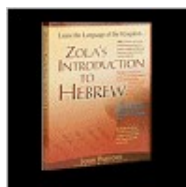




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Learn Hebrew

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Hebrew Names of God

Elohim and Elohei Constructs given in Tanakh

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Introduction

The word *Elohim* is the plural of *El* (or possibly of *Eloah*) and is the first name for God given in the *Tanakh*: "In the beginning, God (*Elohim*) created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1):

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ

The name *Elohim* is unique to Hebraic thinking: it occurs only in Hebrew and in no other ancient Semitic language. The masculine plural ending does not mean "gods" when referring to the true God of Israel, since the name is mainly used with singular verb forms and with adjectives and pronouns in the singular (e.g., see Gen. 1:26). However, considering the *Hashalush HaKadosh* (Trinity), the form indeed allows for the plurality within the Godhead.

In the traditional Jewish view, *Elohim* is the Name of God as the Creator and Judge of the universe (Gen 1:1-2:4a).

"The Holy One, Blessed be He, said to those, You want to know my name? I am called according to my actions. When I judge the creatures I am Elohim, and when I have mercy with My world, I am named YHVH" (Ex R. 3:6).

In the second creation story (Genesis 2:4b-ff) the Name of God is revealed as the Sacred Name YHVH (from the semitic root that means "to be") and expresses the idea of God's closeness to humans. YHVH "breathed into his (Adam's) nostrils the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7).

Elohim and Elohei Constructs

Elohim is combined with other words to provide additional description about God. These other names or titles for God are sometimes called "construct forms," indicating that they are "constructed" from the base name (e.g., *Elohei*) with other designators.

For each name in the list below, I provide the following information:

1. The Hebrew text for the name
2. The most common English transliteration (*in italics*)
3. A definition for the name, references to the Tanakh, and frequency information
4. Additional comments, if applicable.

God

אלהים

Elohim. [The basic form]

God; gods. The plural form of *El*, meaning "Strong One." The Name *Elohim* occurs 2,570 times in the Tanakh. See Isa. 54:5; Jer. 32:27; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Deut. 5:23; etc.

God of -

אלהי

Elohei.

God of -; a "construct form" that never appears without a qualifying descriptor.

The Son of God

בן־אלהים

Ben Elohim.

The Son of God (Matt. 16:16; 26:63; Jn. 6:69).

My God

אלהי

Elohai.

My God.

Elohim with personal pronoun suffix indicating 1st person singular.

The God of Abraham

אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם

Elohei Avraham.

The God of Abraham (Ex. 3:15).

The God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob

אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם אֱלֹהֵי יִצְחָק וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב

Elohei Avraham elohei Yitschak velohei Ya'akov.

The God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob (Ex. 3:15).

The God of my kindness

אֱלֹהֵי חַסְדִּי

Elohei Chasdi.

God of my Kindness (Ps. 59:17).

From *chesed*, the covenantal faithfulness (of God). See also Psalm 89:29; 144:2.

The God of gods

אֱלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים

Elohei Haelohim.

The God of gods (Deut. 10:17; Josh. 22:22; Ps. 136:2).

The God of my strength

אֱלֹהֵי מְעוּזִי

Elohei Ma'uzzi.

God of my Strength (2 Sam. 22:33; Ps. 31:5; 43:2).

The God who is near

אֱלֹהֵי מִקְרָב

Elohei Mikkarov.

God who is near (Jer. 23:23).

This Title for God acknowledges His immanence within all.

The God who is far

אֱלֹהֵי מֵרָחֵק

Elohei Merachok.

God who is far (Jer. 23:23).

This Title for God acknowledges His transcendence above all.

The God of heights

אֱלֹהֵי מְרוֹם

Elohei Marom.

God of Heights (Micah 6:6).

The God of Justice

אֱלֹהֵי מִשְׁפָּט

Elohei Mishpat.
God of Justice (Isa. 30:18).

The God of Hosts

אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת

Elohei Tseva'ot.
God of hosts or God of armies (2 Sam. 5:10).

The God of Rock

אֱלֹהֵי צוּר

Elohei Tzur.
God of Rock (2 Sam. 22:47).
Rock is poetically used to indicate the strength of God as the ground of all being in the universe.

The Eternal God

אֱלֹהֵי קֶדֶם

Elohei Kedem.
God of the beginning; Eternal God (Deut. 33:27).

The God of my praise

אֱלֹהֵי תְהִלָּתִי

Elohei Tehillati.

God of my Praise (Ps. 109:1).

From *Tehillah*, praise, hymn, or psalm. *Tehillim* is the book of Psalms in Hebrew.

Our God

אֱלֹהֵינוּ

Eloheynu.

Our God (Ex. 3:18).

Pronominal form that is common in many Hebrew blessings and prayers.

The God of our fathers

אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ

Elohei Avotenu.

The God of our fathers (Deut 26:7; 1 Chron. 12:17).

God our father

אֱלֹהִים אָבִינוּ

Elohim Avinu.

God our Father.

God in heaven

אֱלֹהִים בַּשָּׁמַיִם

Elohim Bashamayim.

God in heaven (2 Chron 20:6).

The God of truth

אֱלֹהִים אֱמֶת

Elohim Emet.

The God of truth (Jer. 10:10).

The God of Nahor

אֱלֹהֵי נָחוֹר

Elohei Nachor.

The God of Nahor (Abraham's brother) (Gen. 31:53).

God the father

אֱלֹהִים הָאָב

Elohim HaAv.

God the Father (Jn. 6:27; 1 Co. 8:6; Gal. 1:1, 3; Eph. 6:23; Phil. 2:11; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Pet. 1:17; 2 Jn. 1:3; Jude 1:1).

The Living God

אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים

Elohim Chayim.

The Living God (Deut. 5:26; Jos. 3:10; 1 Sam. 17:26, 36; 2 Ki. 19:4, 16; Ps. 42:2; 84:2; Isa. 37:4, 17; Jer. 10:10; 23:36; Dan. 6:20, 26; Hos. 1:10; Matt. 16:16; 26:63; Jn. 6:69; Acts 14:15; Rom. 9:26; 2 Co. 3:3; 6:16; 1 Tim. 3:15; 4:10; 6:17; Heb. 3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22; Rev. 7:2).

The God of the living

אֱלֹהֵי הַחַיִּים

Elohei HaChayim.

The God of the Living (Mk. 12:27).

The God of the spirits of all flesh

אֱלֹהֵי הַרוּחֹת לְכָל-בָּשָׂר

Elohei haruchot l'chol-basar.

God of the spirits of all flesh (Num. 16:22; 27:16).

אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים

“The Living God”

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