

God

Names and Titles of God - Adonai

Note: Some 55 or so years ago, I found a book by a Mr Marsh. The notes on the Names of God are meditations from his book, and others gathered through the years. This meditation considers the Names “Adon and Adonai”.

First time Adoni is used alone or in conjunction with other terms

- 1) The first time alone:
 - a) Genesis 18:3 and Abraham said, “My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant”.
- 2) When associated with other titles:

Name	Reference
Adonai Jehovah	Gen. 15:2; Ex. 23:17
Adonai Jehovah Elohim	Isa. 51:22
Adonai, sometimes put as Adon	Gen. 18:3
Adonai our Elohim	Dan. 9:9
Adonai my Elohim	Psa. 38:15
Adonai Jehovah Sabaoth	Isa. 19:4
Adonai my Jehovah, Lord God	Deut. 3:24

- 3) What is the difference between:
 - a) Adon and Adonai? Not knowing Hebrew, but from what I can understand, Adonai is the plural of Adon. Adon signifies “Lord” and Adonai signifies “Lords”. It indicates a person of authority or rules. It is not used exclusively of God but is also used of men (Neh. 7:61), angels (Zech. 6:5), and God (Josh. 3:11), with the context indicating which is being referred to.

Adonai - This title is used of the Lord exclusively

The first time Adonai Jehovah occurs is in Genesis 15:2. “And Abram said, Lord GOD”. Abram takes the place of humble inquiry when he asks how the Lord will fulfil His promise to make him the head of a great nation.

The first conjunction of Adoni and Jehovah is a petition when Abraham prays concerning not having an heir, but this Eliezer (Gen. 15:2). He therefore recognizes God is superior to all situations, even when he and his wife are past age for having a child. It carries the idea of being the almighty life giver (Gen. 18:14). He is the God who has power to do that which is beyond the ability of any human. Compare this with the miracles of the Lord which were beyond any human's ability:

- a) The woman with the issue of blood and the physicians were not able to help (Mk. 5:26)
- b) To still the storm and the waves (Mk. 4:39)
- c) To heal the leper (Mk. 1:40)
- d) To make a man born blind see (Jn. 9:1)

These descriptive names and titles are given to reveal to our hearts and minds the wonder of God and ideally, result in worshipping Him.

God

Names and Titles of God - Adonai

- a) They express recognized glory (Gen. 18:27; 2 Sam. 7:22)
- b) His pardoning mercy (Ex. 34:9; Mic. 7:18)
- c) His ability to overcome those who hinder His ways (2 Kgs. 7:6)
- d) He is my source of help in times of trouble and distress (Psa. 38:1)

This title gives a recognition of:

- a) God's excellency (Gen. 18:27; 2 Sam. 7:22)
- b) God's graciousness in being attentive to the prayers of his own (Neh. 1:11; Psa. 30:8)
- c) God's awareness when devotion is a sham (Isa. 29:13)
- d) God executing of power on his own (Lam. 2:5)
- e) God is absolute in his purposes despite the opposing plans of man and Satan (Lam. 3:37)

Considerations

- a) Genesis 21:33 – the everlasting God – His generation
- b) Genesis 17:1 – the Almighty - God's power
- c) Exodus 20:5 – the jealous God – His exclusiveness
- d) Daniel 4:24 – a consuming fire – His Holiness
- e) Deuteronomy 4:31 – a merciful God – His pity
- f) Deuteronomy 7:9 - a faithful God – His fidelity
- g) Joshua 3:10 – the living God – His vitality
- h) Nehemiah 1:5 – the terrible God's greatness
- i) Jonah 4:2 - the gracious God – His compassion

Practical

- 1) What is the relevance of Adonai to my working at the bench on Monday?
- 2) God's graciousness in being attentive to the prayers of His own (Neh. 1:11; Psa. 30:8). How comforting it is to know that Adonai cares for me and is aware of all sorrows that befall me.
 - a) God's awareness when devotion is a sham (Isa. 29:13)
 - b) God's executing of power on His own (Lam. 2:5)
 - c) God is absolute in His purposes despite the plans of my own desire or making (Lam. 3:37)
 - d) God's power in creation (Jer. 31:35)

The following are some thoughts are suggested by the use of this title.

His name seems to be particularly associated with:

- 1) Authority:
 - a) Two hundred times in the book of Ezekiel we have the expression, "Saith the Lord GOD". Literally, it is Adonai Jehovah.
 - b) Study its use in Ezekiel 16 where the sentence occurs eleven times, verses 3, 8, 14, 19, 23, 30, 36, 43, 48, 59, 63, and it will be found that all the authority of the Great Jehovah as Lord and Master is behind Ezekiel in giving the Divine Message.
- 2) Power:
 - a) "The LORD God (Jehovah Adonai) is my strength, and He will make my feet like hind's feet, and He will make me to walk upon mine high places" (Hab. 3:19). Here Jehovah is before Adonai because it is a question of personal relationship to Jehovah in giving strength as Lord.
 - b) "The Spirit of the Lord GOD (Adonai Jehovah) is upon me" (Isa. 61:1).
- 3) Deity:
 - a) In Psalm 35:23, we have another combination of Adonai, namely:
 - i) "My God (Elohim) and my Lord (Adonai)"
 - b) In Psalm 38:15, "O Lord (Adonai) my God (Elohim)".

God

Names and Titles of God - Adonai

- 2) Reverence:
- a) The Lord as Adonai is appealed to in Daniel's confession of national sin eleven times.
 - i) Once as Adonai Elohim (Dan. 9:3)
 - ii) Once in the expression, "the Lord's sake" (v. 17)
 - iii) Twice in the sentences, "Lord our God" (vs 9, 15)
 - iv) Seven times in the exclamation, "O Lord" (vs 4, 7, 8, 16)
 - b) It indicates:
 - i) There ought to be reverence. The Lord as Adonai, is appealed to in Daniel's confession of national sin:
 - 1. Translated Lord (Dan. 9:3)
 - 2. Translated Lord in the expression the Lord's sake (Dan. 9:17)
 - 3. Translated as my God (v. 4)
 - 4. Translated as O Lord (v. 7 and v. 16)
 - 5. Translated as To the Lord our God (v. 9)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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