

Who God Is

Judges 13:17

Samson's father was Manoah.

- I. NAME OF GOD: We have discovered that the names of God found throughout the Old Testament have particular significance. Some reflect the character of God as men have discovered, while others are God's own identification given as part of His revelation of Himself. Such names reveal far more than outward characteristics. Manoah implied this when he asked concerning the Angel who had spoken to his wife in [Judges 13:17](#). According to the English translation, Manoah asked, "What is your name?" The Hebrew, however, translated literally, reads, "WHO IS YOUR NAME?"

THE DISTINCTION IS INTENTIONAL. THE HEBREW MAKES IT CLEAR THAT MANOAH IS NOT MERELY ASKING FOR A TITLE OR DESIGNATION, BUT FOR THE CHARACTER AND IDENTITY OF THE ONE WHO HAD SPOKEN TO HIS WIFE. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE NAMES OF GOD REVEAL.

Knowledge of God gives a greater capacity for the depth (gravity, seriousness) of understanding and appreciation for God. When you know God you can more fully grasp the meaning of the names of God.

The name Jesus is on the lips of many people today. To some – the only way that name is used is in slander, profanity, derision and blasphemy. The name of Jesus is on the lips of many religious people today but the significance of that *NAME* is still lost.

JESUS IS THE SWEETEST NAME I KNOW

[Phil. 2:9](#)

Lela B. Long 1925

*There have been names that I have loved to hear,
But never has there been a name so dear
To this heart of mine, as the name divine,
The precious, precious name of Jesus.*

Who God Is (Continued)

○ Refrain:

*Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And He's just the same as His lovely name,
And that's the reason why I love Him so;
Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know.*

*There is no name in earth or Heav'n above,
That we should give such honor and such love
As the blessed name, let us all acclaim,
That wondrous, glorious name of Jesus.*

*And someday I shall see Him face to face
To thank and praise Him for His wondrous grace,
Which He gave to me, when He made me free,
The blessed Son of God called Jesus.*

○ Refrain:

*Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And he's just the same as His lovely name
And that's the reason why I love Him so;
Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I Know.*

*There have been names that I have loved to hear,
But never has there been a name so dear
To this heart of mine, as the name divine,
The precious, precious name of Jesus.*

Who God Is (Continued)

- Refrain:

*Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And He's just the same as His lovely name,
And that's the reason why I love Him so;
Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know.*

*There is no name in earth or Heav'n above,
That we should give such honor and such love
As the blessed name, let us all acclaim,
That wondrous, glorious name of Jesus.*

*And someday I shall see Him face to face
To thank and praise Him for His wondrous grace,
Which He gave to me, when He made me free,
The blessed Son of God called Jesus.*

*Jesus is the sweetest name I know,
And he's just the same as His lovely name
And that's the reason why I love Him so;
Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I Know.*

For any name of any member of the Godhead to have true significance for man, there must not only be acquaintance, but *knowledge – gnosis, epignosis!*

The compound general name *EL SHADDAI*, which God used in speaking to Abraham in [Gen. 27:1](#), had special meaning to him because he had been spiritually advancing, and maintaining that position.

There are more than a dozen names for God in the Old Testament Hebrew language, but let's consider four:

Who God Is (Continued)

- (1) *El* was and is still used as a very general name for God in the Middle East among pagans and believers. Some say “EL” with meaning and other say “EL” no meaning.

Examples: [Gen. 16:13](#) “Hagar came to know EL as the God who cared;” Jacob desired to return to Bethel and to build an altar to EL – [Gen. 35:3](#); Moses said EL “*was his strength and song and who had become his Salvation*” [Ex. 15:2](#); Job asked how mere man can be right with EL. [Jeremiah 9:2](#)

- (2) *ELAH* – Another general name is in the Aramaic, which is equal to the Hebrew *EL*. Aramaic was the language Jewish people learned during the Babylonian exile and later continued to use. In the first century A.D., Aramaic was the language of the ordinary person in Israel. This name was used in [Dan. 2:20-23](#) and [Jer. 10:11](#)

- (3) *ELOHA* – Another general name for God in the singular form with the plural being Elohim. Eloha is not widely used, but when it appears, it is usually in a poetic context. The word Eloha is used almost exclusively in Job – “*Eloha will not turn away His anger*” – [Job 9:13](#); “*Eloha knows his integrity*” [Job 31:6](#); A man by the name of Zophar sees a sick man filled with useless talk and calls on Eloha to silence him. [Job 11:5](#)

- (4) *ELOHIM* – The most commonly used general name of God is the plural “ELOHIM” used approximately 2,555 times in the O.T. The plural Elohim expresses the limitless majesty of God. When water is a plural word – it means that a body of water is made up of millions of drops of water. A limitless, countless number. Therefore, the plural of Elohim depicts the limitless, vastness of God! (Grandeur, Dignity, Sovereignty, Majesty, Greatness) Elohim revealed His omnipotence when He spoke as the people were assembled at Mt. Sinai ([Ex. 19:19](#)). It was Elohim in the writing of the 10 commandments on the two tables of the law ([Ex. 31:18](#)). It was Elohim in whom David trusted in [Ps. 56:4](#)

It was Elohim to whom Daniel prayed – [Dan. 9:19](#)) It was Solomon who reminds us to fear Elohim and keep His commandments ([Eccles. 12:13, 14](#)). THE NAME ELOHIM WAS CORRUPTED IN PAST DAYS JUST AS THE NAME OF GOD IS CORRUPTED IN OUR DAY----Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law drew a distinction between the true and false ELOHIM ([Ex. 8:11](#)) – he spoke of the elohim of the pagan nations!

Who God Is (Continued)

For those who know God EXPERIENTALLY, then the names, EL, ELAH, ELOHA AND ELOHIM (and other names) speak of the Sovereignty, Deity, Righteousness – the fact that He is the RULER OF HISTORY!

II. NATURE OF GOD

(1) God is Spirit – [John 4:24](#) (Non-material) as we think of the word.

(2) God is a Person (as opposed to pantheism)

- He creates – [Gen. 1:1](#)
- He destroys – [Gen. 18:20](#)
- He provides – [Ps. 104:27f](#)
- He promotes – [Ps. 75:6, 7](#)
- He cares – [I Pet. 5:6, 7](#)
- He hears – [Ps. 94:9, 10](#)
- He hates – [Prov. 6:16](#)
- He grieves – [Gen. 6:6](#)
- He loves – [John 3:16](#)

(3) God is ONE (opposed to polytheism) [Deut. 6:4, 5](#); [I Kings 8:60](#); [I Kings 8:60](#); [Eph. 4:4-6](#); [I Tim. 2:5](#).

(4) God is a TRINITY “There is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead, there are three eternal and co-equal Persons, the same in substance, but distinct in subsistence.” (C.C. Ryrie)

III. ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

1. ETERNAL (free from succession of time – more than just everlasting). [Gen.21:33](#); [Psalm 90:2](#)
2. OMNIPRESENT (God is everywhere) [Ps. 139:7-12](#); [I Kings 8:27](#); [Matt.18:20](#)
3. OMNIPOTENT (All powerful) [Gen. 18:14](#)

Who God Is (Continued)

- Over nature – [Gen.1:7](#); [10:14](#); [Isa. 40:12](#); [15](#)
- Over man – Dan.
- Over angels – [Ps. 103:20](#)
- Over Satan – [Job 1:12](#)
- Over Death – [Heb. 2:14,15](#)
- 4. OMNISCIENT (All knowing) [Ps. 147:5](#)
 - Sees all things – [Prov. 15:3](#)
 - Knows all things [Ps. 147:4](#); [Matt. 10: 29,30](#)
 - Knows mankind personally – thoughts – [Ps. 139: 2b](#); words, [Ps. 138:4](#); deeds, [Ps. 139:2a](#)
 - Sorrows, [Ex. 3:7](#)
 - Needs, [Matt. 6:32](#)
 - Devotion, [Gen. 18:19](#); [22:12](#)
 - Frailties, [Ps. 103:14](#)
 - Foolishness, [Ps. 69:5](#)
 - Past, Present, Future, [Acts 15:18](#)
 - He knows what could have been, [Matt. 11:23](#).
- 5. IMMUTABLE (HE NEVER CHANGES) – [Mal. 3:6](#); [Heb. 1:10-12](#); [James 1:17](#).
- 6. SOVEREIGN – [Rev. 4:11](#); [I Tim. 5:15](#); [Rom. 8:11](#); [Isa. 46:9-11](#)
- 7. RIGHTEOUS – Discipline
 - In Punishment of the wicked. [Rev. 16:1-7](#)
 - In Reward of Blessed. [II Tim.4:8](#)
- 8. FAITHFUL
 - In Nature – [Psa.119:90](#)
 - In Keeping Promises – [Gal. 4:4](#)
 - In Punishment of the wicked – [Rev. 16:1-7](#)