

The Assembly of Eloah

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent -- Jesus Christ. Jn. 17:3

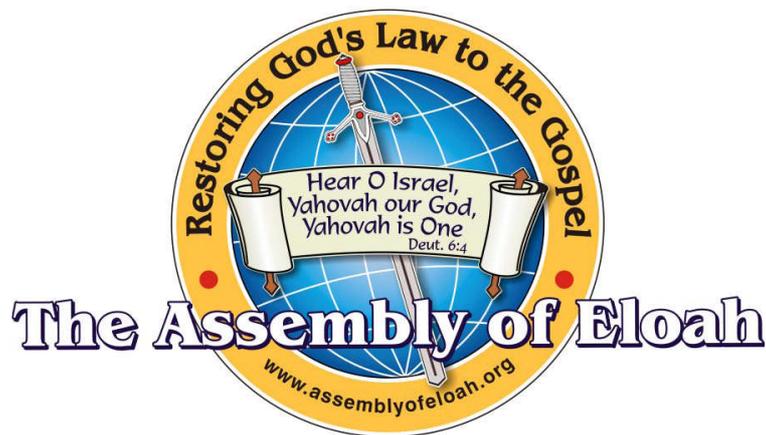
Who or What is Eloah?

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There is some confusion around the term Eloah that needs to be cleared up.
This paper is an attempt to reveal the true meaning of the term Eloah.



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The Word

There is no agreement among scholars regarding the etymology of the word Eloah. Most would agree that the true origin is unknown. It is generally believed that Eloah is the singular term for the Hebrew word Elohim. It is related to the Aramaic term Elahh and the Arabic Ilah meaning "a god".

Eloah, SHD 433, is translated in the KJV as god 55 times and god's 1 time. It is not used very often in scripture. It appears to be an ancient term to refer to Y^ehovah but was later dropped until post exilic times when there was a desire to return to more ancient foundations.

The term is used only 56 times in the entire biblical text. However, in the books of Daniel and Ezra, which were written in Aramaic, the term "elahh", SHD 426, related to the Hebrew "eloah" is used ninety-five times. We will examine this term in greater detail further along in this study.

Who Is Eloah?

It is argued by some that the term "eloah" refers only to pagan gods. It is asserted by others that it is a name of the One True God. It is suggested by still others that it is simply a title. A careful examination of scripture reveals who and what this "Eloah" is.

The first occurrence of the term "eloah" is found in Deuteronomy 32:15.

Deu 32:15 ESV "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God [Eloah] who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.

Eloah "made" Jeshurun. This statement is very telling. We can glean some helpful information from this scripture to help us ascertain who this "Eloah" is.

1Thes 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet

In Psalms we see another named as a creator of men.

Psa 89:46-47 ESV How long, O LORD [Y^ehovah]? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire? ⁴⁷ Remember how short my time is! For what vanity you have created all the children of man!

Here we see Y^ehovah as the creator of men. Is this a contradictory statement? Who is Y^ehovah? Psalms 18:31 answers the question pretty clearly.

Psa 18:31 ESV For who is God [Eloah], but the LORD [Y^ehovah]? And who is a rock, except our God [Elohim]?--

There is a lot going on in this verse. We have Eloah, Y^ehovah and Elohim being equated to the same being. Are these contradictions? We know that Y^ehovah is not the author of confusion.

1Co 14:33 ESV For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints,

And we know that all scripture is for our admonition and understanding.

2Ti 3:16-17 LITV All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be perfected, being fully furnished for every good work.

Either the above two things are true or we can discard the entire bible. The Bible is the word of Y^ehovah and it is truth.

Joh 17:17 ESV Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Who is this Y^ehovah who is equated with Eloah? The being is named 6,528 times in scripture.

Y^ehovah is a name.

Gen 4:26 ESV To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

Exo 3:13-15 ESV Then Moses said to God [Elohim], "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God [Elohim] of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God [Elohim] said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God [Elohim] also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD [Y^ehovah], the God [Elohim] of your fathers, the God [Elohim] of Abraham, the God [Elohim] of Isaac, and the God [Elohim] of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Exo 6:2-3 ESV God[Y^ehovah] spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD [Y^ehovah]. ³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty [El Shadday], but by my name the LORD [Y^ehovah] I did not make myself known to them.

Who is Y^ehovah and how does He relate to Eloah and Elahh?

He is the God of Israel.

Exo 5:1 ESV Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD [Y^ehovah], the God [Elohim] of Israel, 'Let my

people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

Exo 16:12 ESV "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD [Y^ehovah] your God [Elohim].'"

Ezr 5:1 ESV Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God [Elahh] of Israel who was over them.

Psa 114:7 ESV Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord [Y^ehovah], at the presence of the God [Eloah] of Jacob,

He is the God of heaven and earth.

Deu 4:39 ESV know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD [Y^ehovah] is God [Elohim] in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

Ezr 5:11 ESV And this was their reply to us: 'We are the servants of the God [Elahh] of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.

Job 22:12 ESV "Is not God [Eloah] high in the heavens? See the highest stars, how lofty they are!

He is everlasting.

Isa 40:28 ESV Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD [Y^ehovah] is the everlasting God [Elohim], the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

Jer 10:10 ESV But the LORD [Y^ehovah] is the true God [Elohim]; he is the living God [Elohim] and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

He is our Creator.

Neh 9:6 ESV "You are the LORD [Y^ehovah], you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

Job 4:17 ESV 'Can mortal man be in the right before God [Eloah]? Can a man be pure before his Maker?

Psa 95:6 ESV Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD [Y^ehovah], our Maker!

Isa 45:11-12 ESV Thus says the LORD [Y^ehovah], the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: "Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands? ¹² I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host.

He is our shield.

Pro 30:5 ESV Every word of God [Eloah] proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

2Sa 22:2-4 ESV He said, "The LORD [Y^ehovah] is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, ³ my God [Elohim], my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. ⁴ I call upon the LORD [Y^ehovah], who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

Psa 84:8-10 ESV O LORD [Y^ehovah] God [Elohim] of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God [Elohim] of Jacob! Selah ⁹ Behold our shield, O God [Elohim]; look on the face of your anointed! ¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God [Elohim] than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

He gave us the Law.

Exo 24:12 ESV The LORD [Y^ehovah] said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

Ezr 7:14 ESV For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God [Elahh], which is in your hand,

Neh 9:16-17 ESV "But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. ¹⁷ They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God [Eloah] ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

He reveals mysteries.

Gen 41:9-16 ESV Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today. ¹⁰ When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, ¹¹ we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. ¹² A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. ¹³ And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged." ¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. ¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God [Elohim] will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Dan 2:28 ESV but there is a God [Elahh] in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:

He is the king of kings and the lord of lords.

Deu 10:17 ESV For the LORD [Y^ehovah] your God [Elohim] is God [Elohim] of gods [Elohim] and Lord [Adon] of lords [Adon], the great, the mighty, and the awesome God [El], who is not partial and takes no bribe.

Psa 136:1-3 ESV Give thanks to the LORD [Y^ehovah], for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. ² Give thanks to the God [Elohim] of gods [Elohim], for his steadfast love endures forever. ³ Give thanks to the Lord [Adon] of lords [Adon], for his steadfast love endures forever;

Dan 2:47 ESV The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God [Elahh] is God [Elahh] of gods [Elahh] and Lord [Mare] of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."

He is the most high God.

Gen 14:22 ESV But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD [Y^ehovah], God [El] Most High [Elyon], Possessor of heaven and earth,

Psa 7:17 ESV I will give to the LORD [Y^ehovah] the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD [Y^ehovah], the Most High [Elyon].

Dan 3:26 ESV Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God [Elahh], come out, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire.

He sets up and removes kings.

Pro 8:13-16 ESV The fear of the LORD [Y^ehovah] is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. ¹⁴ I have counsel and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength. ¹⁵ By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; ¹⁶ by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly.

Dan 5:26 ESV This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God [Elahh] has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end;

Dan 7:9 LITV I was looking until the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days sat, whose robe was white as snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was like flames of fire, its wheels like burning fire.

He is the living God.

Deu 5:25-26 ESV Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD [Y^ehovah] our God [Elohim] any more, we shall die. ²⁶ For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God [Elohim] speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?

Psa 84:2 ESV My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD [Y^ehovah]; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God [El].

Dan 6:26 ESV I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God [Elahh] of Daniel, for he is the living God [Elahh], enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end.

His house was and shall be in Jerusalem. Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem.

1Ki 3:1 ESV Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD [Y^ehovah] and the wall around Jerusalem.

1Ki 9:15 ESV And this is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon drafted to build the house of the LORD [Y^ehovah] and his own house and the Millo and the wall of Jerusalem and Hazor and Megiddo and Gezer

It was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC due to Judah's disobedience.

2Ki 23:27 ESV And the LORD [Y^ehovah] said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

2Ki 25:8-9 ESV In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month--that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon--Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ⁹ And he burned the house of the LORD [Y^ehovah] and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down.

It was rebuilt around 538 BC by Ezra and Nehemiah.

Ezr 1:2 ESV "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD [Y^ehovah], the God [Elohim] of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Ezr 1:5 ESV Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God [Elohim] had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the LORD [Y^ehovah] that is in Jerusalem.

Ezr 4:24 ESV Then the work on the house of God [Elohim] that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Neh 8:8-10 ESV They read from the book, from the Law of God [Elohim], clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people

understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD [Y^ehovah] your God [Elohim]; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD [Yehovah] is your strength."

The temple was destroyed again in 70 AD, the very day it was burned in 586 BC, by the Roman general Titus who later became Ceasar. It will be rebuilt in the future and the entire planet will worship there.

Zec 1:16 ESV Therefore, thus says the LORD [Y^ehovah], I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares the LORD [Y^ehovah] of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.

Zec 14:16-21 ESV Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD [Y^ehovah] of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁷ And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD [Y^ehovah] of hosts, there will be no rain on them. ¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD [Y^ehovah] afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. ²⁰ And on that day there shall be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "Holy to the LORD." And the pots in the house of the LORD shall be as the bowls before the altar. ²¹ And every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holy to the LORD [Y^ehovah] of

hosts, so that all who sacrifice may come and take of them and boil the meat of the sacrifice in them. And there shall no longer be a trader in the house of the LORD [Y^ehovah] of hosts on that day.

Y^ehovah is an Eloah!

Neh 9:7 ESV You are the LORD [Y^ehovah], the God [Elohim] who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham...

Neh 9:17 ESV They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God [Eloah] ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

Job 40:1-4 ESV And the LORD [Y^ehovah] said to Job: ² "Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty [Shadday]? He who argues with God [Eloah], let him answer it." ³ Then Job answered the LORD [Y^ehovah] and said: ⁴ "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.

Psa 18:31 ESV For who is God [Eloah], but the LORD [Y^ehovah]? And who is a rock, except our God [Elohim]?--

Isa 44:1-8 ESV "But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! ² Thus says the LORD [Y^ehovah] who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. ³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. ⁴ They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. ⁵ This one will say, 'I am the LORD's [Y^ehovah's],' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's [Y^ehovah's],' and name himself by the name of Israel." ⁶ Thus says the LORD [Y^ehovah], the King of Israel and his

Redeemer, the LORD [Y^ehovah] of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god [Elohim]. ⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God [Eloah] besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

The terms Elohim, Eloah and Elahh are used of beings other than the Father

Gen 31:30 ESV And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods [Elohim]?"

In this verse Laban calls his false idols his elohim.

Deu 32:17 LITV They sacrificed to demons who were not God [Eloah], to gods [Elohim] whom they did not know, new ones who came lately. Your fathers had not dreaded them.

Here again the term Elohim is used of gods the people of Jerusalem did not know. Eloah is used of the One and Only El of Israel.

Psa 97:7-9 ESV All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods [Elohim]! ⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD [Y^ehovah]. ⁹ For you, O LORD [Y^ehovah], are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods [Elohim].

Elohim is again used as a term for the false gods and they are instructed to worship Eloah!

2Ch 32:15 ESV Now, therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god [Eloah] of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God [Elohim] deliver you out of my hand!"

Here Nebuchadnezzar uses the term Eloah to declare that no Eloah or god can save from his hand.

Dan 3:15 ESV Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god [Elahh] who will deliver you out of my hands?"

The term Elahh is used here to make a point? Who is the Elahh that will save you? This is not necessarily used of a false god but of a god unknown to Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan 3:25 ESV He answered and said, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods [Elahh]."

The term here is used of the angel who actually was to become the only born son of Elahh.

Dan 4:8 ESV At last Daniel came in before me--he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god [Elahh], and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods [Elahh]--and I told him the dream, saying,

Here the term Elahh is used of a Babylonian god.

Based on the scriptural use of these titles it is apparent that in some cases they are used to refer to beings other than the One True God whether real or imagined.

It is His name that sets Him apart.

Conclusion

There is one God and His name is Y^ehovah. He has many titles of which Eloah, Elahh, Elohim, El Elyon are but a few.

The terms Eloah, Elahh and Elohim are used of false gods. They are generic terms just as god is a generic term. The term many use for Y^ehovah can be used for false gods as well.

It is important for us to know, in this day and age of many gods, to which god we refer. We should be clear in our communication as to which god we are discussing but we also need to speak in terms others can understand just as Paul did.

Act 17:22-31 ESV So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, in the hope that they

might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,²⁸ for "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring."²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

It isn't wrong to use the terms god, Eloah, Elahh or Elohim but we should qualify who it is to which we refer. In this way we will not only be understood by those who may not know the name Y^ehovah but we will make it clear that we are referring to the only true God.

May Y^ehovah, The Elahh of heaven and earth, the Eloah that has so wonderfully made us, the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, continue to bless us with an understanding of who He is and what we should be doing to please Him.

Amen