

In Heaven

Jason Graham: The Disciples Prayer Series

Contents

The Disciples Prayer.....	2
In Heaven	2
Jesus and Heaven	2
What is Heaven?	3
God is King.....	3
Our Father is King.....	4
The Paradox of God’s Nature	4
Transcendence of God.....	4
God is Ineffable.....	4
I AM WHO I AM.....	5
Immanence of God.....	6
Immanuel.....	7
His Dwelling	7
Our Dwelling.....	7
God In Heaven and On Earth	7
How Do We Approach Him?	8
Approaching Him as God the Father	8
Approaching Him as God the King	8
With Thanksgiving and Praise	8
With Songs of Understanding and Instruction.....	8
With Humility.....	9
With Closed Mouths and Open Ears.....	9
Our Position with Him	10
Do Honored Ones Still Worship?	11
The Twenty-Four Elders	11

The Conclusion of the Matter	12
Appendix 1: The Names of God	14
Appendix 2: The Twenty-Four Elders	16

The Disciples Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV): In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

In Heaven

Why would Jesus use the phrase “In Heaven?”

- Reveals God’s position, exaltation, and authority.
- It hints at the paradox of God’s nature when taken together with the phrase “Our Father...”
- It indicates the need for us to not make him profane or common.

Jesus and Heaven

In mentioning above that “In Heaven” indicates God’s position, exaltation, and authority, I wanted to emphasize how this also relates to Jesus himself. The throne, kingdom and authority are all his. Once he defeats the last enemy—death, meaning that death will be no more—he will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

Hebrews 1:8 (NIV): But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Matthew 28:18 (NIV): Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 (NIV): Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

What is Heaven?

Heaven can be studied, explained, and talked about in several different ways. For the purposes of this study, we will look at **Heaven as God's Throne**. This is the most consistent explanation given in scripture.

This demonstrates God's Position of Authority and Exaltation. He is in Heaven. He reigns from Heaven.

- The prophet Isaiah first told us that the Lord calls Heaven his throne.
 - **Isaiah 66:1 (NIV):** This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?"
- Later King David reiterated the idea in a psalm.
 - **Psalms 11:4 (NIV):** The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes everyone on earth; his eyes examine them.
- Jesus calls back to this idea from Isaiah in the book of Matthew.
 - **Matthew 5:34-35 (NIV):** But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.
- The first Christian martyr, Stephen, declared that Heaven is God's throne just moments before he was being stoned to death and looked up to see Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father on his throne in Heaven.
 - **Acts 7:48-50 (NIV):** "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: "'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me?' says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?"

So, if God has a throne, what is he?

God is King

Our God is King – King of all the earth. He reigns on High. He is the Most High. He is the King of Kings. There is no other God. He is the maker of Heaven and maker of Earth. He sits on the Throne of His own Holiness.

Psalms 47:7-8 (NIV): For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

1 Chronicles 29:11 (NIV): Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Our Father is King

Let's not forget who we are talking about. God is King. He is highly exalted. Jesus begins this prayer with, "Our Father, in Heaven." Yes, we are talking about our Father. The one who has accepted us and drawn near to us. The one who has given us everything that belongs to Him. The one who has given us full rights as Sons of God. Our Father is God, and our God is King.

We must still revere and honor him. We worship him because he is the Most High God. He is God and there is no other.

The Paradox of God's Nature

There is a theological concept about the paradox of the nature of God's existence. In a theological sense, a paradox means something that defies human logic yet holds deep spiritual truths.

This paradox about God's nature is that he is both Transcendent and Immanent. In its simplest sense: Transcendence means God is high above. Immanence means He has drawn near.

This paradox is summarized in the phrase "Our Father in heaven."

- **Our Father:** drawn close
- **In Heaven:** far above

Transcendence of God

God's transcendence means that he is far above, highly exalted. He exists above and beyond all creation, utterly beyond human understanding. It doesn't just mean he is "up there." It means he is **incomprehensible**.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV): "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Psalms 113:5-6 (NIV): Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

God is Ineffable

God is **ineffable**. This means that he is so extraordinary he cannot be adequately expressed in words. That means everything that I've ever taught, what I'm teaching right now, and everything you've ever heard about him...falls short. He is beyond our comprehension.

Does this mean we know nothing of God? Absolutely not, but all we know of him must be, and has been, revealed by him. We cannot contain all the knowledge of him (in our current state).

- Jesus expressed it this way:
 - **Matthew 11:27 (NIV):** “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- The Apostle Paul expressed it this way:
 - **1 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NIV):** The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
 - We can’t figure him out, but he can reveal himself to us.
 - **Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV):** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
 - He is so far beyond us that the degree to which he operates above our understanding cannot even be measures.
 - **2 Corinthians 9:15 (NIV):** Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
 - Here he was calling Jesus **indescribable**.

I AM WHO I AM

No word that describes “becoming” something can be used for God, because he always was. He did not become...He is. And He is the Self-Existent One.

Exodus 3:13-14 (NIV): Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

John 8:58-59 (NIV): “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Revelation 1:8 (NIV): “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Psalms 90:2 (NIV): Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

When God told Moses, “I AM WHO I AM,” the Hebrew phrase used is “**Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh**”. This phrase is often translated as “I AM WHO I AM,” but it can also mean “I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE.” The Hebrew verb “**Ehyeh**” comes from the root **hayah**, which means “to be” or “to exist.”

God reveals this phrase to Moses as a declaration of His eternal and self-existent nature. It conveys that God is not defined or limited by anything outside of Himself.

The name YHWH (often vocalized as Yahweh) is derived from the same Hebrew root **hayah**. This connection emphasizes God's identity as the source of all existence.

SIDE NOTE: THE NAME "JEHOVAH" IS A LATER ADAPTATION THAT COMBINES THE CONSONANTS OF YHWH WITH THE VOWELS OF "ADONAI," ANOTHER NAME FOR GOD, REFLECTING REVERENCE FOR THE SACREDNESS OF THE DIVINE NAME.

When we say “Yahweh” or “Jehovah” is God’s name, it falls short of understanding what God was expressing with this response. God is so vast and beyond our comprehension that there are over forty Hebrew names for him listed in the Bible. We must resolve to name certain aspects of him because he is incomprehensible.

Let’s look at it this way: Moses had a name. That person that we call Moses was a finite being. He had a beginning and an ending. He had a limited existence. He had clear boundaries while he lived. He did not “fill all in all.” He only filled one physical body. Because of that, the specific limited life that existed for that time could be labeled as something. He was Moses.

On the contrary, the closest concept that we can possibly have for a name for God is only to say, “He Exists” or to otherwise name certain aspects of his character. God does not have the same limitations of Moses and us. He is not finite. He is infinite. He does not have a limited existence. He fills all in all. He does not have a beginning and an ending. He *is* the beginning and the ending. He is from everlasting to everlasting. How can we truly label what cannot be measured. He is the Self-Existent One. He has no reliance on anyone or anything.

For more detailed information on this topic see, [Appendix 1: The Names of God](#).

If you feel that you have a hard time engaging in worship, then meditate on this vastness of God. You will find that worship is the only natural response.

Immanence of God

Immanent means that He has drawn near. He has made a way for intimacy. He has come to us, and He draws us close to Him.

- Not Imminent: about to happen (although he is)
- Not Eminent: standing above others (although he does)
- But Immanent: existing within, inherent, or innate

Immanuel

He is Immanuel—God with us.

Matthew 1:23 (NIV): “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

His Dwelling

God chose to make his dwelling among us and within us.

John 1:14 (NIV): The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV): Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?

Our Dwelling

Now “in him” we exist.

Acts 17:24-28 (NIV): “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

He is ineffable and incomprehensible, yet he condescended to place himself within our grasp. The fact that we can comprehend God at all is a result of his love and grace toward us. And to know him and the one he sent is eternal life.

John 17:3 (NIV): Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

*For You so loved the unlovable that You gave the ineffable.
That whoso believes the unbelievable will gain the unattainable.
~From “There You Go” by Caedmon’s Call*

God In Heaven and On Earth

It seems that within the first four words of this prayer Jesus wants us to see God as our Father that we can be close and intimate with – knowing that we cannot earn His acceptance because He has

accepted us freely without any merit on our part. And we are to keep in mind that He is highly exalted and worthy of all honor. He has shown us that God is both Transcendent and Immanent. In other words:

Deuteronomy 4:39 (NIV): Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

How Do We Approach Him?

So, how do we approach God? We must approach him as both our Father and our God, the King of Heaven and Earth. Love Him as your Father. Worship Him as God. Talk to Him as your Father. Be still and know that he is God. He is both; therefore, treat Him as both. Let the Holy Spirit lead you into a dynamic relationship with your Father God.

Approaching Him as God the Father

We dug into approaching God as Father in the previous lesson. We approach him knowing that we are fully restored, accepted, free, and celebrated—just as we saw the father of the prodigal respond to his son's return. We approach God the Father as sons of God—not servants. Since we are sons, we choose to serve because we love him, and we love others. We go about our Father's business. We need to look a little deeper, however, into approaching him as God the King.

Approaching Him as God the King

The Bible does give us some direction on how to approach Him as God the King.

With Thanksgiving and Praise

Psalms 100 (NIV): ¹Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. ²Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. ³Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

With Songs of Understanding and Instruction

Psalms 47 (NIV): ¹Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. ²For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth. ³He subdued nations under us, peoples under our feet. ⁴He chose our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. ⁵God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets. ⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. ⁷For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. ⁸God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. ⁹The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.

- NIV: sing to him a psalm of praise
- KJV: sing to him with understanding
- I used to believe that this meant to sing to him knowing that He is God and King of all the earth...even over the heathen. And he is that.
- However, it does mean a bit more than that. In Hebrew, it means to sing a “maschil,” which is a “didactic” psalm—meant to instruct.
 - **Maschil:** instructing
 - Occurs in the title of thirteen Psalms (32,42,44, etc.).
 - It denotes a song reinforcing some lesson of wisdom or piety, a didactic song.
 - In other words, since God is King of all the earth, sing about him in a way that teaches people just how amazing he is.
 - It isn't just about praising him; it is about instructing our own hearts and the hearts of others about him.

With Humility

Isaiah 66:1-2 (NIV): ¹This is what the Lord says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? ²Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the Lord. “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.”

- Approach God Humbly
 - He is God in Heaven.
- Be contrite in spirit
 - This means to be smitten or undone before Him.
 - Completely overwhelmed and broken before Him.
- Tremble at His Word
 - Honor His Word
 - Be filled with fear (reverence) for God

With Closed Mouths and Open Ears

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 (NIV): ¹Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. ²Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

- Guard your steps: Don't go before God without considering your attitude – be reverent.
- Approach God to listen first and to listen mostly – not to speak.
- Don't offer the sacrifice of fools.
 - Don't be too quick to make foolish commitments before God.
 - Don't be too quick to offer suggestions or advice to God.
 - Like Peter
 - **Matthew 17:4-5 (NIV):** ⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

- In other words, God interrupted Peter and told him to stop talking and listen.
- Peter was offering up the sacrifice of fools.
- Let your words be few.
 - Don't be afraid to talk to God.
 - Just don't think that your end of the conversation is the most important end.
 - In the two verses preceding The Disciples' Prayer, Jesus said the following to His disciples:
 - **Matthew 6:7-8 (NIV):** ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

So, we approach God with thankfulness, praise, singing (with understanding and instruction), humility, contriteness, reverence, few words, and listening ears.

Our Position with Him

Now that you understand that God is in Heaven, that Heaven is his throne, that he is King of everything, that he is to be honored, and that we approach him with all reverence—I want to remind you what God has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. God has made a place for us by His side.

Ephesians 1:17-23 (NIV): ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 2:4-9 (NIV): ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

What is all of that saying? Our Father God raised Jesus up and exalted Him. He seated Jesus at His right hand In Heaven. He seated us with Himself In Heaven, in Jesus. He has given us a place by His

side In Heaven. He is still the Only Exalted One, but He is, after all, our Father and we have been made heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17 (NIV): ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV): ²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

So, we are not under control of the enemies of our souls. We have been placed in Christ – the King of Kings, who is above all. Therefore, we are above all our enemies. Everything that is under Christ’s feet is under our feet because we are seated in Him—In Heaven.

Do Honored Ones Still Worship?

I’ve considered that some may think that since we are accepted as sons and raised to a position of great honor, that perhaps the exaltation and worship of God may be a lack of understanding of who we are. I say, “Not at all.” The opposite is true: the lack of exaltation and worship of God would be a lack of understanding of who He is—not a lack of understanding of who we are.

Regardless of how he sees us, his position, his glory, his worthiness to be exalted and worshipped has not been diminished. There is nothing else in existence that is worthy of worship besides God.

The Twenty-Four Elders

Let’s consider the twenty-four elders found in the book of Revelation. How do they react to God? The scene is first laid out as John was called up in the Spirit to an open vision standing before the very throne of God “in heaven” that we have been discussing.

Revelation 4:1-3 (NIV): After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

Then John sees twenty-four elders that are sitting on thrones, wearing crowns, and clearly in a great position of honor.

Revelation 4:4 (NIV): Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

For a deeper study of who these twenty-four elders may be, see [Appendix 2: The Twenty-Four Elders](#). For now, let it suffice to say that they are redeemed human beings who have been placed in a great position of honor by God.

Now, how do we see these honored ones reacting to God?

Revelation 4:9-11 (NIV) ⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰[the twenty-four elders fall down](#) before him who sits on the throne and [worship him](#) who lives for ever and ever. [They lay their crowns before the throne](#) and say: ¹¹[“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”](#)

Revelation 5:9-14 (NIV): ⁹And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” ¹¹Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹²In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” ¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” ¹⁴The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and [the elders fell down and worshiped](#).

The Conclusion of the Matter

Our Father God is King. He is greatly exalted. He is to be worshipped, honored, revered, heard, obeyed, and loved by us always.

Micah 6:8 (NIV): He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV): Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

Remember, in a New Covenant sense, to obey God’s commandments is to Love.

- Even the Old Covenant Law and Prophets hung on love.
 - **Matthew 22:35-40 (NIV):** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

- Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another. Love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - **Romans 13:8-10 (NIV):** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
- Jesus gave us a new commandment: to love one another as he loves us.
 - **John 13:34-35 (NIV):** “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Appendix 1: The Names of God

The letters used to write “the name” of God in the Hebrew text are YHWH (yod, heh, waw, heh). This is known as the “Tetragrammaton.” This comes from the Greek “tetra” (meaning four) and “gramma” (meaning letter). These letters are considered sacred and are often substituted with titles like “Adonai” (Lord) or “HaShem” (meaning simply “The Name”) in Jewish tradition.

Hebrew writing did not contain vowels—only consonants. So, the vowel sounds were passed down by oral tradition. This means that today, we don’t know that the common vocalization “Yahweh” is how the ancient Hebrew word was pronounced. Also, Jewish tradition states that only the high priest ever said the name, and only while in the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). So, YHWH was only a written form of the word. It’s quite possible that most Hebrews never heard the word vocalized at all. And, as stated above, generally Adonai, HaShem, or some other word, such as Elohim, were used to refer to God vocally.

So, where did “Jehovah” come from?

The name “Jehovah” itself does not appear in the original Hebrew Bible. In most English translations, YHWH is rendered as “LORD” in all capital letters, following Jewish tradition. Some translations, like the King James Version, do use “Jehovah” in a few places, but this is a choice made by translators rather than a reflection of the original text.

While ancient Hebrew writing didn’t include vowels, the spoken language obviously did. Over time, Jewish scholars known as the Masoretes (6th to 10th century AD) developed a system of vowel points (diacritical marks) to preserve the pronunciation of Hebrew words. These vowel points were added to the consonantal text of the Hebrew Bible, including the word “Adonai,” which means “Lord.” So, the vowels of “Adonai” were recorded in this way.

The Masoretes, in their work to reproduce the original text of the Hebrew Bible, added the vowels from Adonai to YHWH, not knowing what the actual vowel sounds would have been, creating the written vocalization “Yehowah.” Jehovah is a Latinization of Yehowah. So, Jehovah emerged later in history, particularly in medieval Latinized contexts—replacing the Y with a J since Y did not exist in Latin.

As stated earlier in this text, the closest we can get to a name for God is to simply say that “He Exists” or to name aspects of his character. He is beyond being labeled with a single name.

Here is a list of many of the Hebrew names for God. Every name that begins with Jehovah can also be written with “Yahweh” instead. I’ve chosen to use Jehovah, because they are probably most familiar to English speakers in this format.

1. **YHWH (Yahweh or transliteration Jehovah):** The self-existent, eternal God. Often translated as “LORD.”
2. **I AM:** God’s eternal presence and self-existence (Exodus 3:14).

3. **Adonai**: Lord or Master.
4. **Abhir**: Mighty One
5. **Kadosh**: Holy One
6. **Shaphat**: Judge
7. **Palet**: Deliverer
8. **Yeshua (or Yesha)**: Savior. "Joshua" in English. This is the Hebrew name for Jesus. Jesus is a transliteration of "Iesous," the Greek translation of the Hebrew Yeshua.
9. **Gaol**: Redeemer
10. **Magen**: Shield
11. **Eyaluth**: Strength
12. **Tsaddiq**: Righteous One
13. **Zur**: Our Rock
14. **Melekh**: King
15. **El**: God
16. **Elohim**: God as Creator, Mighty, and Strong.
17. **El Shaddai**: God Almighty or "God All-Sufficient."
18. **El Elyon**: The Most High God.
19. **El-Olam**: The Everlasting God.
20. **El-Berith**: God of the Covenant.
21. **El-Gibhor**: Mighty God
22. **Jehovah Jireh**: The Lord Will Provide.
23. **Jehovah Rapha (or Rophe)**: The Lord Who Heals.
24. **Jehovah Nissi**: The Lord Is My Banner.
25. **Jehovah Shalom**: The Lord Is Peace.
26. **Jehovah Tsidkenu**: The Lord Our Righteousness.
27. **Jehovah Rohi**: The Lord My Shepherd.
28. **Jehovah Sabaoth**: The Lord of Hosts.
29. **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**: The Lord Who Sanctifies.
30. **Jehovah Shammah**: The Lord Is There.
31. **Jehovah Elohim**: The Lord God.
32. **Jehovah El Roi**: The God Who Sees.
33. **Jehovah Elyon**: The Lord Most High.
34. **Jehovah El Gmolah**: The God of Recompense.
35. **Jehovah Nakeh**: The Lord Who Strikes.
36. **Jehovah Tsur**: The Lord My Rock.
37. **Jehovah Hoshe'ah**: The Lord Who Saves.
38. **Jehovah Uzzi**: The Lord My Strength.
39. **Jehovah Go'el**: The Lord My Redeemer.
40. **Jehovah Maginnenu**: The Lord Our Shield.
41. **Jehovah M'Kaddesh**: The Lord Who Makes Holy.
42. **Jehovah Qanna (or Kanna)**: The Lord Is Jealous.

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Appendix 2: The Twenty-Four Elders

Although the specific identities of the twenty-four elders aren't necessary to understand the position of honor that they held, I wanted to present some information about why I am certain that they represent human beings that have been honored by God.

Revelation 4:4 (NIV): Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

So, why are we certain that these are people, like us, who have been exalted to a great position of on honor who are still worshipping and throwing down their crowns before God? There are a few simple reasons.

1. The Apostles, specifically, as well as victorious believers in general were promised to sit on thrones and reign with Christ in multiple places in scriptures.
 - a. **Revelation 2:26-27 (NIV):** To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father.
 - b. **Revelation 5:10 (NIV):** You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."
 - c. **Revelation 20:4 (NIV):** I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
 - d. **Matthew 19:28 (NIV):** Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - e. **Luke 22:30 (NIV):** so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

2. The Greek word for “elders” only refers to men. This debunks the idea that some have put forth of the twenty-four elders potentially being angelic beings.
 - a. [Strong's Greek: 4245. πρεσβύτερος \(presbuteros\) -- elder, older, presbyter](#)
3. The white robes they wear refer to the robes promised to those who are redeemed and have overcome.
 - a. **Revelation 3:5 (NIV):** The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.
 - b. **Revelation 3:18 (NIV):** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.
 - c. **Revelation 19:8 (NIV):** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)
4. The golden crowns they wear are the “victor’s crown” given to those who have overcome.
 - a. [Strong's Greek: 4735. στέφανος \(stephanos\) -- Crown](#)
 - b. **Revelation 2:10 (NIV):** Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.
 - c. **2 Timothy 4:8 (NIV):** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
 - d. **James 1:12 (NIV):** Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.
5. It also seems that they must be representative of the Church since they hold golden bowls filled with the prayers of the saints.
 - a. **Revelation 5:8 (NIV):** And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.

So, who are these 24 elders specifically? The most honest answer to this question is: We do not know.

However, there are some interesting ideas that have been proposed. One is that the 24 elders are the 12 apostles with their wives. However, Peter is the only Apostle that we have any direct biblical evidence of him being married. There isn’t even any other historical record about the other Apostles’ marital statuses.

Many scholars agree that it is likely that the twenty-four elders are the 12 patriarchs of Israel, as listed in Revelation 7:5-8, and the 12 Apostles. It is debated whether it is most likely for Matthias or Paul to be selected by God to replace Judas on the throne.

This idea is compelling to me because the government of Israel was based on the 12 tribes that came forth from the 12 sons of Jacob, and the government of the early church was clearly based on the 12 Apostles.

With that said, the exact identity is not necessary for us to know, or it would have been shared in scripture. However, it is theologically correct to understand that these are certainly redeemed human beings that occupy the twenty-four thrones.

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- <https://www.gotquestions.org/24-elders.html>
- <https://appleeye.org/2013/10/01/the-twenty-four-elders-of-revelation-listed-by-name/>
 - I don't agree with the level of certainty used by the author at this link, as the scripture never indicates exactly who the twenty-four elders are; however, his opinion is very compelling.