

God our Heavenly Father

Key verses

● “For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is no other.”
Isa.45:18

● “Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’” Mark 12:29-30

The title 'God'

In most cases in the Old Testament the word “God” in our English Bibles comes from the plural Hebrew word “**elohim**” (pronounced 'el-o-heem'), which refers to the **creative and ministering** workings of God through His angelic beings that do His will throughout the universe. There is a tendency for us when reading our English Bibles to be unaware of this truth.

The **singular titles** of God, ie “**el**” (pronounced 'ale') and “**eloah**” ('el-o'-ah') are used to refer to the **all powerful One God** and only appear about 250 times in Scripture, whereas the plural title “**elohim**” appears more than 2000 times. This shows the incredible importance God places on the concept of **working together**, which should be a lesson for us in this life. In God's Kingdom we will be **working together** for eternity.

What is God's Name?

God's name appears in most English Bible translations as “**LORD**”. God's Name appears in the Hebrew as “**YHWH**”. The addition of vowels to YHWH aids pronunciation eg **YeHoWaH**, **YaHoWaH**, **YaHWeH**, **JeHoVaH***. God's Name (YHWH) is derived from His **Memorial Name** revealed in Exod.3:14 (hayah asher hayah). The word “hayah” comes from the root word “havah” which means ‘**to breathe**’ or ‘**to exist**’. Clearly God has chosen these words to teach us that He is the **only self existent one**. In Rev.1:4 God describes Himself as, “Him **who is** and **who was** and **who is to come**”. This is another way of describing His **eternal self existence**.

Does God have substance?

Some church creeds teach that God is invisible and has no substance. Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for **they shall see God**” (Matt.5:8), and speaking to the Jews about God He said, “You have neither heard His voice at any time, **nor seen his form**” (John 5:37). So God definitely has substance.

* Generally “J” is used instead of “Y” when Anglicizing Hebrew names eg “**Yehowshua**” becomes “**Joshua**” or “**Jesus**” in English. This is probably one reason why “Jehovah” has been a popular English choice in the past. “Jehovah” is actually the original Latin form of God's Name.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.

How are we to address God?

● “Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph.5:20

● “In this manner, therefore, pray: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**” Matt.6:9 See Matt.7:11

Jesus showed us by example to address God in prayer as “**our heavenly Father**”. This is very important as it goes hand in hand with the New Testament emphasis that we are children of God if we love Him and keep His commandments (1 John 5:2-3). All prayer must also be offered **through Jesus as our Mediator**.

Knowing God

● “And this is life eternal, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

John 17:3

See also Jer.9:23-24 (lovingkindness, judgement and righteousness)

“Knowing God” and His Son amounts to much more than academic knowledge. The prophet Jeremiah indicates the practical side. King Josiah is commended for supporting the poor and needy, and this says God, is “knowing Him” (Jer.22:16). Returning to God with your whole heart (repentance) is also part of knowing God (Jer.24:7). Those who live their lives selfishly fulfilling their own desires are described as, “not knowing God” (1 Sam.2:12; 1 Thess.4:5).

God is

● **One** 1 Timothy 2:5

Deut.6:4; 1 Cor.8:4-6; Gal.3:20.

● **Love** 1 John 4:7-21

Psalms 103; Isa.63:9; Jer.31:3; Rom.5:8, 8:39.

● **Gracious to His children** Psalm 145:14-20

Psa.103:11-18; Matt.6:25-34, 7:11; 1 John 3:1-2.

● **The creator** Isaiah 45:18

Psa.33:6; Isa.40:26, ch42:5, 44:24; Jer.27:5, 51:15-16; Zech.12:1

● **All powerful** Isaiah 40:25-31

Job ch26; Psa.29, ch104, ch147; Amos 9:5-6.

● **All knowledge** Daniel 2:20-23

Job ch38 to ch41; Isa.55:8-11.

● **Everywhere present** Jeremiah 23:23-24

1 Kings 8:29; Psa.139; Amos 9:2-4.

● **Unfailing foreknowledge** Isaiah 46:9-10

Psa.139:16; Isa.48:3-5; Eph.1:5, 11; 2 Tim.1:9; 1 Pet.1:20.

● **Declared great by creation** Psalm 19:1-4

Job 12:7-12; Rom.1:19-20.

● **Immortal** 1 Timothy 6:15-16

1Tim.1:17.

● **Hidden from mortal sight** 1 John 4:12

John 1:18; 1 Tim.6:16

● **Impartial** Acts 10:34-35

Deut.10:17; Rom.2:6-11; Eph.6:9.

● **Not tempted by evil** James 1:13