

Lesson 1: Elohim

Mighty Creator, The One True God

1. What's so important about a name?

- **Old Testament - names describe a person's character or a particular quality**
 - Examples:
 - Isaac = laughter
 - Jacob = heel-grabber, supplanter, trickster, liar
- We can only see a fraction in English—for the Hebrew, try using www.biblehub.com/hebrew

Genesis 2:7 - And the LORD God formed the adam (man) from the dust of adamah (ground).

◀ Genesis 2:7 ▶

Text Analysis

[Go to Parallel Hebrew](#)

Strong's	Hebrew	English	Morphology
3335 [e]	וַיַּצֵּר way-yî-ser	And formed	Conj-w V-Qal-ConsecImperf-3ms
3068 [e]	יְהוָה Yah-weh	Yahweh	N-proper-ms
430 [e]	אֱלֹהִים 'ē-lō-hîm	God	N-mp
853 [e]	אֶת־ 'et-	-	DirObjM



- Genesis 4:1 - Eve bore Cain and she said I have cain (brought forth, acquired) a man.”
- Genesis 4:25 - She bore a son and called him Seth because God seth (placed, appointed) a seed to replace Abel.
- Genesis 5:29 - And he called his name Noah saying he will noah (comfort) us.
- Genesis 10:25 - And to Eber were born two sons, the name of one is Peleg because in his days the land was peleg (divided).

2. What are the primary names of God?

Most frequently used in the Old Testament:

- Yahweh (YHWH) – approx. 6,800 times
- Elohim - approx. 2,600 times
- Adonai – 439 times
- El – 238 times

Most of the other names are combinations (e.g. Yahweh Elohim, El Shaddai, etc.)

Jehovah (Yehova) came later as a substitution for YHWH (Yahweh) – *will be explained in greater detail in Lesson 5*

Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

“God” = Elohim

- When we see “God” in English – it’s *usually* “Elohim” in Hebrew
 - It could be “El” or “Eloah” in Hebrew
 - “Elohim” can also mean “god,” “gods,” “judges,” and “rulers”

In ancient Hebrew pictographs, each letter represented both a sound and a concept

א (aleph) – picture of an ox head. Represented “**strength**,” (from the strength of the ox)

ל (lamed) - picture of a shepherd staff. Represented “**authority**,” (like the authority of the shepherd over the flock)

El = the strong authority

When we see the word “God,” we picture an old bearded man sitting on a throne in the clouds. But when the ancient Hebrews saw the word “El,” they imagined the strength of an ox and the authority of a shepherd. - Jeff A. Benner, His Name is One

Genesis 2:4 – ...when the **LORD** **God** made the earth...

Yahweh (YHWH) **Elohim**

Deut 6:4 – The Shema -

Hear, O Israel, the **LORD** our **God**, the **LORD** is one.

Yahweh **Elohim** **Yahweh**

Psalm 8:1 - Oh **LORD**, our **Lord**, how majestic is your name in all the earth...

Yahweh **Adonai** = master, ruler over all things

Jesus = Y'shua (Joshua) = Yahweh saves

**Jesus is Yahweh incarnate, Yahweh in the flesh,
sent from heaven to earth to save his people from their sins.**

3. **"Elohim" and the Trinity**

- "El" is the singular – it means "strong" or "mighty"
- "Elohiym" (also spelled "Elohim") is a masculine, plural noun
- All three members of the Trinity were involved in creation.
 - Gen. 1:26 – "Let **us** make man in **our** image"
 - Gen 3:22 – speaks of man becoming "like one of us"
 - Gen 11:7 – "Let **us** go down and confuse their language"
- The father's *will* - Rev. 4:11 – you created all things and by your will they were created...
- The son's *words* - Col 1:16 – in Jesus, the Son of God, all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, Heb 1:2 - in these last days he has spoken to us by his son, through whom he made the universe... sustaining all things by his powerful word..., John 1:1 - in the beginning was the Word (logos) and the word was with God, and the Word was God
- The spirit's *work* - Gen 1:2 - ...and the spirit of God was hovering over the waters...

*Video clip: search YouTube for "Adventures of Toby Making Friends" – 2:41 long

"The name 'Elohim' contains the idea of creative and governing power, of omnipotence and sovereignty. It is Elohim who by His mighty power creates the vast universe; who says, and it is done; who brings into being what was not. It is most appropriate that by this name God should reveal Himself– bringing cosmos out of chaos, light out of darkness, habitation out of desolation, and life in His image." -Nathan Stone, Names of God

This week - Notice: what makes you marvel at God's creativity?