

Mid-week Bible Study - week commencing 1/02/21

What's in a name? - Homegroup Notes

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Some years ago I was doing some Hebrew studies and was privileged to attend a personal session with the senior Rabbi of the North of England ... loosely speaking a sort of Jewish Archbishop of York. The above was hanging in his study. When asked, he explained that this was the name in ancient Hebrew for God, the Lord, the Father of Creation or as He introduced Himself to Moses – THE I AM. It was a language without vowels and the name was thought to be so sacred it was only spoken by the High Priest once each year in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle.



Eventually by adding vowels it became YAHWEH and as it was difficult to translate into Greek or Latin and later into English and other European languages it morphed into Jehovah. This was the principle name given to God and in translating the Old Testament was mostly written as LORD which actually was misleading as it was used to cover not only His name but the many titles given over the ages.

Examples: There are many more throughout the Old Testament

In the Hebrew text, as YHWH was largely unspoken, each of the titles was prefixed with EL – Jehovah meaning The Lord.

El Ohim – The Lord of all creation. The God above all gods.

El Shaddai – The Lord is enough. The promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah.

El Jireh – The Lord will provide. Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.

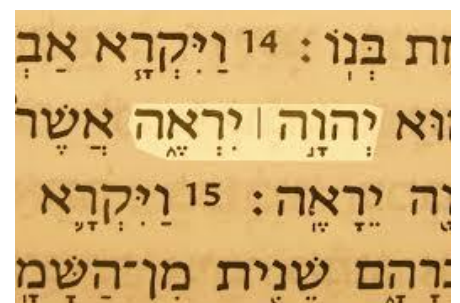
El Shammah – The Lord is there. Ezekiel referring to God being in Jerusalem.

Probably the best known of all the titles to us is Jehovah Jireh – The Lord will provide. This was Abraham's answer to Isaac when he asked his father where the sacrifice was.

A section of the ancient Hebrew
Script telling of the above event.
(El Jireh is highlighted)

My own favourite name / title given to YHWH throughout the OT is **EL SHADDAI ... The Lord is enough!**

There are times in all of our lives when we seem to be faced with the immovable; the impossible; the unchangeable. Those seasons when we are weary; when we feel weak; when we are feeling discouraged; when we reach the end of our tether. It's at these times that we need to remind ourselves that The Lord is enough.



Abraham and Sarah were both in old age and had probably given up on God's promise to give them a son. They would be in a place where they thought that by now it would be impossible, and then God turns up and reminds them of His promise and answers their doubts by declaring that He is **EL SHADDAI – The Lord is enough!**

This is a name that stretches from the Garden to the Cross and down to us today. **The Lord is enough!**

Testimony Time: Share with us a time when all seemed lost and you found God as **EL Shaddai**

There is a second name that resonates with me and it is to be found in the Hebrew text of Psalm 23 verse 1

EL RO'EH – The Lord my shepherd *"The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want."*

This is one of the many verses and therefore names from the OT that Jesus applied to Himself. John 10:11.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

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Most of us will readily understand that Jesus is referring to Himself as the Sacrificial Lamb, the fact that He would have to be crucified and rise again to enable those who put their trust in Him to have their sins forgiven and the promise of eternal life.

Here as with the Abraham incident God shows us that He is **EL SHADDAI**.

There is another meaning behind these words that we can easily miss. In the previous verse Jesus also says.

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

How wonderful to know that in those times we mentioned earlier; ***the immovable, the impossible, the unchangeable, when we're weary, weak, discouraged and at the end of our tether.*** In these times He is our shepherd who seeks us out, gathers us up and carries us back into the safety and comfort of His flock.



When we put our trust in Him He gives us life to the full ... What more do we need?

Never ever let us forget that our Father God is EL SHADDAI ... THE LORD IS ENOUGH!

A couple of questions added by Kathryn.

In Sunday's service, we thought about the names of God referenced in the first 2 verses of Psalm 91. Here they are from the amplified Bible.

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall remain stable and fixed under The shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, My God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!

Are there barriers which prevent you from experiencing the stability of dwelling in God's name?

Do you view God as a safe place to be?

What does confident trust look like?