

THE FAMILY NAME OF GOD

*Unless it is particularly stated, the Bible translation used in this article is the New International Version.

What is “El”, “Eloh” and “Elohim”?

For the term “god” or “deity” - for any god, also for pagan god - the original ancient palaeo-Hebrew manuscripts of the Bible use the term “El” (singular) or “Elohe” (singular) or “Elohim” (plural).

The word “Elohim” is plural and found about 2500 times in the original Old Testament manuscript, the Tanach. It is used both for pagan god or for the true God. **“Elohim” is not the name of God, but only the term “god” in plural form.**

In the Bible, God (the Father) tells us that His name is YAHWEH.

The original Hebrew Old Testament shows Yahweh as 4 consonants: **Y-H-W-H** (יהוה)

Hebrew letter	Letter name	Pronunciation
י	Yod	Y
ה	He	H
ו	Waw	W (or placeholder for "O"/"U" vowel)
ה	He	H (or often a silent letter when „h“ is placed at the end of a word)

The RIGHT PRONUNCIATION of the name YHWH is YaHWaH or YaHWeH.

The word **“YAHWEH”** is listed **6.823 times** in the original palaeo-Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament (the Tanach).

The name YAHWEH appeared in the Bible for the first time after the six literal day creation is completed by the seventh day (rest day).

“Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the Lord [original Hebrew: **YAHWEH**] God made the earth and the heavens.” (Genesis 2:1-4)

God (the Father) introduced His name many times as “YAHWEH”.

To Abraham

“He also said to him, ‘I am the Lord [original Hebrew: **I AM YAHWEH**], who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.’” (Genesis 15:7)

To Jacob

“here above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord [original Hebrew: **I AM YAHWEH**], the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.” (Genesis 28:13)

To Moses

“God also said to Moses, “I am the Lord [original Hebrew: **I AM YAHWEH**]” (Exodus 6:2)

“And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord [original Hebrew: **I AM YAHWEH**]when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it.” (Exodus 7:5)

Patriarchs and prophets in the Old Testament called God (the Father)“YAH”.

“YAH” is the shortened name of YAHWEH and recognised as the forename of YAHWEH by the patriarchs and prophets in the Bible. It shows the intimacy of the children of God to their heavenly father.

The name “YAH” appears about 50 times in the original ancient Hebrew manuscripts.

Moses is the first one that started to call God “YAH” as he praised God with a song after the Israelites were delivered from the slavery in Egypt.

“The Lord [original Hebrew: **YAH**] is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.” (Exodus 15:2)

Also David often used the name “YAH”.

“Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord [original Hebrew: **his name is YAH**].” (Psalm 68:4)

The prophet Isaiah showed that “YAH” is a forename to YAHWEH.

“Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself [original Hebrew: **YAH YAHWEH**], is the Rock eternal.” (Isaiah 26:4)

“I said, ‘I will not again see the Lord himself [original Hebrew: **YAH YAHWEH**] in the land of the living; no longer will I look on my fellow man, or be with those who now dwell in this world.’” (Isaiah 38:11)

The original ancient Hebrew manuscript (the Tanach) show clearly that the name of God (the Father) consist 2 name: the forename “**YAH**” and the family name “**YAHWEH**”.

What is “I AM THAT I AM” in Exodus 3:14?

As Moses asked God “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” (Exodus 3:13)

God answered Moses with “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14)

In the original Paleo Hebrew manuscript the words that translated “**I AM WHO I AM**” is “**EHYAH ASHER EHYAH**” (אהיה אשר אהיה). The literal meaning in Hebrew is “I will be what I will be“. This verse use the past, present and future verb tense that shows „**who was, who is and who is to come**“. This is God (or King) that is eternal, compared to the Pharaoh (the King) who was only a finite human.

What is “Adonai”?

The word “Adonai” comes originally from the word “Adon” and means “lord”, “master” or “husband”.

“Adonai” is not a name of Yahweh, but a title. “Adonai YAHWEH” appears 292 times in the original ancient Hebrew Bible and means “the Lord YAHWEH”. It is often translated to “the Lord God” in the modern Bibles.

Similarly the words “El Shaddai” (= the Almighty) and “El Elyon” (=the Highest/the Most High) are the title of God given by the ancient people. In those titles, the word “El” doesn’t mean “God” but the article “the” in the Hebrew language.

In about 5th century, some Jewish scholars started to see the name “YAHWEH” as too holy to be spoken and substituted YAHWEH with “Adonai” or “Elohim” whenever they read the ancient manuscripts of the Old Testaments. Between the 6th and 10th centuries AD, they revised and canonised the ancient paleo-Hebrew manuscripts of the Old Testament into a rabbinical Bible, the so-called Masoretic text. In this Masoretic Text the word “YAHWEH” was replaced with “Adonai” 113 times.

But God likes that we call Him by His true name “YAHWEH” or the more personal “YAH”. Patriarchs and prophets, even Jesus, used this name when they meant God, our Father in heaven. In the original Aramaic New Testament – the language of Jesus and His disciples, before it is translated into Greek – the word “YAHWEH” was used to call God (the Father).

YAH YAHWEH is the name of God the Father and Y’SHUA YAHWEH is the name of Jesus.

Jesus’ original name as written in the original ancient Bible manuscripts in Hebrew (Old Testament) and in Aramaic (New Testament) consists of 4 letters: **יְשׁוּעַ**

Hebrew letter	Letter name	Pronunciation
י	Yod	Y
שׁ	Shin	SH
ו	Vav (or „U“)	U
ע	Ayin	A

For the first time, the name of Jesus (Y’shua) was mentioned by Jacob in the book of Genesis 49:18.

The original Paleo Hebrew manuscript reads:

“I have waited for your **Y’shua**, O **YAHWEH**.”

But the New International Version (NIV) reads:

“I look for **your deliverance**, **LORD**.”

Moses also mentioned that God sent Jesus to save them from the persecution of the Pharaoh and the Egyptian soldiers.

The literal translation of the original manuscript is:

“And Moses said to the people, do not be afraid. Take your stand and see **the Y’shua YAHWEH**, which He will prepare for you today. For as you see the Egyptians today, you shall not continue to see them again forever. **YAHWEH** will fight for you, and you be silent.” (Exodus 14:13-14)

Thus, people who read the Old Testament in Hebrew are able to see Jesus as the salvation of God.

The deity of Jesus as the Son of God can be seen clearly in Isaiah 12:2.

The original Paleo Hebrew manuscript reads this verse as follows:

“Behold, **El is Y’shua!** I will trust and not be afraid, for my strength and song is **YAH YAHWEH**; yea, He has become to me **Y’shua.**”

But the New International Version (NIV) reads:

“Surely **God is my salvation**; I will trust and not be afraid. **The Lord, the Lord himself**, is my strength and my defense; he has become **my salvation.**” (Isaiah 12:2)

Through the literal translation of the original Hebrew manuscript, we can see that the patriarchs and prophets in the Old Testament have mentioned and known Jesus before He was born.

Patriarchs and prophets (in the Old Testament) and the apostles (in the New Testament) were Hebrew speaking people. They differentiated between God and His Son by calling them with the following names.

God (the Father):

- YAHWEH or
- YAH or
- YAH YAHWEH

God’s Son:

- In the Old Testament: Y’SHUA YAHWEH (= the salvation of God)
- In the New Testament: YAHSHUA (= God is my salvation), or
- In the New Testament: YAHWEH the Messiah (= God the Salvation)
- In the New Testament: YAHSHUA the Messiah (= God is my salvation the anointed King; Hebrew: “YAHSHUA HAMASHIACH”, Greek: “Jesus Christ”)

Patriarchs and prophets (in the Old Testament) and the apostles (in the New Testament) recognised Jesus as a God being like his Father.

Beside the prophet Isaiah explained above (in his book 12:2), David has mentioned Jesus as God and gave him the same title like God, His Father, in Psalm 110:1.

The original Paleo Hebrew manuscript reads this verse as follows:

“**A declaration of YAHWEH to my Adonai:** Sit at My right hand, until I place Your enemies as Your footstool”

The New International Version (NIV) reads:

“The Lord says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

David said clearer that Jesus is a God being and has God (the Father) as His God in Psalm 45:6,7.

The original Paleo Hebrew manuscript reads this verse as follows:

“Your throne, O **Elohim**, is forever and ever; the scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; **therefore, Elohim, Your Elohim, has anointed You** with the oil of gladness more than Your fellows”

The New International Version (NIV) reads:

“Your throne, O **God**, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; **therefore God, your God**, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

The disciples of Jesus, incl. the apostle Paul have believed and proofed too that Jesus is also God being like His Father, the only one God. The original Aramaic New Testament manuscript – before it

was translated in Greek – the Brit Hadashah, shows that the disciples called Jesus as Elohim. Aramaic is a Hebrew dialect and was the language used by Jesus and the disciples who were Jews.

Here are the verses with the original Aramaic word in brackets:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God [original Aramaic: Elohim], and **the Word was God [Elohim]**.” (John 1:1)

“Thomas said to him, “**My Lord and my God [Elohim]!**” (John 20:28).

“For in Christ [Him] **all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form**” (Colossians 2:9)

“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ [Yahshua Messiah], To those who **through the righteousness of our God [Elohim] and Savior Jesus Christ [Yahshua Messiah]** have received a faith as precious as ours” (2 Peter 1:1)