

Chardon Christian Fellowship
Home Fellowship Lessons
Names of God
Lesson 3: YHWH (Jehovah)
LEADER GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, we will focus on the most Holy name of God, *YHWH*, as part of a compound name. *This list is not exhaustive, and is not intended to be a complete treatise on the subject, rather, the intent of this lesson is to open our eyes to the names that God uses to refer to Himself so that we may better understand Him. **In some of the verses the various name of God are indicated in parentheses. The word *Elohim* is used when any form of *El* is used (El, Elohim, etc.) *** You probably cannot fit this lesson into 45 min – be selective with the verses since folks can review the worksheet at home.

LESSON

A. YHWH

REVIEW from last lesson: *YHWH* (Jehovah) is known as the Tetragrammaton name of God in that it only has four letters. It is the most sacred name for God. In English Bibles, the word *YHWH* is translated as *Lord, Jehovah, The Self-Sufficient One, The Existing One, or The Eternal One*. The name projects an overall image of ‘The Supreme God above all things’.

B. The Tetragrammaton as part of a compound name for God

There are many places in the Old Testament where *YHWH* is combined with another word to convey, from God to us, a concept of God’s identity, attribute, and/or relation to us. We use similar name combinations in our society, for instance, with a minister named Bob, his names would be: Bob Smith (literally, Bob of the Smith family), Pastor Bob [regarding ‘pastor of flock of sheep (us)’], Reverend Bob (regarding ministerial education/vocation), Mr. Bob Smith (formal salutation for a man), Bob (informal and personal salutation to his friends), Big Bob if he is real tall or large, or maybe Bub to his grandchildren.

We will look at the names of God that are prefixed with *YHWH* (Jehovah), starting with the most commonly used to the least common. This is not an exhaustive list; however, it should give us an introduction how God refers to Himself.

1. YHWH Sabaoth (Jehovah-Sabaoth or Jehovah-Tzevaot)

This combination means “The Lord of Hosts”, “Lord of Armies” or “Lord of Power”. Commonly translated in English language Bible as *LORD of Hosts*.

In the previous lesson we learned the meaning of *YHWH*, and in this combination, *Sabaoth* (or *Tsevaot* or *Tsevaoth*) means “of hosts” with the image of a vast army of

beings. This projects the concept or image of “God the Self-Existent One, Supreme God above all Gods, with absolute power and authority over a massive army of beings”.

YHWH in combination with *Sabaoth* occurs 284 times in the Old Testament as the following combinations:

a. YHWH Sabaoth (Jehovah Sabaoth) – Lord of Hosts

We will start with a very dramatic encounter of the prophet Isaiah with the Lord (*YHWH*). The occurrence is “time-stamped” to a specific time at 742 B.C. with reference to King Uzziah’s death (see **2 Chronicles 26**; he reigned 783-742 B.C.). In this passage we also see that Isaiah is given a vision, or encounters the Lord’s (*YHWH*) throne room where the Seraphim call out “*Holy, Holy, Holy is YHWH Sabaoth!*”. With this encounter and pronouncement of who Isaiah is in the presence of, we see the reaction that Isaiah has:

Isaiah 6:1-5 *In the year of King Uzziah’s death I saw the Lord (YHWH) sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.” ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” (NASB)*

Isaiah’s response is not surprising when one considers where he is and Who is there. Consider a similar encounter and responses:

Revelation 4:2-11 *² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. ³ And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; ⁶ and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷ The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.” ⁹ And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.” (NASB)*

These passages in Revelation and Isaiah give us a clear description of what happens in the presence of *YHWH Sabaoth* ... you fall on your face ! It is interesting that The LORD is referred to as *YHWH Sabaoth* and not just *YHWH*. This extra description of *YHWH* gives us a vision of His power with a multitude of hosts at His beckoning. How much power does this army of hosts have? See **2 Kings 19:35** regarding one of the host. We should be humbled and in awe of this power of *YHWH*.

Psalm 24:9-10 ⁹ *Lift up your heads, O gates, and lift them up, O ancient doors, That the King of glory may come in!* ¹⁰ *Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts (YHWH Sabaoth), He is the King of glory. Selah.* (NASB)

Psalm 84:1-2 *How lovely are Your dwelling places, O LORD of hosts (YHWH Sabaoth)! ² My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the LORD (YHWH); My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.* (NASB)

b. Yahweh Sabaoth, Elohim of Israel - Lord of Hosts the Supreme God of Israel

In these verses where God is named *YHWH Sabaoth*, *Elohim* of Israel, we see a different aspect of the name of God. We see his wrath kindled, and He refer to His tremendous power and position as Supreme God over Israel.

Jeremiah 7:20-22 *Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, My anger and My wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and on beast and on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground; and it will burn and not be quenched." ²¹ Thus says the LORD of hosts (YHWH Sabaoth), The God (Elohim) of Israel, "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat flesh. ²² For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices.* (NASB)

Jeremiah 28:1-3 *Now in the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, in the fifth month, Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, ² "Thus says the LORD of hosts (YHWH Sabaoth), The God (Elohim) of Israel, 'I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. ³ Within two years I am going to bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon.* (NASB)

Isaiah 1:21-26 ²¹ *How the faithful city has become a harlot, she who was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, but now murderers. ²² Your silver has become dross, your drink diluted with water. ²³ Your rulers are rebels and companions of thieves; Everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, nor does the widow's plea come before them. ²⁴ Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts (YHWH Sabaoth), The Mighty One (Elohim) of Israel, declares, "Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries and avenge Myself on My foes. ²⁵ "I will also turn My hand against you, and will smelt away your dross as with lye and will remove all your alloy. ²⁶ "Then I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning; After that you will be called the city of righteousness, a faithful city." (NASB)*

Zephaniah 2:8-9 ⁸ "I have heard the taunting of Moab and the revilings of the sons of Ammon, with which they have taunted My people and become arrogant against their territory. ⁹ "Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts (YHWH Sabaoth), The God (Elohim) of Israel, "Surely Moab will be like Sodom and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah - a place possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them and the remainder of My nation will inherit them." (NASB)

2. Adonai YHWH (Adonai Jehovah)

This combination occurs 306 times in the Old Testament. Adonai is translated as *My Lord*. When expressed as *Adonai YHWH* it is translated as *The Lord God*. When it occurs as *YHWH Adonai* it is translated as *God The Lord* or *The Lord Sovereign Lord*. This name is more personal and loving with the combination of Adonai. Look how these verses show the love and compassion of Adonai YHWH towards His people:

Isaiah 49:21-23 ²¹ "Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has begotten these for me, since I have been bereaved of my children and am barren, an exile and a wanderer? And who has reared these? Behold, I was left alone; From where did these come?'" ²² Thus says the Lord GOD (ADONAI YHWH), "Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations and set up My standard to the peoples; And they will bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters will be carried on their shoulders. ²³ "Kings will be your guardians, and their princesses your nurses. They will bow down to you with their faces to the earth and lick the dust of your feet; And you will know that I am the LORD (YHWH); Those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame. (NASB)

Habakkuk 3:18-19 ¹⁸ Yet I will exult in the LORD (YHWH), I will rejoice in the God (Elohim) of my salvation. ¹⁹ The Lord GOD (ADONAI YHWH) is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments. (NASB)

Psalms 68:19-20 ¹⁹ Blessed be the Lord (YHWH), who daily bears our burden, The God (Elohim) who is our salvation. Selah. ²⁰ God (Elohim) is to us a God (Elohim) of deliverances; And to GOD the Lord (ADONAI YHWH) belong escapes from death. (NASB)

Psalms 109:21 But You, O GOD, the Lord (YHWH Adonai), deal kindly with me for Your name's sake; Because Your lovingkindness is good, deliver me; (NASB)

Psalms 140:6-8 ⁶ I said to the LORD (YHWH), "You are my God (Elohim); Give ear, O LORD (YHWH), to the voice of my supplications. ⁷ "O GOD the Lord (YHWH Adonai), the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle. ⁸ "Do not grant, O LORD (YHWH), the desires of the wicked; Do not promote his evil device, that they not be exalted. Selah. (NASB)

Psalms 141:8-9 ⁸ For my eyes are toward You, O GOD, the Lord (YHWH Adonai); In You I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless. ⁹ Keep me from the jaws of the trap which they have set for me, and from the snares of those who do iniquity. (NASB)

3. YHWH Mekoddishkem (Jehovah Mekoddishkem)

This combination means *The Lord Who Sanctifies You* or *The Lord Who Sets You Apart*. This occurs two times in Old Testament.

Exodus 31:13 ¹³ *“But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you (YHWH Mekoddishkem). (NASB)*

Leviticus 20:7-8 ⁷ *You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the LORD (YHWH) your God (Elohim).* ⁸ *You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you (YHWH Mekoddishkem). (NASB)*

4. YHWH Tsidkenu (Jehovan Tsidkenu)

This combination means *The Lord Our Righteousness*. There are two occurrences in Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:5-6 ⁵ *“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD (YHWH), “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land.* ⁶ *“In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The LORD our righteousness (YHWH Tsidkenu)’. (NASB)*

Jeremiah 33:14-16 ¹⁴ *‘Behold, days are coming,’ declares the LORD (YHWH), ‘when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah.* ¹⁵ *In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.* ¹⁶ *In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness. (YHWH Tsidkenu)’ (NASB)*

5. YHWH Jireh (Jehovah Jireh)

This combination of *YHWH Jireh* means *The Lord Will Provide*. Only one occurrence in Old Testament.

Genesis 22:13-14 ¹³ *Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.* ¹⁴ *Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide (YHWH-Jireh), as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.” (NASB)*

6. YHWH Raphe (Jehovah Raphe; or Rapha or Ropheka)

This combination is *YHWH The Lord Who Heals*. Only one time in Old Testament.

Exodus 15:26 ²⁶ And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD (YHWH) your God (Elohim), and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer (YHWH Ropheka)". (NASB)

7. YHWH Nissi (Jehovah Nissi)

This combination means *The Lord My Banner*. It occurs one time in Old Testament.

Exodus 17:14-16 ¹⁴ Then the LORD (YHWH) said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." ¹⁵ Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner (YHWH Nissi); ¹⁶ and he said, "The LORD (YAH) has sworn; the LORD (YHWH) will have war against Amalek from generation to generation." (NASB)

8. YHWH Shalom (Jehovah Shalom)

This combination means *The Lord Is Peace*. It occurs one time in Old Testament.

Judges 6:20-24 ²⁰ The angel of God (Elohim) said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. ²¹ Then the angel of the LORD (YHWH) put out the end of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the LORD (YHWH) vanished from his sight. ²² When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD (YHWH), he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD (ADONAI YHWH)! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD (YHWH) face to face." ²³ The LORD (YHWH) said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD (YHWH) and named it *The Lord Is Peace (YHWH Shalom)*. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. (NASB)

9. YHWH Shammah (Jehovah Shammah)

This combination means *The Lord Is There*. It occurs once in Old Testament.

This combination occurs describing the division of the Land of Israel among the tribes and the construction of the gates of Jerusalem, pointing out that *YHWH* will be there.

Ezekiel 48:35 ³⁵ The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, 'The LORD is there (YHWH Shammah).'" (NASB)

10. YHWH Ro'i (Jehovah Raah or Rohi)

This combination means *The Lord My Shepherd*. It occurs once in Old Testament

Psalms 23:1 [The LORD is my shepherd \(YHWH Roi\), I shall not want.](#) (NASB)

C. CONCLUSIONS/APPLICATIONS

How do we conclude this lesson on Most Holy God's name?

There are three conclusions to consider in this study:

1. Again .. God's name is not to be used in a trivial manner;
2. He declares His name is *Jehovah Sabaoth* revealing His awesome power as Supreme Self Sustaining God over a Multitude of Hosts;
3. He declares His personal and loving relationship through His name *Adonai Jehovah*.

Throughout the Bible He shows us His nature, character and attributes through His names. We should be careful 'what we hear' and 'what we say' when it comes to His name. Since Jehovah Sabaoth and Adonai Jehovah are used about 600 times in the Old Testament, it might behoove us to consider the importance of these names and their meaning.

As a challenge and homework ... perhaps memorize either of the two verses below, considering and meditating on the name *Adonai YHWH*:

Psalm 68:19-20 ¹⁹ *Blessed be the Lord (YHWH), who daily bears our burden, The God (Elohim) who is our salvation. Selah.* ²⁰ *God (Elohim) is to us a God (Elohim) of deliverances; And to GOD the Lord (ADONAI YHWH) belong escapes from death.* (NASB) [He is our escape from eternal death]

Psalm 109:21 *But You, O GOD, the Lord (YHWH Adonai), deal kindly with me for Your name's sake; Because Your lovingkindness is good, deliver me;* (NASB) [Lovingkindness is a covenant commitment. He has obligated Himself to love us.]

References

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