

## **Elohim**

### 2) Elohim (God)

First seen in Genesis 1:1 – Used 2599 times in the Bible

**Remember me making the statement that the English term god was a title? I think there is scriptural backing here.**

The term "Elohim" means “supreme one” or “mighty one.” It is not only used of the one true God but is also used on occasion to refer to human rulers, judges, and even angels. If you saw one exhibiting supreme rule and expressed mighty power, the word you would use would be Elohim. That does not necessarily mean that you are referring to the one unique God. But even as one comes to understand Yahweh, you might still grab hold of this particular word, Elohim, in order to emphasize God’s power and might.

**Elohim is generally considered as creator God look at Genesis 1:1**

This is an imperfect illustration of the relationship between Elohim and Yahweh, but perhaps it will capture enough of the thought to be helpful. If a small child sees a furry animal he may very well refer to it as a puppy dog, but as he matures he is able to clearly differentiate between a puppy dog and a kitty. Further maturation might have the child now calling the dog a specific breed—like a beagle. And if the puppy comes to live in the child’s home what once was ‘puppy dog’ will now become ‘my beagle’.

In the same way, a person might see a powerful expression and say Elohim. As his knowledge of truth matures Elohim might take upon a specific character, i.e. El Shaddai. And if that knowledge moves into a relationship, Elohim is now identified as Yahweh. So, just as one child might refer to a kitty as puppy, and another refer to his beagle as a puppy, so also one might refer to a cactus as Elohim and another who has full covenant knowledge of Yahweh refer to him as Elohim.

2 While the usage of Elohim in Scriptures is only found in the Hebrew translation, below are some of the most referenced English versions of Bible verses that use this name for God.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." - Genesis 1:26

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. - Deuteronomy 6:4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. - John 1:1

I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father." - Psalm 2:7

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. - John 1:18

**Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. - 1 Corinthians 8:6**

Experiencing Elohim in Nature

God is great and powerful. He is the epitome of might and power. This is why Paul says what he does in Romans 1:20. "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."

If that verse were in Hebrew instead of Greek we can be almost certain that the word translated "God" in that sentence would be Elohim. As noted above this is the word which is most frequently used when referring to God's dealings with creation in general or "with the nations of the world apart from his covenant with Israel."

When you have a first encounter with God—through His power displayed in nature—you will likely gravitate towards an Elohim concept. This is why Elohim, and not Yahweh, is prominent in books like Daniel and Jonah and even the first two chapters of Genesis. **It is only after God further reveals himself that one will understand him to be Yahweh. Simply knowing that there is a higher power (an Elohim) means that one has merely risen to the faith of demons (James 2:19). It is only when we move from elementary knowledge of God as Creator that we embrace God as Father.**

Help me, O Yahweh my Elohim.

Save me because of your mercy (Psalm 109:26).

**Such a prayer is a reflection of a saving understanding of Elohim. How do you know this God? Do you know him simply as a mighty one or a higher power? Or can you say, “my Lord and my God”?**

In order to see this we need to look at the Strong's Hebrew rendering in many different places.

We will use the blue letter bible website for this.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

(I need the app to be running on the screens)

Let's start with Genesis 1:1

***Deut 10: 17***

Deut 4: 29

Exodus 7:1