

## THE NAMES OF GOD

*“God said to Moses, I AM WHO I AM.”*

### Exodus 3:14

In the Bible, names are more than labels. They often reveal something important about a person’s character, role, or nature. This is especially true of God. The various names of God throughout Scripture help us understand who he is and how he relates to his people.

One of the most common Old Testament names for God is **El**, or **Elohim**, usually translated “God.” This name emphasizes God’s power and majesty as Creator and ruler over all. Sometimes it appears in combinations such as *El Roi*, “the God who sees me” (Genesis 16:13), highlighting God’s personal care and awareness.

Another important name is **Adonai**, meaning “Lord” or “Master.” This title stresses God’s authority and kingship. Closely related is **El Shaddai**, often translated “God Almighty,” which points to God’s strength, sufficiency, and power to accomplish his purposes.

In the New Testament, God is frequently called **Theos** (“God”) and **Kyrios** (“Lord”). He is also called **Father**, a name that speaks not only of authority but of relationship, care, and covenant love. Jesus taught his disciples to approach God personally and reverently as “Our Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:9).

Most significant of all is God’s covenant name, **Yahweh**. Revealed to Moses at the burning bush, this name is connected to God’s declaration, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14). Yahweh points to God’s eternal, self-existent nature. He does not depend on anything outside himself for life or being. He simply is. This name also reminds Israel that God is faithful to his covenant promises. He was their God, he is their God, and he will remain their God. Because God’s name reflects his character and holiness, Scripture commands his people not to take his name in vain (Exodus 20:7), but to honor it with reverence and worship.

The names of God are not empty titles. They reveal his character, power, faithfulness, and presence. To know God’s name is to know something true about who he is.

*Which name or description of God speaks most deeply to you right now, and why?*