

100 NAMES of GOD

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

CHRISTOPHER D. HUDSON



Contents

Elohim: Mighty Creator 8	Geōrgos: The Gardener 40
El Kanna: Jealous God 10	Akal Esh: Consuming Fire 42
Atik Yomin: Ancient of Days 12	Jehovah Uzzi: The Lord My Strength 44
Shub Nephesh: Renewer of Life 14	Immanuel: God with Us 46
El Haggadol: The Great God ... 16	Basilei ton Aionon: King Eternal 48
El Qadosh: The Holy One 18	Migdal Oz: Strong Tower 50
Jehovah-Jireh: God My Provider 20	Shaphat: Judge 52
Elohim Shama: The God Who Hears 22	Yah: Self-Existence—"I AM" ..54
El Sela: God My Rock 24	Jehovah Gibbor Milchamah: Mighty in Battle 56
El Roi: The God Who Sees Me 26	Jehovah-Go'el: Redeeming God 58
El Shaddai: The All-Sufficient One, God Almighty 28	Jehovah-Makkeh: The Lord Who Strikes (Disciplines) You 60
Jehovah Ezrah: My Helper 29	Sar-Shalom: Prince of Peace 61
El Yeshuati: The God of My Salvation 30	Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord My Banner 62
El-HaNe'eman: The God Who Is Faithful 32	Jehovah-Ra'ah: The Lord Is My Shepherd 64
Elah Yerushalem: God of Jerusalem 34	Jehovah-Rapha: The Lord Who Heals 66
Elohay Selichot: The God Who Is Ready to Forgive 36	Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord Is There 68
Elohim Ahavah: The God Who Loves 38	Jehovah-Sabaoth: The Lord of Hosts 70

Jehovah-Tzidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness72	Malak Haggioel: Redeeming Angel 104
Hode: Majesty 74	Yated Aman Maqom: Nail in a Firm Place 106
Ner: Lamp 76	‘Or Yisrael: Light of Israel 108
Maon: Dwelling Place77	El Chaikai: God of My Life ... 110
Di ou ta panta: My Everything78	Elohim Qarob: God Is Near 112
Gabahh: Transcendent80	Qeren Yesha’: Horn of My Salvation 114
Miqweh Yisrael: Hope of Israel82	El: God 116
Theos Monos Sophos: The Only Wise God84	El Elohe Yisrael: God of Israel 118
Theos Pas Paraklesis: The God of All Comfort86	Jehovah Qadash: The Lord Who Sanctifies 120
Melekh HaGoyim: King of Nations88	Tsur Yisrael: Rock of Israel 122
Pneuma: Spirit90	Abir Jacob: The Mighty One of Jacob 124
Yahweh-Channun: God of Grace92	Abba: Father126
Alpha and Omega: The First and the Last94	Adonai: Lord128
Ba’al: Husband96	Adonai Tov: The Lord Is Good 130
El Yeshurun: The God of Jeshurun98	El Tsuri: The Rock 132
El Gibbor: Mighty God99	El Chai: The Living God 134
Bara: Creator 100	Metzudah: Fortress 136
Maqowr Chay Mayim: Fountain of Living Waters 102	El Yalad: The God Who Gave You Birth 138

El Deah: The God of Knowledge 140	Jehovah-Magen: Shield 174
El Elyon: God Most High 142	YHWH: I Am 176
El Hakkavod: The God of Glory 144	Entunchano: The God Who Intercedes 178
El Nathan Neqamah: The God Who Avenges Me 146	Sane: The God Who Hates 180
El Olam: The Everlasting God, the Eternal God 148	Ori: My Light 182
El Racham: The Compassionate God 150	Tsaddik: Righteous 184
Elohim Yare: God Most Awesome 152	Or Goyim: Light of the Nations 186
Gelah Raz: Revealer of Mysteries 154	Paraklētōs: Advocate 188
Rum Rosh: The One Who Lifts My Head 156	Alēthinos Theos: True God 190
El Nahsah: Forgiving God 158	Basileus Basileon: King of Kings 192
Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord Is Peace 160	HaShem: The Name 194
Logos: The Word 162	Lo Shanah: Unchanging 195
Jehovah-Palat: Deliverer 164	Yotzerenu: Potter 196
Qadosh Yisrael: The Holy One of Israel 166	Index to Names and Strong’s Numbers 198
El-Moshaah: The God Who Saves 168	Bible Study Guide205
El Shamayim: The God of Heaven 170	
Jehovah-Machsi: Refuge 172	



ALPHA AND OMEGA

THE FIRST AND THE LAST

“He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.’”

REVELATION 21:6

The Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote that God was there in the beginning—“with the first”—and He will be here “with the last” (41:4). In other words, God serves as bookends for history. What a comforting thought in a world where nothing lasts and everything constantly changes! The One supervising when the world began will be the superintendent at the consummation of all things.

The Bible emphatically states that nothing happens outside the purview of God’s sovereignty and power. Nothing happens without His permission or without His authorization. Nothing can thwart His eternal plan to restore all things to perfection.

Saying the Lord is the *Alpha and Omega* is essentially saying this: If human existence were a movie, and we got to watch the credits, God would be listed as creator, writer, producer, director, and star. As the author, He’s the ultimate authority.

In the final book of the Bible, at the conclusion of history, Jesus says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega . . . who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8). *Alpha* and *omega* are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. With that phrase, Jesus is essentially saying, “I am the whole story. I

am the God of creation, the God of the Old Testament, the God that Isaiah wrote about, the God who has been here since the beginning and will be here evermore.”

Whatever is going on in your life today, here’s a fact you can cling to: The One who is the Alpha and Omega controls the outcome of this world as well as the details of your life. He knows where your story and His story are going, and nothing can alter His good intentions or perfect will.

The Alpha and Omega isn’t bothered by the past or worried about the future.

How does the idea of God having “the whole world in His hands” affect your mood and actions today?

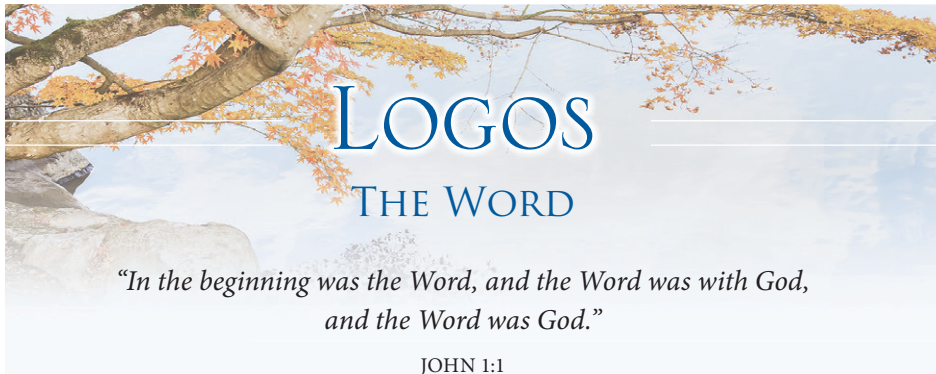


PRAYER

God, You are before all things and You are the end of all things. You are found in the person of Jesus Christ, from the first verses of Genesis to the very last verse of Revelation. I praise You, for You are uncreated, infinite, and eternal! Amen.

READ MORE: ISAIAH 44:6; 48:12; REVELATION 22:13





LOGOS

THE WORD

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.”*

JOHN 1:1

It has been estimated that there are more than one million words in the English language. The Greek New Testament, by contrast, has only about 5,440 words. Of all the Greek words used to describe the Lord Jesus Christ, one of the more interesting is *logos*. (To see examples, compare John 1:1 with John 1:14.)

Logos is usually translated simply as “word.” However, John’s Greek-speaking audience would have understood it to have a much richer meaning. In Greek philosophy, *logos* was used to denote “divine wisdom” and the “ultimate reason” that orders all things. By applying *logos* to the second person of the Trinity, John was saying that Jesus is the foundation of thought, the original idea, and the only source of ultimate wisdom in the universe.

In a less philosophical and more basic sense, by calling Christ “the Word,” John was also declaring that Jesus is “God’s communication” or “heaven’s declaration.” Just as well-chosen words accurately express the intent of their speaker, so Jesus clearly reveals and explains the identity of God to a watching world (John 1:18).

According to John, the *logos* is divine, eternal, and creative (John 1:1–4). Sure enough, back in Genesis 1 we see God *speaking*—using words—to bring everything into being and into order.

What does this mean to us personally? It means that if we are going to know God in a personal way, it will require words. First, we will need to immerse ourselves in the *written* Word of God. It’s through reading, hearing, studying, memorizing, and meditating upon the trustworthy and true pages of Scripture that we discover what God is like.

Second, we will need to draw near to Jesus Christ, the *living* Word of God. By reading in the Gospels how Jesus interacted with all kinds of people in all sorts of need, we get an up-close and personal glimpse of God in the flesh. No wonder the One identified as the *logos* said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

As English speakers, we have over one million words at our disposal. As believers, there are only two words we truly need: God’s written Word and Jesus, the living Word.

***How does the idea of logos affect your understanding
of who Jesus is?***

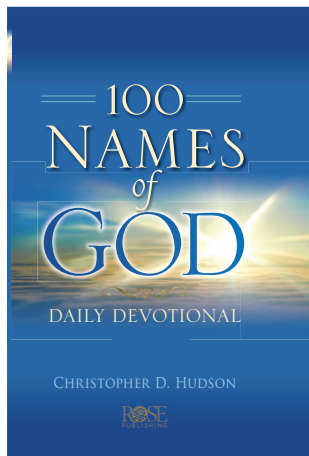


PRAYER

Father, thank You for the Bible, Your written Word. And thank You for Jesus, the living Word. Please reveal more of Yourself to me as I seek You. Amen.

READ MORE: JOHN 1:14; HEBREWS 4:12

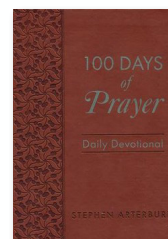




100 Names of God Daily Devotional

What's in a name? In God's case, everything! From Elohim (Mighty Creator) and Jehovah Ezrah (My Helper) to Logos (the Word) and Basileus Basileon (King of kings), Hudson reflects on the meanings of God's titles to reveal his true character---and to encourage you to open your heart to the presence of El Chai (the Living God).

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Discover the comfort, power, and peace only God can give! Covering topics including the effects of prayer, the Lord's guidance, and growing in Christ, Arterburn urges you to search for divine direction when you are faced with powerful temptations or seemingly unsolvable problems.

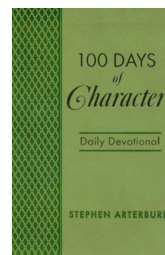
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