

## **Names of God from the Bible**

### **1 – Elohim**

*Every name of God is an eternal Name. It may describe God at a point in time; however, it is equally true today for, as He says, He does not change. In most cases, it describes an attribute or part of the Character of God, because no name can fully explain or describe God.*

#### **Reading: Genesis 1:1-31**

The Bible begins with Genesis and Genesis begins with Elohim. The eternal Name of the Great Initiator.

Right from the start the writer of Scripture distinguishes the Christian-Judeo Biblical God as totally unique.

EI was the common title given to gods. The writer of Genesis, Moses, and the Author, God, establish right from the start that the God to whom they refer was not a 'common or normally recognised' mythological god. The Judeo-Christian God is unique and totally distinct from any other god.

First of all, He is ever-existing – without beginning and without end. He was not created. His is the beginning of all things. He is the Divine Creator.

When you search for the very beginning, you find God and you find He already existed. All beginnings start with Him.

God creates – it is His nature to create. Thus, as we search for beginnings, the beginning of the world, we find it starts with God. God pre-dates the world, the universe and the cosmos. The world only comes into being because God the Creator, Elohim, ordained that it should. The world did not pre-date God.

Most of the gods of this world are man-made or man envisioned. Elohim has always existed. He brought the world into existence. He is not subject therefore to the will or opinions of humanity. His position or relative standing is not affected by the doubts, scepticism or mocking of His created beings. Humanity, in its ignorance, may ignore God, rant and rave at God, blame God or hate God. God, however, is totally immune to the petty views of His created beings.

As Creator, Elohim is intrinsically endowed with ultimate authority and power. There is, of course, a difference between the two. Authority without power is incompetent; power without authority is highly dangerous. Elohim, the Judeo-Christian God and God of the Bible, has both. Please note that He created the world out of NOTHING. He did not create the world out of dust or anything else that pre-existed. God created the world out of nothing. You could say He created it out of His head as, in reality, He thought, He spoke and all of creation came into being.

Consequently, God is not only Creator but, by implication, the One who has invincible, infinite and inexhaustible power.

Another interesting aspect of Elohim is that it is a plural term. Being one God with a plurality of persons. (This is not found in any other Semitic language.) This is highlighted in the phrase, "Let us make man in our image." The first chapter of Genesis can easily be seen to suggest the plurality

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of God. God the Father spoke and the Holy Spirit was hovering over the waters. Both the writers, John and Paul, suggest that Jesus was also present at the time.

Nevertheless, Elohim is unlike any other God in that He longs for a relationship with each of His created human beings. God is actively and passionately concerned about His people. Unlike other gods, who may be part of creation (sun god or moon god) or who are either totally aloof from humanity or only wish to annihilate all opposition, Elohim is a God of love, as we shall see in greater depth later.

What an amazing truth. The One who created you and me loves us so much that He wants an intimate friendship with each one of us on a daily basis. How is your relationship coming along?

### **What does that name mean for us today**

Elohim wants to be your God and my God. He is love and all powerful – there is nothing He cannot do except deny His character. Therefore, there is reason to pray and to tell God everything that is on our hearts. We can trust Him to know what is best for us.

### **Prayer**

*Father, Elohim. Thank You so much that You created me. Thank you that You created me for a relationship with You that begins on earth and carries on in Your Heaven for eternity. Please help me to get to know the real You as well as You know the real me. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Job 38:1-21
- Romans 1:18-23
- Hebrews 11:3
- John 1:1-3
- Colossians 1:15-18

### **Questions**

1. How big is your God?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?