

KNOWING GOD BY HIS NAME

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Throughout the Scriptures God has revealed Himself through His many names. It is by His name that we come to be able to relate to God for who He really is. Jesus taught us to pray to our Father in heaven and to *“hallow His name”* **Matthew 6:9**. We can only effectively pray to our Father by apprehending who He is through His name. All of His names have their complete fulfilment in Jesus the Messiah as He is *“the fullness of the Godhead bodily”* **Colossians 2:9**. So when we pray in the name of **Jesus**, we actually pray according to, and in agreement with, all the fullness of who God has revealed Himself to be, and so *“If you ask anything in My [Jesus] name, I will do it”* **John 14:14**.

El Elyon – God Most High

The first appearance of the name *“God Most High”* is in **Genesis 14:18-20** where this name is mentioned three times in the context of Melchizedek appearing before Abram. In Hebrew this name is *El Elyon*. *El* means *God, God-like one, mighty one, strength*. *Elyon* means *an elevation, lofty; as a title ‘the Supreme’*. It also has the meaning of *uppermost; highness, exalted, high in rank. It is derived from the verb ‘alah meaning ‘to ascend’* [From Word Wealth in **Genesis 14:18** in New Spirit Filled Life Bible].

From **Genesis 14:18-20** we see that *El Elyon*:

- **Blesses** through His appointed **Priest/King (v.18-19)**
- **Possesses** heaven and earth
- Is to be **blessed** and praised (**v.20**)
- **Delivers** our enemies into our hands

El Elyon is referred to as the One *“most high above all the earth...exalted far above all gods”* **Psalm 97:9**. This name is linked to *YHWH* in **Psalm 7:17**, *“And will sing praise to the name of YHWH Most High”*; and *YHWH Elyon* is mentioned as the *“great King over all the earth”* in **Psalm 47:2**.

Jesus – El Elyon in the flesh

Jesus is the fulfilment and embodiment of *El Elyon*, God Most High.

- The **blessing** of the Most High God comes through His Priest/King. Jesus is that *“priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”* **Hebrews 7:17,21**.
- Jesus is the **Possessor** of heaven and earth. It is written that the Son of God has *“the ends of the earth for His possession”* **Psalm 2:7-8** and Jesus, after rising from the dead, said *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”* **Matthew 28:18**.
- Jesus is to be **blessed!** He is called *“the blessed and only Potentate”* **1 Timothy 6:15**
- Jesus **delivers** our enemies into our hands! *“Having made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it [the cross]”* **Colossians 2:15**

- Jesus is **exalted far above all gods!** He has been raised and is seated at God's right hand "*far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named*" **Ephesians 1:21**
- Jesus is the **great King over all the earth.** The Messiah was prophesied to be "*the highest of the kings of the earth*" **Psalm 89:27** and He is now established as the "*ruler over the kings of the earth*" **Revelation 1:5.**

Jesus is *El Elyon*, God Most High, in flesh!

El Shadday – Almighty God

The word *Shadday* means *all powerful, most powerful. Some people trace its origin to the word meaning 'mighty, unconquerable'. Some link it to a word meaning 'all sufficient, eternally capable of meeting His people's need'. Others link it to a word meaning 'mountain, strength'.* [From Word Wealth in **Psalm 91:1** in New Spirit Filled Life Bible]. As the Almighty God, He is the One who has all power and is able to supply all things necessary for our needs.

God spoke to Moses saying "***I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, as God Almighty [El Shadday], but by My name YHWH I was not known to them***" **Exodus 6:3.** The patriarchs knew God as *El Shadday*. They did not have the revelation of His name *YHWH*. This was because God made covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as *El Shadday* (**Genesis 17:1-8, Genesis 28:1-4, Genesis 35:11**), whereas God made covenant with His people through Moses through His name *YHWH*.

God as El Shadday:

- **Made covenant** with the patriarchs, making promises to his **Seed**, and supplying all that is necessary to bring His plans to pass
- **Brought forth the eternal destinies** of the patriarchs, even **changing their names** to fit the **destiny** He had for them - **Genesis 17:5, 35:10**
- **Gave profound blessings** upon the head of Joseph – **Genesis 49:25-26**
- Has a **voice like the sound of many waters** – **Ezekiel 1:24, 10:5**

Jesus – El Shadday in the flesh

God made covenant through His name *El Shadday* to Abraham. God now makes His New Covenant through His name **JESUS!** He is the "***Mediator of the New Covenant***" **Hebrews 9:15.** Jesus fulfils the name of *El Shadday* by:

- **Being the fulfilment of the covenant and promises** made to the patriarchs – **Galatians 3:16**
- Bringing believers in Jesus into their **eternal destinies**, the "***good works which He prepared beforehand for us to walk in***" **Ephesians 2:10**
- **Changing names (destinies)** also, changing **Simon to Peter** to fit his destiny as a founding stone in the building of His church **John 1:42**
- Pronouncing **profound blessings** of the kingdom of heaven on those who come in the right attitudes – **Matthew 5:3-10**
- **Being the "Almighty"** "***I am the Alpha and the Omega...the Almighty***" **Revelation 1:8,11**
- Speaking with **the voice** of the Almighty – **Revelation 1:15, Ezekiel 1:24**

Jesus is *El Shadday* in the flesh!

El Gibbor – the Mighty God

The word *Gibbor* means *powerful, warrior, strong one, valiant, brave man* and has been translated as *champion* and has the sense of meaning a *hero*. God is revealing Himself as **champion** and **hero** of His people, the **valiant** and **strong one** who fights as a **warrior** for us.

As *El Gibbor*:

- **“Nothing is too difficult for You...the Mighty God...YHWH of Hosts is His name” Jeremiah 32:17-18.** YHWH Himself is the Mighty God
- He causes our **“persecutors to stumble”** as YHWH is known to be **“a Mighty awesome One”** Jeremiah 20:11
- YHWH is in the midst of us as **“The Mighty One who will save”** Zephaniah 3:17. He is the champion and hero of His people, **delivering** and **saving** us with great victories
- YHWH of Hosts is **“strong and Mighty [Gibbor], Mighty in battle”** and is known as the **“King of Glory”** Psalm 24:7-10. He is the King who wins every battle!
- The **Son of God** **“will be called...Mighty God...”** Isaiah 9:6.
- It was also prophesied **“YHWH shall go forth like a mighty man [a Gibbor]...He shall prevail against His enemies”** Isaiah 42:13.

Jesus – El Gibbor in the flesh

Jesus is the Mighty Champion, the Hero and **“Captain of our salvation”** Hebrews 2:10.

Jesus fulfilled this name:

- He is the **“great God and Saviour of us, Jesus Christ”** Titus 2:13. Jesus is the Mighty One in our midst to **save** and **deliver**
- He is the One who is **strong and Mighty** leading His hosts to victory **“And the armies in heaven...followed Him...out of His mouth goes a sharp sword...to strike the nations”** Revelation 19:14-15
- He is the **“King of glory”** as He was called the **“Lord of glory”** who brings the rulers of the earth to nothing – 1 Corinthians 2:6-8
- He is the fulfilment of the prophecy in **Isaiah** to be the **Son** who is the **Mighty God** – **The Son of God is El Gibbor in the flesh**, being given to us
- He is YHWH in the flesh who came and prevailed against the devil as a man in the wilderness – **Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus is El Gibbor, the Mighty God, in the flesh!

El Olam – The Everlasting God

The word *Olam* means *long duration, generally ‘time out of mind’, eternity*. In other words, God cannot be calculated by our minds, He is outside of our thinking, He is **God Everlasting**. After Abraham made a covenant with Abimelech, he **“called on the name of YHWH, the Everlasting God”** Genesis 21:33. It seems that the name *El Olam* is a good description of the name *YHWH*. He is the everlasting, eternal One, who is God. Moses also knew the awesome eternal nature of God by saying **“Even from everlasting [olam] to everlasting [olam], You are God”** Psalm 90:2.

Jesus – El Olam in the flesh

It was prophesied concerning the Messiah in **Micah 5:2** that He would be born in the earth in Bethlehem, but He would be *“from everlasting [literally ‘from the days of ‘olam’]”*. This prophecy came to pass in Jesus. He is the One from Everlasting. Jesus said *“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life”* **John 6:54**. By partaking of Jesus you partake of *El Olam* and you receive everlasting life!

Jesus is *El Olam*, the Everlasting God, in the flesh!

El Nasa – God-Who-Forgives

The word *Nasa* means *to lift, bear up, carry, take*. It is translated in many ways such as *bear, carry away, forgive, lift up* and many others. In **Psalm 99:8** it says *“You answered them, O YHWH our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives [El Nasa]”*. It is one of the attributes that describes God’s manifest glory *“forgiving [nasa] iniquity, transgression and sin”* **Exodus 34:7**. It was also used of the Scapegoat on the Day of Atonement *“the goat shall bear [nasa] on itself all the iniquities to an uninhabited land...”* **Leviticus 16:22**. The revelation is that God forgives by carrying away and bearing our iniquities! He is the God who lifts up, takes away and bears all our iniquities!

Jesus – El Nasa in the flesh

It was prophesied in **Isaiah 53:12** that the Messiah, the Servant, would be *“numbered with the transgressors, and He bore [nasa] the sins of many”*. Jesus was the One who was *“lifted up from the earth”* **John 12:32** and *“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree”* **1 Peter 2:24**. It is in and through Jesus that we have *“redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”* **Ephesians 1:7** and *“through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins”* **Acts 13:38**.

Jesus is *El Nasa*, the God-Who-Forgives, coming in the flesh!

El Roi – The God who Sees

When Hagar, the maidservant of Sarah, was chased away, she found herself alone and desperate. The Angel of YHWH found her and spoke kindly to her. He promised her many descendants through her son Ishmael (**Genesis 16:6-12**). As a result of this encounter with God, Hagar *“called the name of YHWH who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees: for she said, ‘Have I also here seen Him who sees me?’”* **Genesis 16:13**.

God has revealed Himself as the One who sees us. God spoke to the prophet Samuel *“Do not look at his appearance or physical stature...for man looks at the outward appearance, but YHWH looks at the heart”* **1 Samuel 16:7**. The eyes of YHWH *“run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him”* **2 Chronicles 16:9**. God sees the invisible reality of who we are and what we are going through.

Jesus – El Roi in the flesh

The apostle John saw Jesus as *“a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God...”* **Revelation 5:6**. The number ‘7’ speaks of a complete and perfect number, thus, seven eyes speaks of perfect sight, knowing all things. Jesus sees everything. He sees everything by the Spirit of God. He knows all things that

are in us *“He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears, but with righteousness...and equity...”* Isaiah 11:3-4. The Messiah does not judge by appearances but *“He knew all men...for He knew what was in man”* John 2:24-25. Jesus was able to *“perceive in His Spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves”* Mark 2:8. Jesus sees the hearts of men.

Jesus is *El Roi*, the God-Who-Sees, coming in the flesh!

El Bethel – God of the House of God

The patriarch Jacob had an awesome experience when he had to flee from his brother Esau. He met God in a dream and saw by revelation the *house of God*. He named the place of that experience *Bethel* [literally ‘house of God’] Genesis 28:12-22. When Jacob returned there many years later he *“called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother”* Genesis 35:7. This is a wonderful revelation that God is *the God of the house of God!* He is the One building His house, He is in charge of His house and looking after His house.

Jesus – El Bethel in the flesh

When Peter received the revelation that Jesus was the *“the Christ, the Son of the Living God”* Matthew 16:16, Jesus was able to say to him, *“you are Peter and on this Rock I will build My church”* Matthew 16:18. Jesus is building His church.

Paul wrote to Timothy to say that *“the house of God is the church of the living God”* 1 Timothy 3:15. The Church that Jesus is building is actually the house of God! In revealing Jesus as the *“Apostle of our confession”*, the writer to the Hebrews says that Christ Jesus *“built the house”*, *“He who built all things is God”* and that *“Christ is the Son over His own house, whose house we are”* Hebrews 3:1,3,4,6. Jesus is building the house, He is God and He is the Son over the house which we are! Hallelujah!

Truly Jesus is *El Bethel*, the God of the House of God, coming in the flesh!

El Emeth – The True God

The word *Emeth* means *stability, certainty, truth, trustworthiness, right and faithful*. It is clear in the Old Testament that *“YHWH is the True God”* Jeremiah 10:10. Knowing Him as the *True God* is directly related to having been taught the word, the truth. At the time when Asa was king of Judah, a prophet was raised up who spoke *“For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law”* 2 Chronicles 15:3. To know the True God we must have the right teaching because *“wooden idols are a worthless doctrine”* Jeremiah 10:8 (1 Tim.1:3b). Knowing the *True God* brings certainty and stability to our lives.

Jesus – El Emeth in the flesh

Jesus said clearly *“I am the...truth”* John 14:6. When we receive the testimony of Jesus the Messiah we actually certify that *“God is true”* John 3:33. The apostle John wrote clearly that *“the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life”* 1 John 5:20. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the *True God!* In knowing

Jesus as the *True God* than we are to “*keep ourselves from idols*” **1 John 5:21**. Jesus is the *True God* and any other so called ‘god’ is an idol, a worthless doctrine.

Jesus is *El Emeth*, the True God, in the flesh!

The names of God are clearly manifested in the name and person of Jesus. Apprehend Him, know Him and relate with Him according to His name. “*If you ask anything in My name, I will do it*” **John 14:14**