

NOTES

~ *God, the Father* ~

- Our God in plurality from the beginning: *el-o-heem* (Genesis 1:1-2 & John 1:1-14).
- Different beings labeled as ‘**god**’ (we’ll cover each in great detail each week starting with the **father**):
 - **Father**: the *father of spirits* (Hebrews 12:9), the father who gives us the Spirit (Luke 11:13), and the father who forgives (Matthew 6:14-15).
 - **Son**: came to earth and took human form (spirit in body like us) to become the sacrifice for all. He has earned the right to rescue us from judgment. Sits in the kingdom of heaven at the right side of God the *father* (Ephesians 1:19-20)
 - **Spirit**: described as the ‘*breath of god*’, He is currently on earth to guide and instruct those who follow the Christ (John 16:13).
- But, they’re *corporately* the same just like company employees or a husband and wife may be of one mind. Jesus pointed this out when claiming that He and His father were one and the same (John 14:11).
- Different titles for God the Father based on His character, nature, and actions
 - His name = Jehovah – “I am that I am” – “I exist” (Genesis 2:4)
 - Creator / Father of spirits (Genesis 6:7, Ecclesiastes 12:5-7 & Hebrews 12:9); Owner of everything in heaven and earth
 - Ruler of the kingdom of heaven (Acts 17:24 & Matthew 5:34)
 - Shepherd, Jehovah-Rohi (Psalm 23:1)
 - Healer, Jehovah-Rapha (Exodus 15:26)
 - Provider, Jehovah-Jireh (Genesis 22:14)
 - Savior through Jesus the Christ (Matthew 1:21)
 - Judge of the world through Jesus the Christ (Acts 17:30-31)
 - God is just – He’ll keep His word
 - God = actionable *love* because He’s just
 - Slow to anger; compassionate
- **Summary**: The word ‘God’ is used in two ways in the Bible. On one hand, it’s the corporate name given to the Father, Son, and Spirit that have worked together in the creation, care, and judgment of mankind. This is the Hebrew name *el-o-heem*. On the other hand, God has been used as a title for our heavenly father, who is also labeled as the *father of spirits*. This makes sense considering His creation of the spirit in mankind. Our heavenly father is also the ruler of heaven who provides for us and heals us through our relationship with Jesus. One day, God the Father will judge the world – at least those who aren’t in the marriage-like covenant with Jesus, our Christ (savior).

NOTES

~ God, the Father ~

God, Father, Son, and Spirit, together from the beginning.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” & “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

El-o-heem

When many of us think of the beginning of time as we know it, we often imagine a single entity orchestrating the creation of the heavens and earth as seen in the first book of the Bible or Torah – Genesis. We understand God created the heavens and earth and all that’s contained therein over a 6-day period, resting on the 7th. But just what is this god of ours - this mastermind and engineer of the cosmos and terra-forma? According to the Old Testament Bible and Torah in its original Hebrew language, the ancient word used to describe God is *el-o-heem*, which can represent plurality. In other words, multiple beings working together labeled as God.

The Father, the creator, and the Spirit and His relationship with Israel.

So, here we are at the creation of the earth by eloheem – our God. We see the Father as our creator and the Spirit, which appears to be an extension of God that communicates and empowers. In fact, the Spirit of God communicated with early Israelites to instruct them in many things and empowers and comforts those who are true followers of the Messiah today.

Jesus our savior.

Jesus, the Messiah, was called the *Word* thousands of years later by John and was a willing participant as the Son who’d later become the savior of all mankind. Together, eloheem brought about mankind and his new habitat.

Reminder: all three at the creation.

Entities that make up our god as we know Him: Father, Son, and Spirit. We see from the Book of Genesis and John’s testimony at the beginning of this chapter that all three beings were present at the creation. **[John 1:1-14]**

The **Father of spirits** who gives the **Spirit** and **forgives**.

We also see additional mention of the Father as the *father of spirits* **[Hebrews 12:9]**, as the father who gives us the Spirit **[Luke 11:13]** and as the father who forgives. **[Matthew 6:14-15]**

Intro Jehovah’s **nature**

These characteristics represent Jehovah’s **nature**, which we’ll discuss shortly.

The Son: raised from the dead and in heaven.

The Spirit of God from the beginning.

Spirit = comforter.

Spirit = gift-giver.

Corporately the same.

God the Father's name = Jehovah; I am that I am

g-d & Addonai

God = creator and father of Spirits

And we see evidence of the *son* in many places in the Bible. One such instance is where Paul reminds us that this Son was raised from the dead and returned to heaven where His Father reigns. **[Ephesians 1:19-20]**

What about the **Spirit** of God? We find Him mentioned in the very beginning of time at the construction of the world. **[Genesis 1:1-2]**

And we understand that the Spirit is our comforter as we await Jesus' return to earth. He was a gift by Jesus to His followers and also gives gifts. For instance, the Spirit provides wisdom, special knowledge, increased faith, and the ability to speak in other languages. He instructs us as we await Jesus' return to earth. **[John 16:13]**

Although the Father, Son, and Spirit are separate beings, they are corporately of one mind. After all, Jesus (the Messiah - savior) was clear about His relationship with the Father and affiliation with God when He said things like: "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me". **[John 14:11]**

Today, we'll focus on the first and highest member of this hierarchy: God the Father.

The Father has been called by many names and has been many things to mankind. First and foremost, His name is Jehovah, which basically means "I exist – I am that I am". **[Genesis 2:4]**

This is the very special name of God, which many Jews will not say out of reverence. In fact, many will not even spell g-d and have substituted **Addonai** (Lord) in Scripture for Jehovah in most places.

There's so much we don't know about our spiritual father and creator, but we can definitely glean some basic characteristics of God from the Bible.

He is our Creator and Father of spirits. **[Genesis 6:7]** & **[Ecclesiastes 12:5-7]** & **[Hebrews 12:9]**

Father of spirits = ruler of heaven.

The father of our spirit resides in the heavenly dimension and rules that kingdom of heaven. **[Acts 17:24]** & **[Matthew 5:34]**

Our Shepherd.

Our heavenly father is Jehovah **Rohi**, our **shepherd**. **[Psalm 23:1]**

Our healer.

The maker of our flesh and spirit is also our **healer**, Jehovah-**Rapha**. **[Exodus 15:26]**

Our provider.

He has also been identified as the **provider** for Israel, Jehovah-**Jireh**, and still does this for us today. **[Genesis 22:14]**

Our savior.

God the father is also our **savior** through Jesus the Christ. **[Matthew 1:21]**

Our judge.

He'll **judge** the world through that savior, Jesus. **[Acts 17:30-31]**

Our God who is just and loves us

He's a 'just' God who actionably loves us and keeps His word.

The husband

He was the husband of Israel and is now of anyone who follows in this covenant Jesus enabled.

Jealous god

His is a jealous God who owns all of creation and everything in it!

Summary:

The word 'God' *el-o-heem* describes the Father, Son, and Spirit working together in the heavenly and earthly realms on our behalf. They are corporately the same but individual beings. The Father, who created our spirit, is the father of spirits who heals, provides, and shepherds. He also saves us through our relationship with the Son, Jesus the Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. —John 1:1-14.

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? —Hebrews 12:9.

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” —Luke 11:13.

“For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.” —Matthew 6:14-15.

and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places . . . —Ephesians 1:19-20.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. —Genesis 1:1-2.

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.” —John 16:13.

“Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.” —John 14:11.

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. —Genesis 2:4.

The LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. —Genesis 6:7.

Furthermore, men are afraid of a high place and of terrors on the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags himself along, and the caperberry is ineffective. For man goes to his eternal home while mourners go about in the street. Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed; then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. —Ecclesiastes 12:5-7.

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? —Hebrews 12:9.

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;” —Acts 17:24.

“But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God” —Matthew 5:34.

A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. —Psalm 23:1.

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.

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.

“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” —Matthew 1:21.

“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” —Acts 17:30-31.