**Ten Names of God in Genesis**

**Another feature about the book of Genesis is that we find many names or titles for God. Many of these are unique, fascinating, and in some cases even mysterious.**

**To give you an example of what I mean please see below ten different names or titles for God used in Genesis.** In the Old Testament we find that names often represent something about that person. This is definitely true here in Genesis. God revealed Himself with the different names or titles:

1. The first name, in Genesis 1:1 for God is **אלהים** *(elohiym)*. It is of course a noun, what you may not know is that it is the plural form of ***‘*אלה** (‘eloahh)*.*
	1. It is often used with a verb that is single, thus causing the translators to translate God (single) although the noun itself is plural.
	2. From the jump, with God, we have a mystery wrapped in an enigma!
	3. The one God whose name is a plural.
2. The second name for God in Genesis, which is the the most common name for God in the Old Testament is first used in Gen 2:4 is **יהוה** (Yᵉhovah) or (*yeh-way’).*
	1. The existing one, the One who is.
	2. The most common, most used name of God.
	3. It means the Existing One! (I Am).
3. The next name for God found in Genesis is first used in Genesis 14:18 and it is here connected with another name. We will look at that name next, but it is used to describe Melchizedek as the **priest of God** and (another phrase).
	1. The word translated God here is א**ל** (‘el).
	2. It means God, god, or someone who is mighty
	3. So, it can be used to refer to God or someone who is powerful.
4. The next name for God we find first in Genesis 14:18-20 and it is connected with **אל** (‘el) **עליון** (*el-yone’)*
	1. It is **“God, Most High”**
	2. It is first used by this character Melchizedek in Genesis 14:18-20.
	3. What is funny is Abraham begins to immediately use it to describe God (Gen 14:22).
5. Another name used for God is first used in Genesis 15:2 by Abram is the Hebrew **אדני** (Adonay).
	1. It is a title that means **“Lord”** or even **“sir.”**
	2. It refers to someone who has sovereign power and authority.
	3. In many places, Adonay becomes a placeholder named for the second person of the Godhead.

“« A Psalm of David. » The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."” (Ps 110:1 ESV)

* 1. It is used here in conjunction with the next name for God.
1. The next name for God is first used in Genesis 15:2 by Abram and it is יהוה (*yeh-ho-vee’).*
	1. This is a variation of **יהוה** (Yᵉhovah)*.*
	2. It is used primarily in combination with **אדני** ‘(Adonay).
2. The name we see for God is used in Gen 16:13 and it is used by Hagar, where she refers to God as **אל** (‘el)*,* **ראי** (ro’iy).
	1. Literally **“the God who sees.”**
	2. This is the name that Hagar used to describe God.
3. The next name we see for God is first used in Gen 17:1, when God spoke to Abram and he said to him I am **שׁדי** (Shadday),**אל** (‘el).
	1. The best translation is Almighty God.
	2. I am the all-powerful God.
4. Another name for God we find is in Gen 21, here Abraham while living in Beersheba, calls out to **יהוה** (Yᵉhovah) th*e* **עולם** (‘owlam)*,* **אל** (‘el).
	1. The word **עולם** (‘owlam), means everlasting, eternal, or forevermore God!
5. The final name we will look at for God is used by Jacob in Genesis 33:20. Jacob refers to God as **אל אלהי ישׂראל** ‘El ‘elohey Yisra’el.
	1. This is literally “the mighty God of Israel”.
	2. Remember, God renamed Jacob, Israel.
	3. Here Israel (Jacob) calls God the mighty God of Israel.

There are of course other names of God in Genesis, but this hopefully highlights an important point. Beginning in the first book of the Bible, right from the jump, **what we find is a God who is revealing Himself, over time, to men and women who would otherwise not know him.**