

THEOLOGY – *The Doctrine Of God*

The word *theology* comes from the Greek word *theos*, meaning God. Thus, theology is the study of God.

I. The Names and Titles of God

The names of God are those by which He is known. They denote His character. Psalm 54: 1 says, *Save me, O God, by Thy name, and vindicate me by Thy power.* Psalm 9:10 says, *And those who know Thy name will put their trust in Thee; for Thou, O LORD, hast not forsaken those who seek Thee.*

A. Elohim – translated as God in the Bible

Elohim occurs over 2300 times in the Bible and is not a personal name, but is God's official title. Elohim means 'the strong One, or the One who puts forth power'.

B. Jehovah or YHWH – translated as LORD or GOD in the Bible

Jehovah is the personal name of God. The meaning of the name is 'Redeemer' and every time it is used in the Bible it is connected with deliverance by God. Psalm 30:4 says, *Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning.* (See also Zechariah 12:7-10) Exodus 3:13 says, *Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you. Now they may say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them?' And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM', and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you'.* Compare this with John 8:58!

C. Adonai – translated as lord or Lord in the Bible

Adonai means master of owner; one who owns, one who rules. Genesis 15:1-2 says, *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.'* And Abram said, *'O Lord GOD, what wilt Thou give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'*

D. Combinations of the name Jehovah

1. Jehovah-jireh – 'the LORD will provide.' *And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, 'In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.'* Genesis 22:14
2. Jehovah-rapha – 'the LORD that heals'. *And He said, 'If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer.'* Exodus 15:26
3. Jehovah-nissi – 'the LORD our banner'. *And Moses built an altar, and named it The LORD is my Banner.* Exodus 17:15
4. Jehovah-Qadash – 'the LORD that sanctifies'. *And you shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.* Leviticus 20:8
5. Jehovah-shalom – 'the LORD our peace'. *Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it 'The LORD is Peace'.* Judges 6:24
6. Jehovah-tsidkenu – 'the LORD our righteousness'. *In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'* Jeremiah 23:6

7. Jehovah-shammah – ‘the LORD is there’. *The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, ‘The LORD is there.’* Ezekiel 48:35
8. Jehovah-sabaoth – ‘the LORD of hosts’. *Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.* 1 Samuel 1:3
9. Jehovah-ra-ah – ‘the LORD my shepherd’. *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.* Psalm 23:1

E. Combinations of the name Elohim

1. El-Elyon – ‘Most High God’. *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.* Genesis 14:18
2. El-Olam – ‘Everlasting God’. *And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.* Genesis 21:33
3. El-Shaddai – ‘Almighty God’. *Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.’* Genesis 17:1

II. The Existence Of God

A. From Reason

1. The Intuitional argument – That which is in man that knows that there is a God without anyone revealing that fact.
2. The Cosmological argument – The argument of cause and effect. Here is the world – how did it come to be?
3. The Teleological argument – There is perfect design and order in the universe. Design demands a designer!
4. The Anthropological argument – Only man has the capacity to know and reason. He is both an intellectual and moral being.

B. From History – God has spoken in prophecy and years later it comes to pass. History proves there is a God

C. From The Bible

1. The revelation of Jesus Christ – Jesus was (and is) God in the flesh.
2. Prophetic declaration – When Christ was crucified there were twenty-five distinct prophecies fulfilled – prophecies written centuries before!

III. The Nature Of God

A. Definitions of God

1. God is Spirit – *God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.* John 4:24
2. God is Light – *And this is the message we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.* 1 John 1:5
3. God is Love – *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.* 1 John 4:8
4. God is a Consuming Fire – *For our God is a consuming fire.* Hebrews 12:29

B. The Trinity of God

IV. The Attributes of God

- A. The Omnipotence of God – God is all powerful, all mighty. *And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Revelation 19:6*
- B. The Omniscience of God – God is all knowing. *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting god, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. Isaiah 40:28 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them. Psalm 147:4*
- C. The Omnipresence of God – God is everywhere present. *Where can I go from thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me. Psalm 139:7*
- D. The Eternity of God – God is the eternal Now; He is without beginning or end! *Before the mountains were born, or Thou didst give birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. Psalm 90:2*
- E. The Immutability of God – God in His being, attitude and acts does not change. *Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. James 1:17*
- F. The Love of God – *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved). Ephesians 2:4 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*