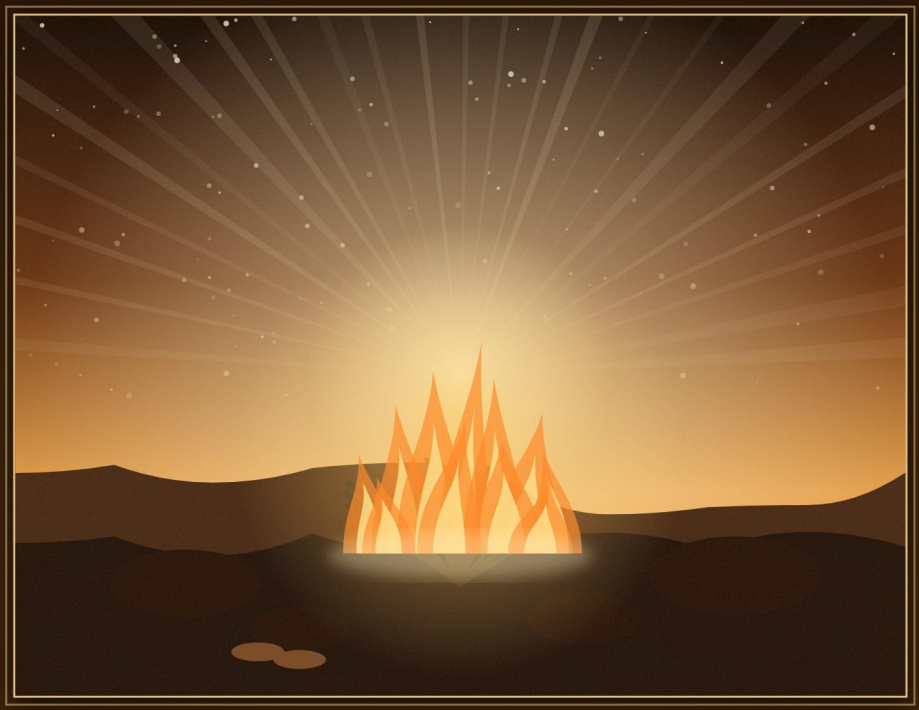
A SHORT BIBLE STUDY

The Names of God

Short Studies for the Christian Life



What His names and the titles of Jesus tell us about Him

Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity Enterprises

The Names of God

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The Names of God: What His Names and the Titles of Jesus Tell Us About Him

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Independently published.

Trinfinity Enterprises, Dayton, Nevada.

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A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

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Introduction

> *A tower of strength **is** the name of the LORD; into it a righteous **one** runs and is set on high.*
>
> Proverbs 18:10 (SLB)

In our culture, a name is mostly a label. Parents pick one because they like the sound of it, or to honor a grandparent. In the Bible, names often carry meaning. Abram became Abraham, "father of a multitude." Jacob became Israel. Jesus gave Simon the name Peter, "rock." A name could tell you who someone was, or who God was making them to be.

That is especially true of God's names. God doesn't have names the way we do, as labels to tell Him apart from other gods. There are no other gods. His names are ways He has made Himself known. Each one shows us something about who He is. Some of them He gave Himself. Others were given by people who had just met Him in a new way, in a desert, on a battlefield, or on a mountain where their son should have died.

Why It Matters

Proverbs says the name of the LORD is a tower of strength, and the righteous run into it. When I know God's names, I know more about the God I am running to. When I'm afraid, I remember He is God Almighty. When I feel unseen, I remember He is the God who sees. When I need provision, I remember He is the LORD who sees to it.

God's name is also holy. The third commandment says not to "lift up the name of the LORD your God to emptiness" (Exodus 20:7). Jesus taught us to pray, "let Your name be sanctified"

(Matthew 6:9), which means treated as holy. Learning His names is one way to honor them.

How This Book Works

The first chapter explains the three most common words for God in the Old Testament: God, Lord, and LORD. The next three chapters look at the names that show His power, His care, and His promises. The last two look at the names and titles of Jesus, including His "I am" sayings in John. Each chapter ends with questions for personal reading or a small group. At the back is a chart of every name in the book.

A note on spelling. When I give a Hebrew or Greek form, I use the common English spelling you will see in most books. Scholars spell some of these a little differently. The meaning is what matters.

Chapter 1: God, Lord, and LORD

> *LORD, our Lord, how majestic **is** Your name in all the earth, You who have set Your splendor above the heavens!*
>
> Psalm 8:1 (SLB)

If you read the Old Testament in most English Bibles, you will notice three different words: God, Lord, and LORD, with the last one printed in capital letters. They are not the same. Knowing the difference opens up a lot.

God: Elohim

The very first verse of the Bible uses the most common word for God: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The Hebrew word is *Elohim*. It speaks of God as the mighty Creator, the One with all power. It appears thousands of times in the Old Testament.

Elohim is plural in form, but when it refers to the true God it is used with singular verbs. In Genesis 1:1, "created" is singular. Many believers have seen in this a hint of the truth later revealed more fully, that the one God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The word by itself doesn't prove that, but it fits it. My free book *One God, Three Persons* looks at the Trinity in detail.

Lord: Adonai

When you see "Lord" with only a capital L, it often translates *Adonai*, which means "Lord" or "Master." It speaks of God's authority. He is the Owner and Ruler, and we are His servants. When Isaiah saw the vision in the temple, he said, "I saw the Lord sitting on a throne" (Isaiah 6:1). The Lord is in charge.

LORD: The Name God Gave Himself

When you see LORD in capital letters, the Hebrew has God's personal name, the name He revealed to Moses at the burning bush.

> *And Moses said to God, "Look, I **am** going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they will say to me, 'What **is** His name?' What shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" And God said again to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This **is** My name forever, and this **is** My memorial to generation **after** generation."* (Exodus 3:13-15)

Moses asked God's name. God answered, "I AM WHO I AM." Then He gave His name, which is closely related in Hebrew to the words "I am." It is written with four Hebrew letters, YHWH. Most scholars believe it was pronounced *Yahweh*. Over time, out of reverence and fear of misusing it, Jewish readers stopped saying the name aloud and said *Adonai* (Lord) instead. Most English Bibles, including the SLB, follow that long practice and print the name as LORD in capitals.

The name tells us that God simply is. He was not made. He depends on no one. He has always existed and always will. And He is the same faithful God who made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. "This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to generation after generation."

The LORD Our God

Put the names together and they say something wonderful. The great Creator (*Elohim*) and Master (*Adonai*) is also the LORD, the God who has a personal name and makes Himself known to His people. Israel's central confession says it plainly: "Hear, Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). There is one God, and He is not distant. He is "our God."

When Names Combine

Often in the Old Testament, God's name is joined to a word that tells us something about Him. "The LORD will see." "The LORD is peace." "The LORD our righteousness." Sometimes people gave these names to an altar or a place to remember what God had done there. These are not new gods or new names to be used like magic words. They are descriptions of the one LORD, remembered by people who had met Him. The next three chapters look at them.

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between "God," "Lord," and "LORD" in most English Bibles?
2. What does the name *Elohim* tell us about God?
3. Read Exodus 3:13-15. What did God tell Moses about His name?
4. Why do you think Jewish readers stopped saying God's name aloud? What does that teach us about reverence?
5. What does Deuteronomy 6:4 say about who God is?

Chapter 2: Names That Show His Power

> *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will lodge in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "My refuge and my stronghold, my God, in whom I trust."*
>
> Psalm 91:1-2 (SLB)

Some of God's names show His greatness: His power over all things, His rule over all nations, His eternity, and His command of heaven's armies. These are names for days when I feel small and the world feels big.

God Almighty: El Shaddai

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, he and Sarai still had no son together. God had promised them a son long before, and by every human measure it was now impossible. Then God appeared to him.

> *And Abram was a son of ninety-nine years, and the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I **am** God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless."* (Genesis 17:1)

"I am God Almighty." In Hebrew, *El Shaddai*. Scholars debate the exact root of *Shaddai*, but the meaning in the Bible is clear from how it is used. It is the God who has all power and keeps His promises when nothing else can. The next year Isaac was born. Later God told Moses that He had appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob "as God Almighty" (Exodus 6:3). Revelation calls the Lord "the Almighty" again (Revelation 1:8). Nothing is too hard for Him.

God Most High: El Elyon

> *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; and he **was** a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, "Blessed **be** Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed **be** God Most High, who has delivered your adversaries into your hand." And he gave him a tenth of everything.*
> (Genesis 14:18-20)

After Abram rescued his nephew Lot from four kings, a mysterious king-priest named Melchizedek met him with bread and wine and blessed him by "God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth." In Hebrew, *El Elyon*. This name says that God is above everything. He is higher than kings and nations and every power in heaven and on earth. Abram had just defeated four armies, and Melchizedek reminded him who had really given the victory.

Psalm 91 uses this name to describe a place of safety: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will lodge in the shadow of the Almighty." The One above all things is the One who shelters me.

The God of Eternity: El Olam

Abraham planted a tree at Beersheba and called on "the name of the LORD, the God of eternity" (Genesis 21:33). In Hebrew, *El Olam*. God has no beginning and no end. Everything else changes, wears out, and passes away. He doesn't. Isaiah says He "does not grow faint, and He does not grow weary" (Isaiah 40:28). The God Abraham trusted is the same God I trust today.

The LORD of Armies: Yahweh Tsebaoth

This name appears hundreds of times, especially in the prophets. Older English Bibles say "LORD of hosts." The SLB says "LORD of armies," which is what the Hebrew word means. It pictures God as Commander of the armies of heaven: the angels, the stars, and all the powers of creation.

> *And David said to the Philistine, "You are coming to me with sword and with spear and with javelin, and I am coming to you in the name of the LORD of armies, the God of the battle lines of Israel, whom you have defied."*
> (1 Samuel 17:45)

When David faced Goliath, he had no armor and no sword. But he knew the name of the One he served. Goliath had a sword and a spear. David had the LORD of armies. When I face something far bigger than I am, that name is a good one to remember.

Study Questions

1. Read Genesis 17:1. Why was "God Almighty" the right name for Abram to hear at ninety-nine?
2. What does "God Most High" mean? Why did Abram need to hear it after his victory?
3. How does the name "the God of eternity" comfort you in a changing world?
4. What did David know about the LORD of armies that gave him courage (1 Samuel 17:45)?
5. Which of these four names do you most need to remember this week? Why?

Chapter 3: Names That Show His Care

*The LORD **is** my shepherd; I will not lack.*

Psalm 23:1 (SLB)

God is not only great. He is near. Some of His most precious names were given by people who met Him in a time of need and found that He cared.

The God Who Sees: El Roi

Hagar was an Egyptian slave. Sarai gave her to Abram to have a child, and when Hagar became pregnant, Sarai treated her so harshly that she ran away into the desert. She was alone, pregnant, and far from home. And there the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water (Genesis 16:7).

> *And she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You **are** a God of seeing," for she said, "Have I also here seen after Him who sees me?"* (Genesis 16:13)

Hagar named Him "a God of seeing." In Hebrew, *El Roi*. She was a foreign servant whom nobody else seemed to notice. But God saw her. If you have ever felt invisible, this name is for you. He sees.

The LORD Will See: Yahweh Yireh

God tested Abraham by telling him to offer his son Isaac on a mountain in Moriah. On the way, Isaac asked where the lamb was, and Abraham answered, "God will see to the lamb for Himself" (Genesis 22:8). At the last moment, God stopped Abraham's hand.

> *And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and look, a ram behind **him** caught in the thicket by its horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering in place of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will See," as it is said this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be seen."* (Genesis 22:13-14)

Abraham named the place "The LORD Will See." In Hebrew, *Yahweh Yireh*. Many English Bibles translate it "The LORD Will Provide," because in this setting, God "seeing" to something means providing it. God saw the need and supplied the ram. Centuries later, on the same range of hills, God provided His own Son as the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. The LORD still sees what we need, and He provides.

The LORD Who Heals: Yahweh Rapha

Three days after crossing the Red Sea, Israel found water at Marah, but it was bitter. God showed Moses a piece of wood to throw in, and the water became sweet. Then God said:

> *And He said, "If you will surely listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what **is** right in His eyes, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, all the sickness which I put on Egypt I will not put on you; for I **am** the LORD who heals you."* (Exodus 15:26)

"I am the LORD who heals you." In Hebrew, *Yahweh Rapha*. God is the healer of bodies, and He often heals. But He also heals hearts, families, and nations. His greatest healing is of our sin. Isaiah said of the coming Servant, "by His wound there was healing for us" (Isaiah 53:5). God does not promise to heal every illness in this life, but He promises that one day there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain (Revelation 21:4).

The LORD Is My Banner: Yahweh Nissi

When the Amalekites attacked Israel in the wilderness, Joshua led the battle while Moses held up the staff of God on a hill. When his hands were raised, Israel won. After the victory, Moses built an altar.

> *And Moses built an altar, and he called its name "The LORD **Is** My Banner."* (Exodus 17:15)

A banner was a flag or standard on a pole, held high so an army could rally to it. Moses was saying the victory came from God, not from Joshua's sword or Moses' arms. The LORD is the One we rally around, and the One who wins our battles.

The LORD Is Peace: Yahweh Shalom

Gideon was hiding in a winepress, threshing wheat where the Midianites couldn't see him, when the angel of the LORD appeared and called him a mighty man of valor. When Gideon realized whom he had seen, he was afraid he would die. God told him, "Peace be to you; do not be afraid; you shall not die" (Judges 6:23).

> *And Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and he called it "The LORD **is** Peace." Until this day it **is** still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.* (Judges 6:24)

In Hebrew, *Yahweh Shalom*. *Shalom* means more than the absence of conflict. It means wholeness and well-being, everything being as it should be. God gives that kind of peace, and ultimately He gives it through Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

The LORD Is My Shepherd: Yahweh Roi

David had been a shepherd. He knew what it meant to lead sheep to grass and water, to protect them from lions and bears, and to

bring the wandering ones back. And he said, "The LORD is my shepherd; I will not lack." Jesus later said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11). The Shepherd of Psalm 23 has a face and a name.

Study Questions

1. Read Genesis 16:13. Why was "the God who sees" a precious name to Hagar?
2. Why do many Bibles translate Genesis 22:14 "The LORD Will Provide"? How does this name point to Jesus?
3. In what ways is God "the LORD who heals"?
4. What does it mean that the LORD is our banner?
5. Psalm 23 calls the LORD "my shepherd." What does a shepherd do that you need today?

Chapter 4: Names That Point to What Is Coming

> *In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in security; and this **is** His name **by** which one will call Him: 'The LORD Our Righteousness.'*
>
> Jeremiah 23:6 (SLB)

Some of God's names look ahead. They describe what He will do when He keeps His promises: send a righteous King, dwell with His people, and be a Father to them forever.

The LORD Our Righteousness: Yahweh Tsidkenu

Jeremiah lived in a dark time. Judah's kings were wicked, and Babylon was about to destroy Jerusalem. But God gave Jeremiah a promise.

> *"Look, days are coming," declares the LORD, "and I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign **as** king, and He will act prudently, and He will do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell in security; and this **is** His name **by** which one will call Him: 'The LORD Our Righteousness.'* (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

God promised to raise up a righteous Branch from the family of David, a King who would reign with justice. And His name would be "The LORD Our Righteousness." In Hebrew, *Yahweh Tsidkenu*. This is a name for the Messiah, and it is a remarkable one. The coming King is called by God's own name, LORD.

It also tells us how we can stand before a holy God. We don't have a righteousness of our own that is good enough. But Jesus

becomes our righteousness. "For He made the One who did not know sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). The rest of this promise, Judah saved and Israel dwelling in security, waits for the day Jesus returns and reigns as King on the earth.

The LORD Is There: Yahweh Shammah

The book of Ezekiel ends with a vision of a restored city and temple. The last verse gives the city a new name.

> *All around **shall be** eighteen thousand; and the name of the city from **that** day **shall be** 'The LORD **Is** There.'* (Ezekiel 48:35)

In Hebrew, *Yahweh Shammah*. Ezekiel had seen God's glory leave the temple because of Israel's sin (Ezekiel 10-11). Now he sees a day when God will live among His people again, and the city will be named for His presence. I believe this looks ahead to Christ's thousand-year reign, when He rules from Jerusalem, and it points toward the new Jerusalem, where "the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them" (Revelation 21:3). The best thing about heaven is not the streets of gold. It is that the LORD is there.

Jealous

> *For you shall not bow down to another god; for the LORD, Jealous **is** His name, He **is** a jealous God* (Exodus 34:14)

This name may surprise you. We usually think of jealousy as a bad thing, and in people it often is. But there is a right kind of jealousy. A faithful husband is rightly jealous for his wife's love, because it belongs to him. God's jealousy is like that. He made us and redeemed us. He will not share our worship with idols, because He loves us and because He alone deserves it.

Father

In the Old Testament, God is sometimes called Father. "If I am a father, where is My honor?" He asked through Malachi (Malachi 1:6). But Jesus made this name central. He called God His Father again and again, and He taught His disciples to pray, "Our Father who is in the heavens" (Matthew 6:9).

In the garden, Jesus prayed, "Abba, Father" (Mark 14:36). *Abba* is an Aramaic word a child used for his father, warm and close. And Paul says that everyone who belongs to Christ has received "the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father!'" (Romans 8:15). The holy God of the burning bush, the LORD of armies, is my Father through Jesus. That may be the most amazing name of all.

Study Questions

1. Read Jeremiah 23:5-6. Who is the righteous Branch, and why is His name important?
2. How does Jesus become "our righteousness" (2 Corinthians 5:21)?
3. What does the name "The LORD Is There" tell us about the future?
4. How is God's jealousy different from the sinful jealousy we often see in people?
5. What does it mean to you that you can call God "Abba, Father"?

Chapter 5: Names and Titles of Jesus

> *For a child has been born to us, a son has been given to us; and the dominion is on His shoulder; and **one** has called His name Wonder, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace.*
>
> Isaiah 9:6 (SLB)

The New Testament gives Jesus many names and titles. Each one shows a different side of who He is and what He came to do.

Jesus

> *And she will bear a son, and you will call His name Jesus, for He Himself will save His people from their sins." And all this has come to pass so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Look, the virgin will have **a child** in **the** womb, and will bear a son, and they will call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Matthew* 1:21-23)

The angel told Joseph what to name the child: Jesus, "for He Himself will save His people from their sins." The name Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Yeshua*, or Joshua, which means "the LORD saves." His very name tells us why He came.

Immanuel

Matthew quotes Isaiah 7:14: the virgin's son would be called Immanuel, "which is translated, 'God with us.'" Jesus is not just a messenger from God. He is God, come to be with us in human flesh.

Christ

"Christ" is not Jesus' last name. It is a title. It comes from a Greek word that means "anointed one," the same as the Hebrew word *Messiah*. In Israel, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil. Jesus is the promised Anointed One, the Prophet, Priest, and King all at once. When Peter said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16), he was saying Jesus is the One all of Israel was waiting for.

The Word

> *In **the** beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* (John 1:1)

John begins his Gospel by calling Jesus "the Word." Words reveal what is in a person's mind and heart. Jesus is God's perfect self-expression. And John says the Word was with God and the Word was God. Then, in verse 14, the Word became flesh and lived among us.

The Lamb of God

When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). Every Passover lamb and every sacrifice in the Old Testament pointed to Him. Abraham's ram on Mount Moriah pointed to Him. In Revelation, the Lamb who was slain is worshiped by all of heaven (Revelation 5:12).

The Son of Man

This was Jesus' favorite way to speak of Himself. It comes from Daniel 7:13-14, where "one like a son of man" comes with the clouds of heaven and receives an everlasting kingdom from God. When Jesus was on trial, the high priest asked if He was the

Christ. Jesus said that He was, and that they would see "the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven" (Mark 14:62). The high priest tore his clothes, because he understood exactly what Jesus was claiming.

Isaiah's Names for the Child

Look again at the verse at the top of this chapter. Isaiah, seven hundred years before Jesus was born, said a child would be born and a son given, and named Him "Wonder, Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace." Many Bibles join the first two as "Wonderful Counselor." Either way, these are not names for an ordinary king. A child who is called "Mighty God" can only be God Himself come in the flesh.

Lord

The early Christians' simplest confession was "Jesus is Lord" (Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 12:3). When the Greek translation of the Old Testament, which the early church read, put God's name into Greek, it used the word *Kyrios*, "Lord." The New Testament writers used that same word for Jesus, again and again, and even applied Old Testament verses about the LORD to Him (compare Joel 2:32 with Romans 10:13). To call Jesus Lord is to say He is God and that He has the right to rule my life.

Study Questions

1. What does the name Jesus mean, and why is it the right name for Him?
2. What is the difference between a name and a title? Why is "Christ" a title?
3. Why is "the Word" a good title for Jesus (John 1:1, 14)?

4. Why did the high priest react so strongly when Jesus called Himself the Son of Man (Mark 14:62)?

5. What does it mean in your daily life to say “Jesus is Lord”?

Chapter 6: I Am

> *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham came into being, I am."*
>
> John 8:58 (SLB)

In John's Gospel, Jesus describes Himself seven times with the words "I am" followed by a picture. And once, He uses the words "I am" all by themselves. Together they are some of the clearest statements He ever made about who He is.

Before Abraham, I Am

Jesus was arguing with some religious leaders who said they were children of Abraham. Jesus said Abraham rejoiced to see His day. They said, "You do not yet have fifty years, and have You seen Abraham?" (John 8:57). Then Jesus said the words at the top of this chapter: "before Abraham came into being, I am."

He didn't say "I was." He said "I am." Abraham came into being. Jesus simply is. Every Jew listening would have heard the echo of the burning bush, where God said, "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). And they understood. The next verse says they picked up stones to throw at Him (John 8:59). They thought He was blaspheming. He was telling the truth.

The Seven "I Am" Sayings

- **"I am the bread of life"** (John 6:35). Spoken the day after He fed five thousand. He is what our souls truly hunger for.
- **"I am the light of the world"** (John 8:12). Without Him we walk in darkness.
- **"I am the door"** (John 10:9). He is the way in to God's flock and God's salvation.

- **"I am the good shepherd"** (John 10:11). He lays down His life for the sheep. Psalm 23's Shepherd came in person.
- **"I am the resurrection and the life"** (John 11:25). Spoken to Martha at her brother's tomb, just before He raised Lazarus.
- **"I am the way and the truth and the life"** (John 14:6). "No one comes to the Father except through Me."
- **"I am the true vine"** (John 15:1). We bear fruit only by staying joined to Him.

Each one meets a deep need. Hunger, darkness, being shut out, being lost, death, confusion, and fruitlessness. In every case, Jesus doesn't just give us something. He gives us Himself.

The First and the Last

In Revelation, Jesus calls Himself "the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last" (Revelation 22:13). Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. In Isaiah, the LORD says, "I am first and I am last" (Isaiah 44:6). Jesus takes that title as His own. He was there before history began, and He will be there when it is finished.

King of Kings

When Jesus returns in glory at the end of the tribulation, John sees Him riding out of heaven on a white horse. "And He has on the robe and on His thigh a name written: 'King of kings and Lord of lords'" (Revelation 19:16). The One who was mocked with a crown of thorns will be openly acknowledged as King over every king.

The Name Above Every Name

> *Therefore God also highly exalted Him and granted to Him a name, the **one** above every name, so that at the*

> *name of Jesus every knee should bow, of **those** in heaven and **those** on earth and **those** under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ **is** Lord, to **the** glory of God **the** Father.* (Philippians 2:9-11)

Because Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross, God exalted Him and gave Him the name above every name. One day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Some will do it in joy. Others will do it too late.

> *And **there** is not salvation in any other; for neither is **there** another name under heaven which has been given among men by which we must be saved.* (Acts 4:12)

There is no other name by which we must be saved. If you have never called on the name of Jesus, I urge you to do it today. "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Study Questions

1. Why did the religious leaders try to stone Jesus after He said, "before Abraham came into being, I am"?
2. Which of the seven "I am" sayings means the most to you right now? Why?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is "the First and the Last"?
4. Read Philippians 2:9-11. Why did God give Jesus the name above every name?
5. According to Acts 4:12, why does the name of Jesus matter for every person?

A Closing Word

> *And those who know Your name will trust in You, for You have not forsaken those who seek You, LORD.*
>
> Psalm 9:10 (SLB)

We have looked at many names, but they all describe one God. He is the Almighty and the Most High. He sees, He provides, He heals, He gives peace, and He shepherds His people. He is our righteousness, He will dwell with us, and He is our Father. And He has made Himself fully known in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the Lamb of God, the great I Am, and the King of kings.

The more I know His names, the more I want to trust Him. I hope it is the same for you. Pick one name from this book this week. Pray it back to God. "Lord, You are the God who sees. You see me today." Let His name be your tower of strength.

If you have never trusted Jesus Christ, call on His name. My free book *The Road Home* explains what that means.

The Names at a Glance

Name	Hebrew or Greek	Meaning	Key Passage
God	Elohim	The mighty Creator	Genesis 1:1
Lord	Adonai	Master, Owner	Isaiah 6:1
LORD	Yahweh (YHWH)	He who is; I AM	Exodus 3:13-15
God Almighty	El Shaddai	All-powerful, keeps His promises	Genesis 17:1
God Most High	El Elyon	Above all things	Genesis 14:18-20
God of eternity	El Olam	Without beginning or end	Genesis 21:33
LORD of armies	Yahweh Tsebaoth	Commander of heaven's armies	1 Samuel 17:45
God who sees	El Roi	He sees me	Genesis 16:13
The LORD Will See	Yahweh Yireh	He sees to it and provides	Genesis 22:14
The LORD who heals	Yahweh Rapha	Healer	Exodus 15:26
The LORD Is My Banner	Yahweh Nissi	Victory belongs to Him	Exodus 17:15
The LORD Is Peace	Yahweh Shalom	Wholeness and well-being	Judges 6:24
The LORD Is My Shepherd	Yahweh Roi	He leads and protects	Psalm 23:1
The LORD Our Righteousness	Yahweh Tsidkenu	The Messiah, our righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6
The LORD Is There	Yahweh Shammah	God dwelling with His people	Ezekiel 48:35
Jealous	Qanna	Rightly jealous for our love	Exodus 34:14
Father	Abba	Close, loving Father	Romans 8:15
Jesus	Yeshua	The LORD saves	Matthew 1:21

Name	Hebrew or Greek	Meaning	Key Passage
Immanuel	Immanuel	God with us	Matthew 1:23
Christ	Christos; Messiah	Anointed One	Matthew 16:16
The Word	Logos	God made known	John 1:1
Lamb of God	Amnos tou Theou	Sacrifice for sin	John 1:29
Son of Man	Huios tou anthropou	The King from Daniel 7	Mark 14:62
I Am	Ego eimi	The eternal God	John 8:58
Alpha and Omega	Alpha kai Omega	First and Last	Revelation 22:13
King of kings	Basileus basileon	Ruler over all rulers	Revelation 19:16

About This Book

The Names of God is a short Bible study on the names God has used to make Himself known, and on the names and titles of Jesus.

It begins by explaining the difference between God, Lord, and LORD in the Old Testament. Then it looks at the names that show God's power (God Almighty, God Most High, the LORD of armies), His care (the God who sees, the LORD who heals, the LORD my shepherd), and His promises (the LORD our righteousness, the LORD is there, Father). The last two chapters look at the names and titles of Jesus, including Immanuel, the Lamb of God, the Son of Man, and His seven "I am" sayings in John.

Each chapter ends with study questions for personal reading or a small group. A chart of every name is at the back.

All Scripture quotations come from the Steadfast Literal Bible, which is free to read at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb.