

An Examination of The Lord—The Names of God Jehovah or LORD—Genesis 2:1-25

We continue our look at the Names of God. This lesson continues to look at Jehovah or in the King James Bible [Old Testament] **“LORD”**. Last lesson, we pointed out that the translators and printers of the King James Bible distinguish between two Hebrew Names by using Capital and Lower Case letters: **Genesis 15:1-21**. [Let's Observe the handout and complete the exercise].

We now want to turn and look at the Name Jehovah or **“LORD”**. John Gill calls this “The famous name of God” God takes this name and claims it as His own (**Exodus 6:3; Isaiah 42:8**). His Name alone is Jehovah (**Psalm 83:18**). That He alone is Jehovah and does not share this Name (**Isaiah 45:6**—**“That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.”**)

DEFINED

The primary meaning of the Name Jehovah is **“the self-existent one”**¹ (**Exodus 3:14**—**“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM; and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”**) As I understand it, the Name **“Jehovah”** carries with it all three tenses of “past, present, and future”. The Lord is saying, **“I was who I am, I am Who I am, and I shall be who I am”**. This coincides with **Revelation 1:8**—**“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”**.

The Name **Jehovah** or **“LORD”** also carries with it the meaning of “to become” or “to become known”². This teaches us that Jehovah must make Himself known. Observe: **Matthew 16:15-17**—**“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”** It is the LORD who reveals Himself, else we would have no idea who He is.

We also know that God does not reveal Himself all at once. Observe, we were first introduced to God as the **“Elohim”**= **“the strong one, the covenant keeping one, the one to be worshiped, the plural [triune God]**. Then in **Genesis 2:4**, He reveals Himself as **“Jehovah”**. In **Genesis 15:2**, we observe Him as **“Lord”** or **“Adonai”**. There are other names that we will observe of His as they are revealed in Scripture.

CONTEXT

You will hear from this pulpit a lot: “Context”. It is the real estate of Scripture Interpretation. I am sure you have heard “Location! Location! Location!”. Well, when it comes to Scriptures: “Context! Context! Context!” When the creation is created, it is God or Elohim. When the creation of man is revealed in detail, when conversation between God and man takes place for the first time, it is LORD or Jehovah who speaks. This is the “first usage”³ of this word “Jehovah” in Scripture. The first time that God uses this name is when He is dealing with man! When God deals with man it is the name Jehovah that is used!

While it was **“Elohim”** or **“God”** who said, **“...Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female**

1 The Scofield Study Bible; **Genesis 2:14 Foot note**

2 Ibid

3 The Law of First mention: A tool of hermeneutics (Bible Study/Interpretation) which states that the first time a word is used, the definition, the usage is set and is to be interpreted throughout in this way.

created he them” (Genesis 1:26,27). Yet, when man filled the scene and have dominion over creation, it was **Jehovah Elohim or “LORD God”** who acts!

So what does this mean? It clearly reveals a special relationship of Deity, in His Jehovah Character, to man, as all Scripture declare.

Jehovah: The Name of Redemption

We will note that the LORD uses the name Jehovah or LORD when referring to the work of salvation. **Jonah 2:9—“...Salvation is of the LORD”.**

When sin entered the world through the disobedience of one man, it was Jehovah-Elohim who sought him out—**Genesis 3:8-13**; It was the LORD God who promised that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head; and the serpent's head would bruise the seed of the woman's heel (**Genesis 3:15**). It was Jehovah-Elohim who made coats of skins, and clothed them (Adam and Eve) picturing the imputed righteousness of Christ to the believer. It was Jehovah whom Cain went out from the presence of (**Genesis 4:16**), signifying the lost man willfully departs from the presence of Jehovah. That lost sinners cannot come to the light lest their deeds be reproved, that they will not come and cannot come (**John 3:19-21; John 5:40; John 6:44**). It was the LORD whom Noah found grace in the eyes of. Noah, who was vile, evil, idolatrous, and whose wickedness was so great that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (**Genesis 6:5-8**). It was the LORD who commanded Noah and his house to enter into the ark (**Genesis 7:1,2**). When the time of Israel's deliverance had come it was Jehovah announced the deliverance (**Exodus 3:13-17**).

When the redeemed people of God were to be charged to obey His commandments, He used the Name “LORD” or Jehovah. This was done to remind them of the great work of redemption that was done by Him on their behalf. Observe: **Leviticus 18:1-6,21,30**. So too does the Holy Spirit remind us of our need to obey God and live holy, separated lives in the New Testament as well (**1 Corinthians 6:19,20**). Because He redeemed us, purchased us with the precious blood of Christ Jesus and not with gold, or silver, or corruptible things, but with the incorruptible blood of Christ, we are beholden to Him; we are to submit ourselves to His commands as are revealed through the Word of God.