

August 14, 2016

Who is Your God?

"Moses said to 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? God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." Exodus: 3:13-14

In many cultures the names given to individuals have special meaning and are intended to identify some quality or characteristic attributed to the person. Most of us were not given names because our parents thought we would live up to them. Michael, for example, is Hebrew and means 'Who is like God' or 'gift of God'. I'm pretty sure when my Mom and Dad named me they were not thinking about those meanings.

In Scripture names nearly always mean something. Abraham means 'Father of a multitude' and David means 'beloved'. In the same way the names that Scripture uses for God tell us a great deal about who it is that we have chosen to follow and obey.

When Moses was being called to go and deliver God's people Israel from Egypt where they were slaves in Exodus 3, he asks God who he should say sent him. God's reply tells us a great deal about him. **"God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."** Literally God is telling Moses that his name is, "I exist." From this point on the Hebrew name Yaweh is attributed to God, but the Jewish people so revered this name that they would not use or write it. So, throughout Scripture, different words are used as names for God and each of them tells us a great deal about our Father.

Among the most used name for God in Scripture is the word Elohim which means the 'all powerful one' and 'the Creator of all things'. Scripture uses this word to identify God more than 2300 times.

Beginning in Genesis 1 God is called Elohim, the Creator. Over and over again this attribute of our God is highlighted in his Word. Our God is the all powerful Creator of all things. By his word he made from nothing everything including you and me. As the Creator of all things he is supreme.



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In Mark 13:19 Jesus describes the destruction of Jerusalem which would occur in A.D. 70. He says, **"Pray that this (the destruction of Jerusalem) will not take place in winter, because those days will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God (Elohim) created the world..."** (Mark 13:18-19)

My God is Elohim; the Creator of everything, the source of all power, and because he is all powerful, my God is also Adonai, my Lord and my God. In a world where so much seems to be falling to pieces and when it would be so easy for me to join in the hysteria of uncertainty that seems to grip us, I need to remember every day that my God is Elohim and my God is Adonai. My God is the creator of everything including me. There is none more powerful than he is. He will not be overthrown by anything now or ever.

My God is Adonai. Because he is all powerful he has to be my Lord and Master in all things. The Psalmist would write, **"Oh Lord (Adonai), our Lord (Adonai), how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens...When I consider your heavens, the**

work of you fingers, the moon and the stars, which you set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8)

Our Adonai is above everything and more powerful than anything. Why should we, his children, be caught up in the fear that grips our world? Remember what the Apostle wrote to the Roman believers, *"What then shall we say in response to this? If God(Elohim) is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?...Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us..."* (Romans 8) If my God is Elohim, the all powerful Creator, and Adonai, the Lord over all, what have I to fear?