

What names do you call God by?

How many names do you have for God? How many names do you have for your father or mother? Names can reveal a lot of information about a person. Let's see what names people in the Bible had for God.

1. Why did Melchizedek call God "God Most High?"

Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to **God Most High**. He blessed him and said:
Abram is blessed by **God Most High**,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and blessed be **God Most High**
who has handed over your enemies to you. (Gen 14:18-20, CSB)

2. Why did Hagar call God "God Who sees me?"

The angel of the Lord said to her, "You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard your cry of affliction. This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him; he will settle near all his relatives."

So she named the Lord who spoke to her: "You are **EI-roi**," for she said, "In this place, have I actually seen the **one who sees me?**" (Gen 16:11-13, CSB)

3. Why did Abraham call God "The Everlasting God?"

After they had made a covenant at Beer-sheba, Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, left and returned to the land of the Philistines. Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, **the Everlasting God**. (Gen 21:32-33, CSB)

4. Why did Abraham call God "The Lord Will Provide?"

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. And Abraham named that place **The Lord Will Provide**, so today it is said, "It will be provided on the Lord's mountain." (Gen 22:13-14, CSB)

5. Why did Moses and Aaron call God "Lord God of Israel?"

Later, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Pharaoh, "This is what the **Lord, the God of Israel**, says: Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival for me in the wilderness." (Ex 5:1, CSB)

6. Why did Moses call God “The Lord is My Banner?”

And Moses built an altar and named it, “**The Lord Is My Banner.**” He said, “Indeed, my hand is lifted up toward the Lord’s throne. The Lord will be at war with Amalek from generation to generation.” (Ex 17:15, CSB)

7. Why did Gideon call God “The Lord is Peace?”

When Gideon realized that he was the angel of the Lord, he said, “Oh no, Lord God! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!”

But the Lord said to him, “Peace to you. Don’t be afraid, for you will not die.” So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it **The Lord Is Peace.** It is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites today. (Judg 6:22-24, CSB)

8. Why did Elkanah call God “The Lord of Armies?”

There was a man from Ramathaim-zophim in the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives, the first named Hannah and the second Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah was childless. This man would go up from his town every year to worship and to sacrifice to **the Lord of Armies** at Shiloh, where Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were the Lord’s priests. (1 Sam 1:1-3, CSB)

9. Why does Timothy call God “Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords?”

In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only **Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords**, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen. (1 Tim 6:13-16, CSB)

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Teacher Notes

There are a lot of names that human beings call God by. There are many approaches to how you might teach this material. One method is to read to the student and work through a few selections. Another method is to break up the class into groups and assign a question to each group.

The objective of this lesson is to show that human beings identified God with words of their own special meaning that commemorated a special event or reflected a certain aspect of His nature.

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who has handed over your enemies to you. (Gen 14:18-20, CSB)

Devoted to the same God as Abram (later renamed Abraham), Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest, blessed Abram and his God "elohim 'elyôn 'elyôn" the Possessor of heaven and earth. This Hebrew name is translated into English as **God Most High**. The name is used later by other inspired authors to express God's exalted position over and above all other gods (Num 24:16; 2 Sam 22:14; Ps 18:13).

2. Why did Hagar call God "God Who sees me?"

The angel of the Lord said to her, "You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard your cry of affliction. This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him; he will settle near all his relatives."

So she named the Lord who spoke to her: "You are **El-roi**," for she said, "In this place, have I actually seen the **one who sees me?**" (Gen 16:11-13, CSB)

Mistreated because she was pregnant, Hagar flees from Sarai, but does not know where to go (Gen 16:8). The Angel of the Lord, tells her to return and submit to Sarai, because He will increase her descendants such "that they will be too numerous to count." (Gen 16:10)

Hagar's name for God (Hebrew: El-roi) identifies Him as the One who looks out for her or sees her need.

3. Why did Abraham call God "The Everlasting God?"

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Abraham called upon the Lord after Abimelech and Phicol, acknowledging the supremacy of Abraham's God, sought a covenant of peace and restored the well at Beersheba that was belonged to Abraham. This sense of God's everlasting faithful fidelity is conveyed by Isaiah (Isa 26:4) and the Psalmist (Ps 90:2).

4. Why did Abraham call God "The Lord Will Provide?"

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. And Abraham named that place **The Lord Will Provide**, so today it is said, "It will be provided on the Lord's mountain." (Gen 22:13-14, CSB)

In one instance, in lieu of a personal name, God introduced himself to Abraham as "the Lord (Yēhovah) who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans" (Gen 15:7), and Abraham follows this pattern of address when he commemorates an area where God provides a sacrifice in lieu of Isaac (Gen 22:14).

5. Why did Moses and Aaron call God "Lord God of Israel?"

Later, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Pharaoh, "This is what the **Lord, the God of Israel**, says: Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival for me in the wilderness." (Ex 5:1, CSB)

Help the student learn about context. When one encounters a new idea or subject, it is often explained elsewhere in the Bible. While one must be aware of Hebrew, this is such an example:

Commanded by God to return to his land, Jacob fears the prospect of meeting his brother Esau, who he assumes desires to take revenge for stealing the birthright, and prays to the God of Abraham and Isaac for deliverance from Esau's wrath (Gen 32:9-12). While alone, Jacob meets and wrestles God who renames him Israel, one who strives with God (Gen 32:28). When met by Esau's loving welcome, Jacob realized his prayers were answered and he commemorates the spot.

Then Jacob erected there an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel (The God of Israel). (Gen 33:20)

Once God revealed His covenant name YHWH to Moses, Yēhovah was combined with other Hebrew words to describe the God of Israel. Moses uses God's memorial name "YHWH" in place of "El" which renders the title from "**The God of Israel**" to "**Lord God of Israel**." This title would be used elsewhere in the Old Testament (Ex 32:27; 34:23; Num 16:9; Josh 7:13, 19).

6. Why did Moses call God "The Lord is My Banner?"

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When battling the Amalekites (Ex 17:8-13), the tide of the battle was determined by whether Moses held the staff of God high or not. In acknowledgment of victory through the divine enablement of the raised staff of God, Moses commemorates the visual encouragement it provided the fighting Israelites.

7. Why did Gideon call God “The Lord is Peace?”

When Gideon realized that he was the angel of the Lord, he said, “Oh no, Lord God! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!”

But the Lord said to him, “Peace to you. Don’t be afraid, for you will not die.” So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it **The Lord Is Peace**. It is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites today. (Judg 6:22-24, CSB)

Reassuring Gideon who was surprised to behold the face of the Angel of the Lord, God tells him “do not fear, you shall not die.” Gideon commemorates the spot where God wished him peace (Judg 6:24).

8. Why did Elkanah call God “The Lord of Armies?”

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Introduced around the time when Israel demanded a king, the name The Lord of Armies was frequently used by the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zechariah. In the figurative sense, “the Lord of hosts” depicts an image of a warrior God and alludes to God’s power over all nations.

9. Why does Timothy call God “Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords?”

In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you to keep this command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. God will bring this about in his own time. He is the blessed and only **Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords**, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see, to him be honor and eternal power. Amen. (1 Tim 6:13-16, CSB)

In his letter, Paul encourages Timothy to be steadfast in his faith and commitment to teach the truth with a focus on a holy life with God. Paul places the sovereignty of God above all as a reminder that, regardless of the challenges by earthly authorities or cultural norms, the life of a Believer goes beyond the earthly present.