

Name & Titles of Deity 7 Adon & Adonai 28th October 2021

In Phanerosis, the book by Dr J Thomas on the subject of God manifestation, it is noted that these two Hebrew words are used many hundreds of times in the Old Testament. In the KJV the use of Adonai for Lord is in the lower case. This is generally the rule but there are exceptions and the reader should check the veracity of this for themselves by referencing the original Hebrew.

The words mean: ruler, governor, owner, monarch, supreme or distinguished and stands related to but different from Baal meaning Lord or master.

Adon is singular and Adonai is plural. The plural is used of the Eternal and the angels. The expression - Lord of Lords or Adon of Adonai is used in Deuteronomy 10v17 in conjunction with Eloah of Elohim. God is supreme among the rulers and the strong one amongst the strong.

It is also found in Psalm 136v3 where God of Gods and Lord of Lords is again used.

The first time adon is used in the Bible is Genesis 18v12; it speaks of Abraham not God and is often used in reference to a human agency. There Sarah his wife attributes honour to Abraham by calling him Lord internally, showing the respect she had for her husband. Baal is sometimes used as husband but adon is not. Others who are called Lord include Moses, David, Eli, Boaz and Joseph as well as many Kings both Israelite and gentile,

Setting this out in tabular form these are the usual equivalents in the KJV

LORD	Yahweh
Lord	Adonai or sometimes Adon
GOD	Yahweh
God	Elohim

LORD God Yahweh Elohim

Lord GOD Adonai Yahweh

The contrast between Adon (singular) and Yahweh is best seen in Psalm 110v1 The LORD said unto my Lord, or Yahweh said unto my adon. This is quoted several times in the New Testament and was used by Jesus to explain that he was the Son of God not God the Son. In that verse Yahweh refers to the Father and adon to the Messiah, King David's son but greater than him because he was also God's son, which eclipses him being David's son.

Adon is used of Joseph in Psalm 105v21 where pharaoh made him Lord of his house, so adon can be a derived title bestowed upon a lesser ruler by the higher power. Thus the eternal can make others lords by elevating them to that position of honour and privilege.

Adonai is often used together with Yahweh as well as on its own. It is used mostly in the prophets with Amos being particularly frequent for the small size of the book as well as Ezekiel.

Deuteronomy rarely uses adon or Adonai: only 4 times. Leviticus never uses these words. Perhaps this illustrates that to the Israelites God was not yet truly their Lord and ruler because they had yet to accept Him as their true sovereign despite their lip service in the wilderness.

In Isaiah 10v16 the term *the Lord the Lord of hosts* is used. Checking the Hebrew this is actually Adonai Yahweh Tsvaoth so the Lord the LORD of hosts may have been a more consistent rendering. This triple appellation is found often in Isaiah rendered as Lord GOD of hosts in the KJV.

Breaking down the meaning of the words Adonai Yahweh gives *I will be* the universal authority (manifest through agents). Adonai Yahweh Tsvaoth means *I will be the authority manifest through armies* and is a sad reminder that mankind will not willingly relinquish any of his derived and temporary authority back to God who gave it to them in

the first place but that it must be wrested back by force. There is no gradual peaceful conversion of the wider world to the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Its last use in the Bible is in Malachi 3v1 "Behold I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me and the Lord (Adon singular) whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in, behold he shall come saith the LORD of hosts (Yahweh Sabaoth). This late prophecy links the roles of the Messiah in both testaments and clearly sets out the aspects of what Jesus is still to accomplish with regard to the Jewish people who have largely rejected him thus far. In the same book the Father is addressed as Adonai in 1v14 in contrast with the singular Jesus.

A Voice from the Altar

Russel Noonan