

# Names of God - Elohim

God uses many different names in the Old Testament for Himself. In our English language Bibles these names are usually translated "Lord" or "God" or "Lord God". But we miss the richness of these words if we don't go back to the original language. In Hebrew we get a much more varied selection of the many different names and their meanings. Each name gives us insights into God's character and how He relates to His people.

? How can knowing God's names teach us to trust Him more deeply?

? How can knowing God's names transform us and the way we interact with those around us?

In the 1970s, long before texting, WhatsApp or Social Media, and probably before home telephones were universal, there was the CB radio craze: short range radios which allowed for two-way communication. When entering the world of CB radio, the first thing you had to do was decide what your "handle" would be - this was your "CB name", how you would distinguish yourself from others, and how you would be known.

**God's names in Scripture are concepts that we can hold on to just like a handle. These names help us to embrace Him. The handles describe different aspects of His character and position. They speak of His many different roles. We need these "handles" for God so we can better understand who He is.**

? What other names of God come to mind?

? Which names do you most commonly use for God in prayer?

These are the names we'll be exploring in this series:

- Elohim God of Power and Might (The Creator)

- El Shaddai: The All Sufficient One
- Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness
- Jehovah Nissi: The Lord My Banner
- Jehovah Rohi: The Lord My Shepherd
- Jehovah Jireh: The God Who Meets Our Needs
- Jehovah Rophe: The God who Heals
- Jehovah Shalom: The Lord Our Peace
- Immanuel: God with us

God's names are complimentary - just as your characteristics are - you can be kind and funny. God can be both judge and Father.

**Note:** this series isn't primarily about learning the names of God, but gaining a fresh perspective of God through those names, and encountering Him for ourselves:

- **Jesus' says in John 17:3 - "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."**

## Elohim

This week's name is Elohim (pronounced "el-oheem") which means God of Power and Might, the Creator. It also refers to God's sovereignty - He is a creating and governing power.

**?** What's the most awesome thing you've seen/experienced in Creation?  
Beauty / Scale / Power

God as Elohim is seen throughout the Bible. In the book of Job, Job demanded answers from God about his personal pain and suffering. Job wanted God to be accountable to him. God's answer to Job begins in Job 38-42:6 is Elohim.

God's response to Job reminds me (Ricky) of the way I occasionally want to respond when someone asks me why some menial task hasn't been done - I

want to list some of the other more important things that I've been doing that they aren't even aware are my responsibility.

Encourage your group to have a quick skim of these chapters.

? What do you notice in God's response to Job?

? Did anything specific jump out at you?

✓ Make time this week read this passage where God (Elohim) directs Job to consider creation, to behold God in Creation.

## Pillars of Creation

Below is an image taken by the Hubble Space Telescope of part of an active star-forming region within the Eagle Nebula - hidden in these wispy columns are new stars being "born". This is a great picture of the awesome power of God which created (and is still creating) the visible and invisible.

It gets its name from a phrase used by CH Spurgeon in a sermon about the birth of Jesus. Spurgeon uses the phrase to convey not only the physical world but also the force that keeps it all together, emanating from the divine: "*And now wonder, ye angels,*" Spurgeon says of the birth of Christ, "*the Infinite has become an infant; he, upon whose shoulders the universe doth hang, hangs at his mother's breast; He who created all things, and bears up the pillars of creation, hath now become so weak, that He must be carried by a woman!*"



[Pillars of Creation - Hubble Space Telescope / Source: https://www.nasa.gov/image-article/pillars-of-creation/](https://www.nasa.gov/image-article/pillars-of-creation/)

## Worship:

Relating to God as Elohim will call us to worship Him - that seems to be the only response which rightly acknowledges God as omnipotent Creator. The Psalmist recognised this:

**Psalm 95:6 - "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;"**

If you are able, watch/listen to "Who Can Know (I Stand in Awe)" [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNkXGDwZB-4>] as a response to God.

## List of Scriptures referenced in preach:

- **Genesis 1:1-2 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.**
- **John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**
- **Proverbs 18:10 - "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."**
- **Mark 15:34 - "And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")."**
- **Hebrews 11:3 - "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."**
- **Psalm 19:1-4a - "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."**
- **Romans 1:20 - "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."**

## Creator and Created



*[included as additional response, for now or another time]*

Three things for us to know:

1. you are made in God's image [Genesis 1:26-27]
  - a. this is your identity, which should lead to confidence
  - b. you are creative because God is creative [Gen 1:1]
  - c. Psalm 139 - God knows you intimately
2. you were created to bring God glory [Isaiah 43:1,3,4,7; Revelation 4:11]
  - a. we're called to give correct account/estimate of God
  - b. created for a relationship with Him and to bring Him glory in all we do
  - c. to bear His image well
  - d. don't magnify your flaws and failures - instead magnify God - you can never over-do it
3. you were created for good works [Ephesians 2:1-10]
  - a. God planned them in advance
  - b. we need to discover them through relationship with God
    - i. the almighty, supreme, majestic God of power and might who created us, knows us and loves us