



## Discovering the Goodness of God in His Old Testament Names

*written by Mary Jean Young*

Throughout the Old Testament, beginning at Creation and going all the way to the end in the writings of the Old Testament prophets, God has progressively revealed himself – shown us *who* he is – by giving himself some unique and descriptive names. Names like *Elohim – God and Mighty Creator; El Shadday – God Almighty; El Roi – the God who sees me; Yahweh Rophe – The Lord who heals; Yahweh Shalom – The Lord is Peace and Yahweh Tsur – The Lord is my Rock.*

In English these names are translated as *LORD* or *Lord God* or *Sovereign Lord*, the *Lord Almighty* or *God Almighty*. Frankly, they all kind of sound the same in English and their original meaning and beauty is often lost to us. But if we consider these names of God in the original language and carefully examine the **event** and the **person** to whom God revealed Himself and see that these names were given at a significant turning point in a person's life – often at the point of their deepest need – then we will have a much better understanding of who God is. The names of God found in the Old Testament reveal and confirm God's **character** – his **heart**, his **provision**, his **power** – and especially his **goodness**. Knowing God by name is important knowledge, because one must **know God** before one can **ever hope to enter into an intimate love relationship with God**.

The lessons in *Knowing God by Name* will cover the **person** or the **event** in the Old Testament where God's name is revealed and will then consider what the **name of God means**, both for those to whom it was given and also for us today. The lessons will also look at how **Jesus** – Immanuel, God with Us, the Word that became Flesh – also reflects the character and heart of God as revealed in God's Old Testament names, because Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the *Son who is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being* (Hebrews 1:3).

You are invited to join us as we study *Knowing God by Name*.