Deuteronomy 9:1-3**

Read Genesis 1:1-31; Deuteronomy 9:1-5

## Scripture Lesson Text

**Gen. 1:1** In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

**2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**

**3** And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

**Deut. 9:1** Hear, O Israel: Thou *art* to pass over

Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,

**2 A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!**

**3** Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy

God *is* he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.

## *Lesson Exposition*

**Elohim** is one of the covenant names of God. It reveals to us God's divine power to create and His sovereignty.

Elohim is the name that introduces God in Genesis 1:1. **El**, means "strong one" and is connected to God's might, power, sovereignty, majesty, glory, and authority. **Ohim** speaks of

plurality. The name Elohim is always connected to God's acts - it denotes the fullness of divine strength, the sum of the powers displayed by God.

It is interesting to note that even though Elohim is plural, the Hebrew dictionary still translates it "God" instead of "gods." This helps us to understand

that although Elohim is plural, there is only one true and living God. The plural usage was adopted by the Hebrews to express all the excellencies and attributes of the one true God. Some say it also points to the Godhead.

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**The Creator Reveals Himself** - Genesis 1:1-3

The bible opens with “in the beginning God (*Elohim*) created...” The first thing we learn about God is that He is the creator. He is the source of life. He is the source of time.

This is the premise from which we are introduced to the “Strong One.” What an impact this vivid chapter makes. It shows us the authority and creative power God possesses.

Verse 2 states that the “*earth was without form and void.*” Out of emptiness and chaos God created. Out of nothing God can create. Even out of the deadest situation, God can breathe life into it. Out of emptiness God (*Elohim*) can fill your cup exceedingly, abundantly above all you can ask or think. He is the “Creator.” He is the “Strong One.” It is God, the “Strong One” the psalmist sings about in Psalm 68:1 “*Let God (Elohim) arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.*”

Verse 2b— “*and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*” the Spirit of God moved—literally, continued brood-

ing over it, as a fowl does, when hatching eggs. This verse brings to mind an episode that was on television involving a crocodile and its unhatched eggs. The crocodile had taken great measures to prepare a nest for the eggs to prevent anyone or anything from taking them and it stayed very close to them. As the time drew near for the eggs to hatch the zoologists had tried to get the eggs from their protected nest. But because of the crocodile’s ever watchful eye and aggressive behavior when anyone came near the area where the eggs were hidden the zoologists were unsuccessful.

Therefore, they brought in a specialist and he made numerous attempts to get the eggs but the crocodile aggressively protected the nest. The specialist then brought in additional help and eventually did get the eggs.

The crocodile in his limited strength was unable to protect its eggs. But God in His omnipotence is well able to protect His word. Jeremiah 1:12 tells us, “*Then said the LORD to me, You have well seen: for I watch over my word to perform it.*” God watches

over His word , protecting it and ensuring that it accomplishes what He has purposed it to do.

Verse 3 - “*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*” In other words, God commanded it. He willed it. Throughout this chapter we read “*God said*” and it came to pass just as He decreed it to be. God (*Elohim*) in all His creative power, commands and it is so. Remember in 1 Kings 17 during the drought, God commanded a raven to feed Elijah. And after the raven he commanded a widow woman to sustain him. God in His creativity, can feed you in the midst of your wilderness.

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### **The Strong One - Deuteronomy 9:1-3**

The Israelites were getting in position to go up against the Canaanites. Moses, being the leader stood before them to encourage them, just as a coach in a championship game with an opposing undefeated team.

Verse 1 - Moses told them to listen to what I’m about to say. He told them they were going over to

**Unit 1**  
**Lesson 1**

(cont)

Jordan to possess what God had promised them. Then Moses told them about their opposition. He said the opposition was “greater and mightier” than them. These were the giants of Canaan.

Moses told them how well fortified the city was and how their opposition had walls that seemed to reach up to heaven.

*Verse 2* - Moses let them know he was aware that all the other nations were saying that no one could defeat the children of Anakim.

Moses did not try to masquerade the situation. He let them know what

they would be facing so they would not be shocked when the opposition arose. Also, they needed to understand the magnitude of God’s greatness.

*Verse 3* - Moses said but understand (*grasp, comprehend*) this, it is God (Elohim—the Strong One, the Creator) “*is he which goes over before you.*” This battle is not dependent upon your strength but upon God’s. It makes no difference how big the opponents are, God is greater.

Moses brought a vivid illustration back to their remembrance—the consuming fire. They had

seen it throughout their wilderness journey and now Moses tells them that same consuming fire will destroy their enemies.

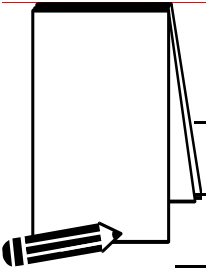
Moses said they are big and their walls (fences) are tall. They are strong but God is stronger.

We as believers must remember that being in faith does not mean that we do not recognize what is opposing us. It means we realize that the Greater One dwells inside of us.

*“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31) .*

### Lesson In Review

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What does Elohim mean?</li> <li>2. According to our lesson today, what are some of the attributes of God?</li> <li>3. Find at least three scriptures that illustrate some of these attributes of God.</li> <li>4. If God is watching over His word pertaining to our purpose, does that</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mean we will not have any opposition? Explain. (See Isaiah 54:15-17).</li> <li>5. What is the significance of knowing the attributes of God?</li> <li>6. Find some scriptures that speak of God’s strength.</li> <li>7. Can God create (<i>cause to be</i>) out of nothing?</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do you know?</li> <li>8. Why did Moses inform the children of Israel what was opposing them?</li> <li>9. Was Moses in faith?</li> <li>10. What must we realize if we are to overcome obstacles? (1 Jhn. 4:4; Rom. 8:31; Ex. 18:11; Ja. 4:7)</li> </ol> |
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*Lessons prepared by Pamela R. Smith*

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## He Is Everything To Me

In His Life, Christ is an example. In His death, He is a sacrifice. In His resurrection, He is a conqueror. In His ascension, He is a king. In His intercession, He is a high priest. Christ is full and sufficient for all His people. He is bread, wine, milk, living waters,

to feed us; He is a garment of righteousness to cover and adorn us; a Physician to heal us; a Counselor to advise us; a Captain to defend us; a Prince to rule us; a Prophet to teach us; a Priest to make atonement for us; a Husband to protect us; a Father to pro-

vide; a Brother to relieve; a Foundation to support; a Root to quicken; a Head to guide; a Treasure to enrich; a Sun to enlighten; and a Fountain to cleanse.

~John Spencer (1630-1693)

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