

# Prophecy and Names:

## Session 2: The Name of God

### The Name of Our God

To help better understand the proper meaning of the word “God,” we will take a closer look at the Hebrew language. Linguists have discovered the Hebrew alphabet was once a pictorial language. This means that every letter of the Hebrew alphabet was actually a picture or drawing of an object that it represented.

"Word Picture"		Classical Hebrew	
Pictograph	Meaning	Hebrew	Meaning
	Strong Leader		Name for God; "Strength." Used 250 times in the <i>Tanakh</i> .
	Strength (of the) house		Father

For instance, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet was the A – the Aleph. This letter was a picture of an ox head, which meant “strength.” The second letter of the Hebrew alphabet was the B – the Bet. The B was the picture of a house. By combining the A and the B, we see a word picture of a “strong house” or “the strength of the house,” which is the Hebrew word for ‘Father.’ (Note as well that by combining the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet we have aleph bet, or alphabet or alephbet)

The word for God in Hebrew is 'EL' spelled La. The L is the *Lamedh*, which is a picture of a staff and represents "one who rules, or shepherds." The word picture for "EL" is a "strong ruler" or "shepherd."<sup>1</sup> When we say 'God,' El is the picture we should hold in our mind. (See chart in back of teaching by AncientHebrew.org)

The word "God" as a title instead of a name which you will see where "God" refers to His title and "Yahweh" refers to His name. This is similar to how we would read about King David in which "King" is his title and David is his name. In the New Testament as we read about Christ Jesus, "Christ" is His title and "Jesus" is His name. Where the Hebrew word "Elohim" is used, it is translated as "our God" instead of "God" to help communicate that "God" is a title, not a name.

Most theologians teach that there are many names for the God of the Bible. Though Yahweh and Jesus assumes many different titles, Yahweh and Jesus each have only one personal name. Yahweh, whose name means, "The One Who Causes Existence," is the Father of Jesus. Jesus, whose name means, "Yahweh will save," is the son of Yahweh. Though they share many of the same titles, they each have one specific name. Our very salvation is linked to a name– the name of Jesus.

***"For there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that is given to man by which we must be saved"*** (Acts 4:12).

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<sup>1</sup> *Ancient Hebrew Research Center - Home Page*. Web. 16 Oct. 2010. <<http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/>>.

The Bible teaches us that the blessing of our God comes by having his name upon us. Yahweh gave Moses instructions on how to bless the people and to place His name upon them:

*“Yahweh (The One Who Causes Existence) bless you and keep you. Yahweh (The One Who Causes Existence) make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. Yahweh (The One Who Causes Existence) lift up his face toward you and give you peace”* (Numbers 6:24-26).

As this blessing is pronounced, the name of Yahweh is placed upon His people so that they may walk in peace. *“So will they place my name upon the children of Israel (Struggles with God); and I will bless them”* (Numbers 6:27).

**EL**

Root of:

אֵלִים Elohym  
powers, god, gods  
Strong's: 430

Staff  
Authority

אֵל Ox  
Strength

Root of:

אֵלִי Avil  
Buck, Chief, Oak  
Strong's: 352

**Strong One of Authority  
(Mighty One)**

The high אֵל, owner of the sky and the land. (Gen 14:19)  
The אֵל is my strength and power (2 Sam 22:33)  
Rescue me, for you are my אֵל (Is 44:17)  
I am אֵל of Shaddai (Gen 35:11)

Ancient Hebrew Research Center ([www.ancient-hebrew.org](http://www.ancient-hebrew.org))