1. Catching Up

So far, we have learned about the following names:

- **Elohim, El, Eloah** | The only true God | EL, e-lo-HEEM, e-LO-ah
- **El Chay** | Living God | EL CHAY
- **El Elyon** | God Most High | EL el-YOHN
- **El Kanna** | Jealous God | EL kan-NAH
- **El Olam** | Everlasting God, Eternal God | EL o-LAM
- **El Roi** | the God Who Watches Over Me | EL roe-EE
- **El Shadday** | God Almighty | EL shad-DAI

2. Adonay | Lord | a-doe-NAI

The name Adonai is translated in our Bibles by the word Lord (uppercase **L**, lowercase **ord**). This is different than Jehovah or Yaweh which is translated in all capitals **LORD**. The same word is also translated, depending on the context, as Master, Lord, or Owner. When referring to man, it is always in the singular (**adon**), but when used of God it is always in the plural (**Adonai**).

2.1. Unrestricted Obedience

The name Adonai signified ownership or mastership and indicates that God is the owner and master of all. Consequently, He claims the unrestricted obedience of everyone and requires worship. An illustration of this truth is found in Malachi 1:6-14.

The priests dishonored God's name by not worshipping him acceptably and they brought reproach upon His name by failing to acknowledge His ownership of all that exists. Their willingness to offer less than the best in sacrifice to God demonstrates their failure to honor His name and recognize His authority as Master and Owner of all.

2.2. Master

In Genesis 14:17-24, Abram refers to God as LORD (Jehovah) God Most High (El Elyon).

The first time the name Adonai is used in is Genesis 15:1-7 when Abram address God as his Master.

Having known victory over his enemies and having understood that El Elyon, the sovereign God, brought about the victory, Abram acknowledges God's Lordship over him.

As his Lord and Master, Adonai tells Abram that He is his "shield and his reward". Abram can depend on the faithfulness of the Master.

We can rest in the assurance that God is trustworthy and able to provide for our every need. In days of anxiety and fear, we need to discover and remember that God is Adonai.

Discussion

- What does unrestricted obedience look like?
- What does complete possession look like (for the Master)?
- What does complete submission look like (for the slave)?

In Genesis 15, Abram doubted that he would have any offspring. God took him outside and showed him the stars. "As many as there are, so will your descendants be."

- In what area of my life do I need God to show me the stars?

2.3. Lord and Master

In Exodus 4:10-14 the Lord tells Moses that he must go to Egypt to deliver Israel. Moses addresses God as Lord (*Adonai*), but the Lord replies back as Jehovah.

Discussion

Why did God get angry with Moses?

Moses addressed God as Adonay, Lord and Master; however, Moses did not want to do what God asked him to do.

How often do we call God our Lord and Master and then pretend we don't hear Him when He asks us to do something we don't think we can do, or are unwilling to do?

What do I really, truly need to give up to the Lord?

2.4. We are Servants

We see Adonai throughout the life of Isaiah the prophet. **Isaiah 6:1-8**

Those who truly know God as Adonai, as their Master, their Lord, acknowledge themselves as servants.

2.5. Adonai in the New Testament

The same idea of *Adonai* as Lord is also found throughout the New Testament. If we claim Jesus as our Lord and Master – our *Adonai* – then we no longer belong to ourselves – we belong to *Adonai*.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 1:14-15, 2 Peter 2:1

We see Paul as a humble servant to his Lord, when he was called into *Adonai*'s service immediately responding like Isaiah. **Acts 9:6**

2.6. We are Called to Obedience

We have learned that our *Adonai*, our Master calls us to service. *Adonai not only* requires, He demands obedience as a slave must obey his master. But we also learn that, just as in the Old Testament, our Lord and Master gives us the gifts we need to equip us for His service. **Ephesians 4:11-12, 2 Timothy 4:17**

It is *Adonai* that strengthens us and delivers us. It is also *Adonai* that expects us to serve Him.

To be a servant of the Lord is the greatest liberty and joy of all. Man needs lordship. We need direction, guidance, and authority. We were created to worship and to serve. We cannot have two masters – and we ***will*** serve something. We will either choose to serve *Adonai* as our Lord and Master, or we will be slaves to sin. **Romans 6:16**

2.7. Characteristics of Servants

Throughout the Bible, we see several characteristics of those that lived with God as their Lord (Master).

1. They acknowledged themselves as servants and counted it a privilege to serve the living God.
2. They understood their Master can supply all their needs.
3. They realize that they can do whatever God calls them to do.

Discussion

- Where do I need to be obedient in how Adonai is calling me to serve?

2.8. Closing Thought

We cannot recognize God as El Shadday without acknowledging Him as Adonai.

3. Names included in this Lesson

Ruach Elohim: the Spirit of God **Yahweh**: Lord **Melek**: King

Yahweh Tsebaoth: Lord Almighty, The Lord of Armies, The Lord of Hosts

References: Parts of this study were contributed to by "The Names of God" by Larry Brown.