

To whom does "LORD" refer? Teacher version. Pastor Hammond May 9, 2025

Review of LORD vs. Lord, and GOD. [See Student Handout](#) | [Lesson Video](#)

1. We understand that God's personal name is Jehovah

- a. Jehovah means “the existing One,” rooted in the Hebrew verb *havah* ("to be"), signifying *eternal self-existence*. (Strongs)

2. In our King James Bible, *Jehovah*, is usually translated "LORD" (ALL CAPS).

- a. This is due to a long-standing tradition that was retained by our translators (and is possibly attributable to the Jewish tradition of expressing reverence for God by not pronouncing his personal name).
- b. We note some exceptions to the above rule, e.g. **Exodus 6:3** "...I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name **JEHOVAH** was I not known to them."
- c. Also note that, sometimes, *Jehovah* is translated as "**GOD**" (ALL CAPS). This is usually used in order to avoid an English translation that would be expressed as "Lord LORD."

3. In the Bible, we also see "Lord" (Title Case, not ALL CAPS).

- "Lord" translates an underlying word meaning master (a title that conveys respect to one who has authority).
 - Old Testament "Lord" = Hebrew ***Adonai*** (*Strong's H136*)
 - New Testament "Lord" = Greek ***kurios*** (*Strong's G2962*)

4. See Judges 16:28, which includes "LORD", "Lord" and "GOD." "And Samson called unto the **LORD**, and said, O **Lord GOD**, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines ..."

To whom does "LORD" (Jehovah) refer?

1. In the Old Testament, the name Jehovah (LORD, GOD), normally refers to the triune godhead (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
2. However, sometimes, it refers to a specific person of the godhead, i.e. the Father, or the Son, or the Holy Spirit.
3. Examples where "Jehovah" refers to the triune Godhead (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
 - a. **Genesis 3:22** And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:
 - a. Also see **Ge 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... **27** So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
 - b. **Isaiah 6:8** Also I heard the voice of the Lord (*Adonai*), saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.
 - c. **Isaiah 48:16** Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am* I: and now the LORD GOD (Perhaps the father), and his Spirit, hath sent me (Christ). **17** Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I *am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go.
4. Examples where God the Father is identified as Jehovah
 - a. **Psalms 110:1** (David prophesied the Father speaking to Christ) ... The LORD (Father) said unto my Lord (Christ), Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Quoted by Jesus in **Luke 20:42** And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD (*kurios*) said unto my Lord (*kurios*), Sit thou on my right hand...

- b. **Deuteronomy 32:6** Do ye thus requite **the LORD**, O foolish people and unwise? *is not he thy father that* hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?
- c. **1 Chronicles 29:10** Wherefore David blessed the **LORD** before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed *be* thou, **LORD** God of Israel **our father**, for ever and ever.
- d. **Psalms 89:26** (David prophecies that Christ will address the "father"). He shall cry unto me, Thou *art* **my father**, my God, ...
- e. **Isaiah 63:16** Doubtless thou *art* **our father**, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, **O LORD, art our father**, our redeemer; thy name *is* from everlasting.
- f. **Jeremiah 3:4** Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, **My father**, thou *art* the guide of my youth? ... **19** ...Thou shalt call me, **My father**; and shalt not turn away from me.

5. Examples where Christ is identified as Jehovah

- a. **Isaiah 6:1** In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also **the Lord (Adonai)** sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.
 - i. **John 12:38** That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? **39** Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, **40** He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. **41** These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

- b. **Isaiah 40:3** speaks of "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness... prepare ye the way of **the LORD** (Jehovah)" — *which is clearly applied to Christ in Matthew 3:3*:
- i. **Matthew 3:1-3** In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of **the Lord**, make his paths straight.
- c. **Joel 2:32** And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of **the LORD** shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the **LORD** hath said, and in the remnant whom the **LORD** shall call.
- **Romans 10:12** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same **Lord** over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of **the Lord** (*kyrios - master*) shall be saved.
- d. **Psalms 102:1** A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and poureth out his complaint before the LORD. Hear my prayer, **O LORD**, and let my cry come unto thee... **25** Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens *are* the work of thy hands **(Applied to Christ in Hebrews 1:10)**. **26** They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: **27** But thou *art* the same, and thy years shall have no end.
- **Hebrews 1:1** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets ... **8** But unto **the Son** *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom. **9** Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. **10** And, Thou, **Lord**, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

- e. **Zechariah 12:1** The burden of the word of the **LORD** for Israel, saith the **LORD... 4** In that day, **saith the LORD ... 10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: **and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.
 - **John 19:37** And again another scripture saith, **They shall look on him whom they pierced.**

6. Examples where the Holy Spirit is identified as Jehovah

- a. **Isaiah 6:8** Also I heard the voice of **the Lord** (*Adonai*) , saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me. 9 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. 10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.
 - i. **Acts 28:25-28** And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, **Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, 26** Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: **27** For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
- b. **Isaiah 61:1** The **Spirit of the Lord GOD** *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;
 - i. **Note that the speaker is Christ. The Spirit is called "Lord GOD." And the LORD (arguably the Father) is the one who annoints the speaker (Christ) with the Spirit.**

- ii. **Christ describes the fulfillment in Lu 4:18** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised ... 21b ... This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

- c. **Numbers 14:11** **And the LORD said unto Moses,** How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? ... **22** Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; **23** Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:
 - i. **Hebrews 3:7** Wherefore (**as the Holy Ghost saith**, To day if ye will hear his voice, **8** Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: **9** When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Summary:

1. God's personal name, Jehovah, usually appears in our Bible as LORD or GOD.
2. In the Old Testament, the name Jehovah (LORD, GOD), normally refers to the triune godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
3. However, sometimes, it refers to a specific person of the godhead, i.e. the Father, or the Son, or the Holy Spirit.