

The Names of God August 3, 2025

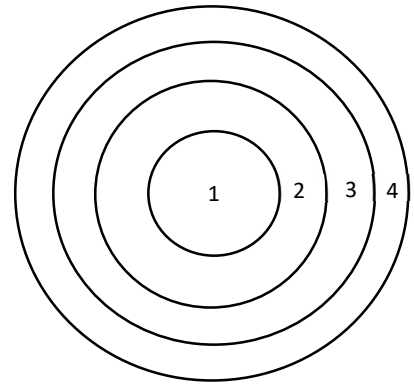
“The whole outlook of mankind might be changed if we could all believe that we live under a friendly sky and that the God of Heaven though exalted in power and majesty is **eager to be friends with us.**” -A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*.

Article 1 of the EFCA Doctrinal Statement

We believe in one **God**, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

Theological Prioritization

1. **Absolutes:** Essential to the faith
2. **Convictions:** Essential to close fellowship between churches
3. **Opinions:** Non-essential
4. **Questions:** Fun to think about



Names of God revealed in Scripture:

Main Names of God in OT

God (Elohim): “In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth.” -Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

“This **generic name for God** is generally **interchangeable with El** as well as the personal name Yahweh. Elohim (2570×), a pl. form, is sometimes used for gods other than Yahweh.”¹ -*New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*.

The LORD (Yahweh) (יהוה): “God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people 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 thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. - Exodus 3:15 (ESV)

“**Yah is a shortened form of Yahweh** (50×), used mainly in poetry. The name Yahweh (approx. 6800×, in every book but Esth, Eccl, and S of Songs) is used from Gen 2:4, is first invoked in 4:26, and is used throughout the OT (on the relation to El and Elohim, #446) as the personal name of Israel’s God. It is called **the Tetragrammaton** for its 4 Heb. consonants.”²

Lord (Adonai): “Therefore the **Lord** declares, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: “Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes.” - Isaiah 1:24 (ESV)

A Special Case Jehovah: When the rabbi’s read the OT aloud, they would pronounce the word for Lord (Adonai) whenever they came to the name Yahweh (LORD) out of desire to not take the name of the LORD in vain. To remind themselves to pronounce “Lord”, the vowels for Adonai were put into the consonants for Yahweh. When this is brought into English, it is “Jehovah.”

¹ VanGemeren, Willem, ed. 1997. In [New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis](#), 1:405. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

² NIDOTTE

Compound Names (thanks to “Names of God” by Rose Publishing)

The LORD God (Yahweh Elohim): “then **the LORD God** formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” - Genesis 2:7 (ESV)

Used very rarely, almost exclusively in the 2nd creation account. Likely to connect the Creator God (Elohim) of the first creation account specifically to the God of Israel (Yahweh).

The God of Israel (Elohe Israel): Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, **the God of Israel**, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’” - Exodus 5:1 (ESV)

God Most High (El Elyon): “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of **God Most High**.)” - Genesis 14:18 (ESV)

The Everlasting God (El Olam): “Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the Lord, **the Everlasting God**.” -Genesis 21:33 (ESV)

The God who sees me (El Roi): “So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “**You are a God of seeing**,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.” - Genesis 16:13 (ESV)

God Almighty (El Shaddai): “When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am **God Almighty**; walk before me, and be blameless...” -Genesis 17:1 (ESV)

Immanuel (God with us): “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel**.”- Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

The LORD our Provider (Yahweh (Jehovah) Jireh): “So Abraham called the name of that place, “**The Lord will provide**”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” -Genesis 22:14 (ESV)

The LORD our Sanctifier (Yahweh Mekaddishkem): “And the Lord said to Moses, “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that **I, the Lord, sanctify you**.” -Exodus 31:12–13 (ESV)

The LORD our Banner (Yahweh (Jehovah) Nissi): “And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, **The Lord Is My Banner**, ¹⁶ saying, “A hand upon the throne of the Lord!” - Exodus 17:15–16 (ESV)

The LORD our Healer (Yahweh (Jehovah) Rapha): “saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for **I am the Lord, your healer**.” - Exodus 15:26 (ESV)

The LORD of Hosts (Yahweh (Jehovah) Sabaoth): **The Lord of hosts** is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. - Psalm 46:7 (ESV)

The LORD is Peace (Yahweh (Jehovah) Shalom): Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and called it, **The Lord Is Peace**. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites. -Judges 6:24 (ESV)

The LORD our Righteousness (Yahweh (Jehovah) Tsidkenu): In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘**The Lord is our righteousness**.’ - Jeremiah 23:6 (ESV)