

El Olam

“Everlasting God”

*“And this is life eternal, that they should know Thee, the only True God,
And Him who Thou did send, even Jesus Christ.” John 17:3, 26*

The study of the names of God always needs to be with the motivation of heart to know the Lord.

John 17, the ‘high priestly prayer of Jesus is laden with meaning that bears meditation. In **John 17:3**, Jesus prayed, “*And this is life eternal, that they should know Thee, the only True God, And Him who Thou did send, even Jesus Christ.*” He concludes this prayer in **vs. 26**: “I made known to them Your Name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them and I in them.” God wants us to know Him so that His love may be in us through Jesus Christ! Ask the Lord to give us hearts that desire to know Him and to seek Him with all our hearts!!

A. W. Pink states that “knowing God” and “eternal life” are synonymous. Eternal life consists of knowing, living in and having communion with El Olam, our Eternal God! The eternal life granted to us allows us to live in His presence and enjoy endless satisfaction in the Triune God! The Greek word for ‘know’ used in this passage (ginosko G1097) means not just to have knowledge of God, but to know Him with intimate closeness, to understand and know His person, His ways, His character, His mind and His plans. El Olam, our infinite God, gives us the gift of eternity through the life of Jesus so that we can know Him in a unique intimate relationship. Ginosko is the word used to characterize the incredibly close intimate relationship of a husband and wife. This is the intimate friendship that binds us to Him involving the heart, mind and soul. **Phil. 3:10 AMP**

First Mention of El Olam: The first time the Name of God, El Olam, is used in the scripture is in **Genesis 21:33**. “*And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.*” (See **Gen. 21:22-33**) At first glance, the context of this verse does not seem to offer a lot of insight regarding our Everlasting God. While this is first mention of God’s name, ‘El Olam,’ it is not the first time the Hebrew word ‘olam’ is used. When we look at the context of this passage and the use of ‘olam’ in other passages we get insight into the significance of this name. In previous passages, the word ‘olam’ is used with reference to His everlasting covenant and promises. (Noah) **Genesis 9:16; (Abraham) 17:7, 8, 19; 9:16; 17:7, 8, 19** In **Isa.55:3** God invites His people into an everlasting covenant according to the unfailing mercy He promised David.

The tamarisk tree Abraham planted is also significant. In the Bible, trees were frequently planted to stand as a memorial to remember a significant event or covenant with the Lord. Biblically a tamarisk tree is symbolic of God’s faithfulness and enduring nature. The tamarisk tree, both beautiful and strong. It is said to take 400 years to reach maturity. The tamarisk thrives in dry areas and can withstand great heat and drought because its roots go deep in the soil. Its thick foliage provided shade and sustenance to weary travelers.

El Olam: Definitions

El: “All-Mighty God” This name emphasizes the strength, might and all-powerful nature of God. He is not only a God who is faithful to keep His promises, but El is altogether able to perform all His promises.

The name 'El' is frequently joined with other words to describe God's attributes, (El Shaddai, El Olam, etc.) See handout that explores 'El' in greater depth.

Olam: ('ôlām) H5769 Olam appears in the Old Testament more than 350 times. Though 'ôlām is used more than three hundred times to indicate indefinite continuance into the very distant future, the meaning of the word is not confined to the future. There are at least twenty instances where it clearly refers to the past. Hence, Olam embraces eternity past, present and future.

El Olam is the God who is all-powerful, eternal, endless, enduring, immortal, unending, imperishable, ageless, timeless, infinite, ever-living, having no end, always and ever-more.

- El Olam has always existed, is continually, without beginning or end, for time out of mind.
- Strong's describes "Olam" as the concealed vanishing point of eternity.
- Olam, which is rendered 'Everlasting,' contains in itself both the idea of a "secret" and also of "time" or "an age."

The word Olam has several shades of meaning:

- **Its first and original meaning is 'secret things,' "to conceal", "hide" or "something hidden."** Hence it came to mean "time hidden from man," or "time indefinite," or "properly concealed." Olam is described as the vanishing point in time in either direction; generally, time out of mind (past or future), i.e. (practical) eternity.
- **Olam points to what is hidden in the distant future or in the distant past.** It refers to that which has been hidden for a long time. God's beginning is hidden in eternity or perpetuity. Olam is the keeper of mysteries beyond human understanding. Understanding the meaning of 'olam' plays a significant role in understanding the mysteries of God's kingdom, especially as it reflects his eternal promises. A mystery is that which has previously been covered but now is being revealed. God's mysteries are not easily understood or obvious, they require spiritual understanding and insight that comes only from God.

Vine's defines 'mystery' as "that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those only who are illumined by His Spirit. In the ordinary sense a "mystery" implies knowledge withheld; its Scriptural significance is truth revealed. God's mysteries are hidden from those who are not open to receiving His Truth. The mysteries of God's Kingdom are active and present now, but extend beyond our temporal existence into God's eternal olam. We are invited to embrace the awe and wonder that comes from exploring God's eternal mysteries and trusting in His eternal dominion and promises.

Matt. 13:11; Luke 8:10 AMP; Isa. 40:28; Ps. 25:2; Deut. 29:29; Rom. 11:33; Amos 3:7

- **That which is eternal, everlasting or without limit:** "Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (**Isa. 26:4**). Always, without beginning or end. Many Biblical references have the idea of endlessness or limitlessness, but each point to a time long before the immediate knowledge of those living. "eternity; remotest time; perpetuity." The everlasting strength of the Lord is unchangeable and will never dissipate with time.

- **Olam signifies "remotest time" or "remote time."** In **1 Chron. 16:36**, God is described as blessed "from everlasting to everlasting" (KJV, "for ever and ever"), or from the most distant past time to the most distant future time. In passages where God is viewed as the One Who existed before the creation was brought into existence, 'ôlām (or 'ōlām) may mean: (1) "at the very beginning": "Remember the former things [the beginning things at the very beginning] of old: for I am God, and there is none else ..." (**Isa. 46:9**); or (2) "from eternity, from the pre-creation, till now": "Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindness; for they have been ever of old [from eternity]" **Ps. 25:6**
- **Olam may include all the time between the ancient beginning and the present and into the indefinite future.** "The prophets that have been before me and before thee of old prophesied ..." (**Jer. 28:8**). The word can mean "long ago" (from long ago): This phrase emphasizes "continuity," "definiteness," and "unchangeability." This is its emphasis in Gen. 3:22, the first biblical occurrence of 'ôlām (or 'ōlām): "... And now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever...."
- **The same emphasis on "endless duration"** and speaks of the unchanging and eternal nature of God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. It means "day by day," or "continually."
- In **Gen. 9:16**, the word (used absolutely) means the "**most distant future**": "And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature...."

The word "Olam" is used with reference to:

1. The eternal nature of God's creation: **Gen. 49:26; Deut. 33:15**
2. God's covenant with Noah: **Gen. 9:12,16**
3. God's covenant with Abraham: **Gen. 13:15; 17:7,8,13,19; 9:16; 17:7, 8, 19; 48:4; Ex. 32:13**
4. God's covenant with Israel to possess the land: **Judges 2:1**
5. The permanence of God's commands, statutes, and ordinances: **Ex. 12:14,17,24; 27:21; 28:43; 29:8,28; 30:21; Lev. 3:17; 6:28,22; 7:34,36; 20:9,15; 26:29,31,34; 17:7; 23:14,31,41; 24:3; Num. 10:8; 15:15; 18:8,11,19; 19:23; 19:10,21**
6. God's covenant of love and promise to David that his descendants would perpetually throne: **2 Sam. 7:13-29**
7. God's everlasting covenant to bless His children and their offspring: **Deut. 5:29; 12:28; 28:46; 29:29; Josh. 14:9; 1 Sam. 2:30; 13:13.**
8. The finality of His dealing with those who are enemies of God and His children: **Ex. 14:13; Deut. 13:16; 23:3, 6; Josh. 8:28; 1 Sam. 3:13,14**
9. The perpetual priesthood: **Exodus 40:15; Num. 25:13**
10. To times past, ancient times: **Deut. 32:7; Josh. 24:2, 1 Sam. 27:8**
11. El Olam, Everlasting God: God as the "I am" reveals that His essence embraces all of time, more than time itself! He is before time began and will continue forever. **Isa. 57:15 (AMP)**
12. Ancient of Days: **Dan. 7:13,14; Rev. 1:14**

The Everlasting God:	Isa. 40:25-31; Ps. 41:13; 90:2
His Name forever:	Ex. 3:15
Everlasting King: His reign is forever	Ex. 15:18; Jer. 10:10
Everlasting Dominion	Daniel 4:34 (AMP)

He lives forever	Deut. 32:40
His everlasting arms	Deut. 33:27
Everlasting Light*	Isa. 60:20; Rev. 21:23
Everlasting Father	Isa. 9:6
Everlasting Rock (Rock of Ages)	Isa. 26:4; Ps. 94:22
Everlasting Love	Psalms 136:2, 26

***God's everlasting light** is almost unimaginable when we live in a world governed by day and night, light and darkness. We are subject to the unpredictability of sun, clouds, darkness and grayness. But in the age to come, the ruling principle is the unchanging light in the presence of the LORD. Proverbs 4:18-22 tells us, "The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day."

- **Olam also means "for a given age" or "from age to age."** El Olam is the "Age God" or the "God of Ages". Olam, in the sense of 'ages' is synonymous with the Greek word 'aion.' He is the God who works His will, not all at once, but through successive times and varied dispensations. He is a God of times and seasons, following an appointed order in the restoration of mankind. Thus, the first occurrence of this name is when Abraham learns that the bondmaid must be cast out, and that God has a better covenant which will come through the son of the freewoman. **Isa. 26:4; Ps. 90:2; 1 Cor. 2:6-8**

While the Bible does not specifically enumerate these "ages," they represent broad categories to understand how God has interacted with His creation throughout history. Many theologians and biblical scholars have identified different dispensations or periods throughout biblical history to reflect God's unfolding plan. Each period demonstrates the progression of His plan for redemption and grace. Here's a general outline that aligns with some interpretations:

1. The Age of Innocence or Freedom: (Genesis 1-2) This period refers to the time of Adam and Eve before the Fall, when humanity lived in perfect harmony with God in the Garden of Eden. Created in innocence and placed in a perfect environment, Adam and Eve were subjected to a simple test of obedience and warned of the consequence of disobedience. The woman fell through pride (and deception) and then man deliberately disregarded God's command. God restored His sinning creatures but the age of innocence ended and they were expelled from the Garden. **1 Tim. 2:14**

2. The Age of Conscience: (Genesis 3-8). After the Fall, humanity was guided by conscience. Man came to a personal experiential knowledge of good and evil. Good = Obedience to the will of God. Evil = Disobedience to the known will of God. Man was responsible to obey God and offer sacrifice. This period extends from Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden to the time of Noah and the Flood. Man became so corrupt during this second test that God regretted creating man and found no one good, except one man, Noah. **(See Gen. 6:5-7)**

3. Human Government: (Genesis 9-11) Following the Flood, God established new guidelines through Noah, where human governance and accountability among people began to unfold. As in the Age of Innocence and the Age of Conscience, man utterly failed. The next covenant began with the Noahic covenant. It subjected man to a new test through the institution of government by man to man. These government powers to judge, to take a life, etc. gave man responsibility to govern the world for God. **Deut. 28:30**

4. **Dispensation of Promise: (Genesis 12-Exodus 19)** This period highlights God's covenant with Abraham, where the promise of blessing and a great nation was given to him and his descendants. This was the age of the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants. A great change took place during this age because Israel became heirs to the promise. They needed only to abide in their land and walk in loyalty to their God to inherit the promises and blessings. This age began with the call of Abraham and ended when Moses introduced the Law.

5. **The Age of the Law:** Beginning with Moses, God gave the Law and established a covenant with the Israelites. This period extends from Moses to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (Exodus-Deuteronomy). This age was marked by Israel's wandering away from the One True God to follow the gods of the nations. The Law was not given as a means of life, but to show Israel their own weakness and failure to obey God's laws. Jesus came to fulfill the demands of the Law in Himself and lead us into His grace.

6. **The Age of Grace:** This is the age of God's acceptance of Jews and Gentiles allowing them to come to Him through Jesus. This is the age of the gift of God's unmerited favor as described in the Good News of the Gospel. It is the time in which we are currently living. This era is marked by the new everlasting covenant of Jesus Christ, characterized by salvation by grace through faith in Him. This time begins with Jesus' birth, death and resurrection and ends with Jesus's second coming and the beginning of God's judgment during the seven years of the Tribulation. It is also referred to as the Church Age or the Age of the Gentiles. The test in this age is to believe in Jesus, the Son of God, sent to save us from our sins. Those who reject Him will be rejected. **Luke 4:16-21** (compare with the passage He quoted in **Isa. 61:1-2**) Jesus closed the book and sat down without completing **vs. 2** referring to "The Day of Vengeance." Vengeance was not part of the age of Grace Jesus was introducing. **Isa. 61:1-2**; **John 1:17**; **Ephesians 2:8-9**; **Luke 21:24**; **Rom. 6:14**; **10:4-5**; **Titus 3:4-5**

7. **Age of God's Eternal Kingdom: Revelation 20:1-6** This future period, often referred to as the fullness of times. This age begins with Christ's Second Coming and reign on earth in His Millennial Kingdom and His eternal kingdom as described in Revelation. One last test takes place at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. Those who have passed the tests of the ages will live and reign with Him in eternity. Our eternal lives are wrapped entirely in the life of our Everlasting Father, Jesus Christ: **1 Cor. 8:6**; **Col. 1:9-20**; **Rev. 5:13**; **Eph. 1:10-23**; **Rev. 21-22**

El Olam revealed in Jesus in the New Testament:

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega: Jesus is the contemporary of all ages! He lived from the beginning as certainly as He lived as the baby in Bethlehem, is living now and forever.

First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Rev. 22:13) Jesus' name, Alpha and Omega, has the same mystical connotations that are carried in the Hebrew name, El Olam. Jesus, the Alpha and Omega speaks of the One who has always been and is now, and forever shall be. Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, always has been and shall ever be our "All in All." Jesus controls the power of all eternity through His name. We do not need to fear any temporal difficulty because He is completely in control of past, present and future. Jesus is not only past, present and future, He is the possessor of all eternity. He

holds the future in His hands! Most amazing is that He planned to share eternity with us! [Isa. 44:6-8;](#)
[Col. 3:11](#)

“He has gone before us into all of our tomorrows. Tomorrow has yet to come but He is already there.”
By Dick Eastman (Living and Praying in Jesus Name)

In the New Testament, Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter.

These two letters are symbolic of the totality of all the letters and all of the possible words contained within the alphabet. In totality, they speak of the wholeness, the completion and fulfillment of all things in Christ Jesus. Jesus is the fullness of God’s total revelation of Himself to man. Christ’s totality expressed in Alpha and Omega is a direct revelation of God Himself. He was sent because God has a deep desire to unveil and reveal Himself to His people.

Interesting to note, the first letter in the Hebrew and the Greek alphabet is “Ab” meaning ‘eternal father.’ Abba, the name Jesus used to refer to the Father on the cross are also the first words uttered from the mouth of an infant! As our Eternal Father, we are offered the comfort of finding our identity in Him. 1 John 3:1

In the Old Testament, the equivalent is Aleph and Tau, the first and last letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word for ‘truth’ is emeth. Emeth, spelled in Hebrew without vowels is written Aleph (first letter in Hebrew alphabet), Mem (middle letter of the Hebrew alphabet) and Tau (last letter of the Hebrew alphabet). God is the entirety of all Truth. Jesus is the Truth and all truth is contained within His name. In our everlasting God is the sum of all Truth and there is no truth apart from Him.

The name **Alpha and Omega** emphasizes the eternal nature of God. It is significant that this name is only used in the book of Revelations which speaks of the culmination of all things and looks to our eternal future with the Lord. [Rev. 1:8; 21:1-7; 22:12-17](#)

Alpha means first in the order of things. In the beginning God... Alpha is also the One who is most pre-eminent. It means first in authority and excellence. When speaking of an ‘alpha’ person, or animal, it speaks of one who is of the highest rank.

Omega speaks of the completion and fulfillment of all things. Jesus is the last to reign. He will have the last say. His kingdom will break into pieces and consume all other kingdoms. All thrones will be cast down. There will be given to Him dominion and glory and all the people, nations and languages shall serve Him. He will conquer on the battlefield and He will be last man standing!! Job said, “I know that my Redeemer lives and at the last He shall take His stand on the earth.” [Job 19:25](#)

“...He who has begun (alpha) a good work in you will complete it (omega), until the day of Jesus Christ...”
Paul wrote to Timothy, “I know who I have believed (alpha) and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him (omega) until that day. [Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 1:12](#)

That day is the Day of Jesus Christ when He returns and His glory is revealed. It is the Day in which we see the fulfillment of all of God’s plans and purposes as Jesus takes His rightful place as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In Jesus, the Omega, after all that can be removed is removed, Christ will remain along with those who remain in Him. He will wipe away all the tears and everlasting joy will be upon our heads. He will make all things new and give the Living Waters so that we will never thirst again. [Isa. 35:10; 55:11; Rev. 21:4-6; 22:12-13](#)

The Significance of knowing God as El Olam in our personal lives:

*“He has made everything beautiful in its time.
He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds
[a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages
which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy],
yet so that men cannot find out
what God has done from the beginning to the end.”*
Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP)

Eccles. 3:11 The word means "eternity" is used here in the sense of not being limited to the present. Thus, in Eccl. 3:11 we read that God had bound man to time and given him the capacity to live "above time" (i.e., to remember yesterday, plan for tomorrow, and consider abstract principles); yet He has not given him divine knowledge. For this reason, we put our trust in El Olam, the One who makes everything beautiful in His time. He also sets a sense of the eternal world in our hearts.

- 1. Eternal Perspective:** El Olam focuses on God's infinite purposes and plans. If all our life consisted of was the life we live on this earth, we might conclude, as the writer of Ecclesiastes concluded, it is all futility. But as believers, life with the Everlasting God means that everything on this earth has a purpose that is only to be fully understood in eternity. We should not think of eternity as that which begins after death when we join Jesus in the heavens. Actually, as believers, we are immortal beings! We are living in eternity, life without end! This earth, the things of this earth, are temporal – civilizations will rise up and fall. and finite but life with Jesus is everlasting! Immortality begins with salvation and is fully realized in our resurrection. We need to ask the Lord to help us to be heavenly-minded and to live for that which is eternal. Our focus needs to be on that which is of eternal value. We worship a God who sees all of eternity in a glance. For this to become a reality in our hearts and minds, we need to ask for a revelation of our Everlasting, Eternal God, El Olam. As we understand the eternal nature of our God we gain a better understanding of our eternal destiny in Him. **Matt. 6:19-21; Gal. 6:8-9; John 5:24; 1 Cor. 15:53-54**

“My heart and my flesh may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” Psalm 73:26 (see entire chapter) When Asaph only looked at this present age, he saw the wicked prospering and he became bitter that there did not seem to be justice on earth. The wicked often did not seem to be held accountable for their sin. Like the writer of Ecclesiastes, he felt life was futile and without purpose. He thought this way until he went into the sanctuary of God and in God's presence he came to understand their end. In God's presence he gained an eternal perspective. With his focus on God and His eternal character he declared, “God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever (olam).”

- 2. Olam emphasizes that His promises and covenants endure through all times and all generations.** The concept of Olam meaning everlasting or eternal, deeply influences our understanding of God's promises by highlighting His perpetual and unfailing nature. In a world that is transient and uncertain, the idea of 'olam' assures us that God's Word and His commitments stand across all ages and all circumstances! God's love, mercy and faithfulness are not fleeting or transitory but steadfast and permanent through all eternity. The name El Olam gives us assurance of the unchanging and continuous commitment of God to His nature and His purposes. This name speaks of God's steadfastness to preserve His covenants and His lovingkindness to His people. This name conveys God's permanence and the unchangeability of His character, His word, and His covenant promises

(Exodus 3:15). Andrew Jukes in the "Names of God" states that "this name tells us that God reveals Himself to men by varying dispensations, "at sundry times and in diverse manners as they can bear it; in all carrying out His one unchanging purpose, to bring us out of our fall and make us partakers of His blessedness."

El Olam is incorruptible, incapable of deterioration. He is an infinite being with boundless abundance of resources. Olam is the keeper of His plans and purposes conceived before the creation of the world and kept according to His timing. His purposes for our lives are rooted in eternity. They were perfectly conceived and will be perfectly performed! There is a great stability and certainty in His plans. They were lovingly crafted. They are not reactive or changing. When Jesus came there was an urgency in His message to reveal that the Kingdom of God was breaking into the world with love, healing and redemption. **2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:20; Titus 1:2; Matt. 25:34**

3. **His eternal life is the source of our eternal life. Because He lives and we live in Him, we will not die but have eternal life!** He has given us an eternal inheritance. **He is the author and the finisher of our faith!** "[The Lord God says] And the redeemed of the Lord shall return and come with singing to Zion; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." **1 Pet. 1:4; Isa. 51:11 (AMP) Habakkuk 1:12 (AMP); 2 Thes. 2:16 (AMP)**

Write Your blessed name, O LORD, upon my heart,
There to remain indelibly engraved
That no prosperity, no adversity,
Shall ever move me from Your love.

Be to me a strong tower of defense,
A comforter in tribulation,
A deliverer in distress,
A very present help in time of trouble,
And a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life.
~~Thomas a Kempis~~

*"Now to Him Who is able to strengthen you in the faith
which is in accordance with my Gospel
and the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ (the Messiah),
according to the revelation (the unveiling) of the mystery of the plan of redemption
which was kept in silence and secret for long ages,
But is now disclosed and through the prophetic Scriptures is made known to all nations,
according to the command of the eternal God,
[to win them] to obedience to the faith,
To [the] only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One)!
Amen (so be it).
Rom. 16:25-27 (AMP)*