

Elohim אֱלֹהִים (God) = Deity

Exodus 3:13–15 (ESV)

¹³ Then Moses said to **God**, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The **God** of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ **God** said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ **God** also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘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, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

- **Elohim** is not a name, it is a title (Deity)
- This is the only word used to refer to God in Exodus 1 - 2

What is His Name?

Exodus 3:13–14 (ESV)

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- **I AM** is not the personal name of Elohim, but is the meaning of His personal name

I AM = אֶהְיֶה Ehyeh

- **From the root verb: הָיָה *hāyāh* – He was / To be / To Exist**
 - Third-person, masculine, plural, *past tense*
- **אֶהְיֶה *’ēh·yēh* - I Am / I will be / I Exist**
 - As stated by Elohim to Moses, He adds “eh”
 - Makes the word first-person, *future imperfect tense*

The meaning of Elohim’s personal name is an invitation into a great mystery that is bigger than we will ever comprehend in this life! Elohim is the one who IS. If I say, “I am,” I must add that it is because of my parents. My parents would have to say that they are because of their parents. If you continue to drill down, you will eventually reach the ultimate uncaused cause. Elohim is the only being in the history of the universe who does not depend on anyone or anything else to exist. **This is the meaning of Elohim’s personal name.** Aristotle argues, in Book 8 of *the Physics* and Book 12 of *the Metaphysics*, “there must be an immortal, unchanging being, ultimately responsible for all wholeness and orderliness in the sensible world”. This is **Ehyeh!**

Acts 17:28 (ESV) - for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’

Romans 11:36 (ESV) - For from him and through him and to him are all things...

Ephesians 4:6 (ESV) ...one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all...

I AM - ἐγώ εἰμί / egō eimi

Jewish translators who were responsible for the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament, translated יהוה־אֱלֹהִים / ehyeh as: I AM = ἐγώ εἰμί / egō eimi

John 6:20 (ESV) But he said to them, “**It is I; do not be afraid.**”

The “I AM” statements in the Gospel of John (ἐγώ εἰμί / egō eimi)

1. John 6:35 (ESV) - **I am the bread of life**
2. John 8:12 (ESV) - **I am the light of the world**
3. John 10:9 (ESV) - **I am the door**
4. John 10:11 (ESV) - **I am the good shepherd**
5. John 11:25 (ESV) - **I am the resurrection and the life**
6. John 14:6 (ESV) - **I am the way, and the truth, and the life**
7. John 15:1 (ESV) - **I am the true vine**

Ties Jesus back to Exodus 3:14 > Claim that Jesus is the human embodiment of THE being

The LORD - יהוה / YHWH

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The LORD - יהוה / YHWH = He is / He will be

- Shifts from the first person (I AM - Ehyeh) to the third person (He is - YHWH)
- This is the answer to Moses’s question and is the personal name Elohim is to be called. YHWH is recorded over 6,500 times in the Old Testament.

Why is God's personal name (YHWH) not printed in our English Bibles?

Over time, the Jews stopped pronouncing YAHWEH to preserve the sacred nature of Elohim's divine name. When the scrolls were read aloud, they would substitute the name "Adonay," which is the Hebrew word for Lord or master. This practice (tradition) has continued throughout the centuries and even until today in our English translations where YHWH is translated LORD (small caps).

אֲדֹנָי Adonay – Generic word for Lord or master

What about Jehovah?

Exodus 3:15 (ASV 1901) - *And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **Jehovah**, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.*

Ancient Jewish scribes wanted to prevent people from accidentally saying the name YAHWEH when reading aloud, so they began placing the vowels from the word "Adonay" (Lord) into the consonants for YHWH which resulted in a hybrid word "YAHOWAH."

YHWH
+Adonay
=YAHOWAH

This was a visual reminder for the reader to say the word "Adonay" aloud instead of "YAHWEH". "YAHOWAH" was never an actual name for God and was never said aloud by Jewish readers.

Christian scribes in medieval Europe didn't know that "YAHOWAH" was not a real word or name, and they began to insert it into their writings after reading it in ancient Hebrew manuscripts. Eventually this word was transliterated into English as "Jehovah," and appears in some English translations such as the American Standard Version of 1901.

YAHOWAH → (transliterated as) → Jehovah