

Chardon Christian Fellowship
Home Fellowship Lessons
Names of God
Lesson 3: YHWH (Jehovah)
STUDY 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.).

LESSON

A. YHWH

REVIEW from last lesson: *YHWH* (Jehovah) 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 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*.

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 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

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

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

Psalm 84:1-2

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 refers to His tremendous power and position as Supreme God over Israel.

Jeremiah 7:20-22

Jeremiah 28:1-3

Isaiah 1:21-26

Zephaniah 2:8-9

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

Habakkuk 3:18-19

Psalm 68:19-20

Psalm 109:21

Psalm 140:6-8

Psalm 141:8-9

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

Leviticus 20:7-8

4. YHWH Tsidkenu (Jehovan Tsidkenu)

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

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Jeremiah 33:14-16

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

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

7. YHWH Nissi (Jehovah Nissi)

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

Exodus 17:14-16

8. YHWH-Shalom (Jehovah-Shalom)

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

Judges 6:20-24

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

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

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

Psalms 23:1

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*:

Psalms 68:19-20

Psalms 109:21

References

New American Standard Bible (NASB), Lochmann Foundation

www.biblegateway.com

www.biblehub.com

www.studylight.org

www.blueletterbible.org

www.chatbible.com

www.amazingfacts.org

Love Worth Finding Ministries, www.lwf.org

www.qbible.com

www.newcreations.org

www.dabhand.com