

JEHOVAH

THE RELATIONAL GOD

PRAYING THROUGH THE NAMES OF GOD

by Faith Girl

BACKGROUND

If Elohim is God's creative and powerful name, Jehovah is God's personal name. It's the self-revealing name God gave when Moses asked, "What is [Your] name?"

When we study the name Elohim, we study the God who is the Creator, and we can talk about His power, presence, and prowess. When we talk about Jehovah, we're talking about His person, His character.

Elohim is the side of God who created the heavens and the earth. Jehovah is the side of God who relates to His creation personally. A person can believe in Elohim without knowing Jehovah. In fact, plenty of people believe in God (Elohim) but don't know the God in whom they believe (Jehovah).

Jehovah is the God who personally reveals Himself to us, often through the trials and struggles we face.

One of the first characteristics we discover about Jehovah is that He is a person. He is the I Am.

This is significant because it lets us know we don't live in an impersonal universe as the evolutionists would have us believe. God isn't a force who just moves about. He isn't what we think of when we hear, "May the force be with you." He is a living and very personal God who has emotions, intellect, and will.

Yet because He is also "I Am Who I Am," He is also a self-existing being. He doesn't just exist, but rather exists in Himself. In other words, nothing outside of Him contributed or contributes to His existence.

SCRIPTURE

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.'" God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers— the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob— has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation" (verses 14-15 NIV).

"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD [Jehovah] God made earth and heaven."
GENESIS 2: 4

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All of us exist because we were created. We were preceded by a mother and a father. We are because they were. You are because they were. I am because they were. I am not because I am, and you are not because you are.

If there was no them, there would be no you. Our existence depends not only on our parents but is also dependent upon other external things that allow us to live, breathe, and function. Each of us is alive right now because oxygen constantly contributes to our existence. Take away the oxygen, and none of us would survive. We can exist because things are being provided for us, things we all need for eating, drinking, and breathing— the things we need to live.

But when God formally introduced Himself to His people and to humanity, He told Moses in essence, “Tell them that the one who sent you doesn’t have to go outside of Himself to be Himself, for He is complete in Himself. I Am Who I Am.” In other words, God is the only truly independent being in the universe because He is the only being who is self-generating.

Jehovah’s self-existence includes His self-sufficiency, which reminds us that He is the great, eternal one. Since He is self-generating, He perpetuates Himself throughout all eternity. You and I aren’t eternal on earth because we are dependent. But Jehovah is independent, so He needs only Himself to exist in the dimension where He lives. He is everlasting.

His is also immutable— He never changes. We are forever changing. We’re getting older, our hair is greying, we’re getting wrinkles, and our skin is sagging. Our memories aren’t always what they used to be. But God doesn’t go through that process. He is who He was, and He is also who He will be because the great I Am never steps out of the present tense. In other words, He is always now.

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Practical Application

God can never become irrelevant because He is always current. A billion years from now, God will still be just as relevant as He was on day one because all creation depends on Him. You can't get much more relevant than that.

Another aspect of God's self-revelation is that He isn't necessarily who we want Him to be. He is who He is, not who you or I want Him to be or choose to define Him as. So if you're going to know who God is, you'll have to let Him define Himself simply because He is not "I am who you say I am." He is Jehovah, Yahweh, YHWH, the Lord—I Am Who I Am.

Moses had come face-to-face with Jehovah God, and he wanted to know more. He asked to see more. And God allowed him to experience all that he was able to experience because Jehovah is the close and personal character of the living God.

Moses could have been satisfied with the burning bush. He could have been satisfied with the ten miraculous plagues. He could have been satisfied with the parting of the sea. Yet despite all that Moses had already experienced of God and with God, he asked for more. He said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!"

So God gave Moses something no other human on the planet has ever experienced— the personal manifest presence of God's glory. Covered by God's own hand and tucked away in a cleft of the rock, Moses saw God's back pass by.

What happened to Moses after he experienced Jehovah in that intimate way is remarkable, and it should motivate each of us to seek God and make a close relationship with Jehovah the primary focus of our lives. After that encounter, Moses picked up a pen and paper and began writing: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." And he kept writing and kept writing until the history of the beginning of time had been completed. Even though Moses wrote Genesis, he wasn't alive when Genesis happened. So how did he know the details of events that were so far removed from him? He knew because God let him see and experience Jehovah. He let Moses see some stuff that had never been seen before so that Moses could write some information that he didn't have any cognitive knowledge about.

God wants to reveal to you things you've never dreamed of. He wants you to experience His vision and plan for you. But that won't come about if you simply know Him as Elohim— if you only want to know His power without a relationship with His person. That will come about only when you get to know Him as Jehovah— as Yahweh, the Lord. He is the self-revealing God.

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Prayer Suggestions

Jehovah, you are worthy of all praise and adoration.
You are the God who made the heavens and the earth.
You set the stars in their places and hung the moon where it was to remain.
You rule over all, and yet you also seek a relationship with your creation.
For that and much more, you are worthy of all praise and worship.
I lift up your name— Jehovah— as I seek your face.
And I honour you as you are seated on your throne above all.
You are the great and mighty God, who raises up kingdoms and subdues nations at your choosing.
In your mercy, you sustain all life and passionately delight in our souls.
Jehovah, I come before you with a heart of contrition, knowing I often haven't honoured you as Lord and master of my life.
You wait for me to come talk to you, to wake up and greet you, or to spend my evenings with you, but I have instead wasted time on futile distractions.
You are the relational God, who desires to walk with me in the cool of the day, just as you walked with Adam and Eve in those early days of your creation.
Forgive me for often seeking to walk alone and ignoring the blessing and joy of your presence.
Jehovah, thank you for desiring to be close to me.
Thank you for not only being high and lifted up but also dwelling with the lowly and with those who are not of a high stature.
Thank you for the goodness and depth of your heart, which pours out love time and again in my life.
Thank you for your grace and patience, which you lovingly manifest even in the face of my many dismissals of you.
I often walk in the midst of the beauty of your creation without giving you the praise and credit you deserve.
Please accept my heart of gratitude right now for all you have made and for your desire to know me fully and to empower me to know you as well.
Jehovah, to know you and to be known by you— to experience the depth of this intimacy is my heart's greatest cry.
Give me the capacity to love you deeply and to receive the love you have for me.
Where my heart has become hardened or jaded, remind me of the purity of your love and gently massage it open again.
Where my mind has become too analytical, give me the gift of wonder at who you are and the works of your hands.
Delight my soul with your Word and with the fresh wind of your Holy Spirit.
Slow my steps so that abiding with you becomes a way of life.
Help me to honour you as King and to advance your kingdom.