

THE NAMES OF

GOD



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GOD

*Marilyn*  
HICKEY



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

All Scripture quotations are taken from  
the King James Version of the Bible.

THE NAMES OF GOD

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Dear Friend,

*The Names of God* is one of the sweetest revelations God has ever given to me. This book is not only for information; it is for transformation!

In Isaiah 33:6, the prophet declared, “*And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times.*” That verse is as applicable today as it was when Isaiah first spoke it concerning the sins that plagued Judah centuries ago.

Today, the threats of economic crisis, recession, terrorism, and nuclear and chemical warfare dominate the media and try to instill fears in our hearts. It’s comforting to know that God has promised to provide stability in these precarious times through knowledge and wisdom.

But how does God reveal His knowledge to us? Primarily through His Word. And one of the most meaningful ways He reveals Himself to us is through His names. When you study the names of God, it will open your heart to God and His provisions. Each of God’s glorious names reveals dynamic dimensions of His miraculous characteristics.

As you study the things that are relevant to each name, they will reveal the power of God to you. Each name will give you another aspect of His power. There are some names that might not be familiar to you and will bring shocking revelation into your life.

Through studying the names of God, we can learn the keys to tapping into His infinite supply of energy and find stability during even the most adverse situations. I know that as you begin your study on the names of God, He will reveal Himself to you in a most intimate and personal way, and His glory will be reflected in your life.

His love and mine,

Marilyn Hickey



## Chapter One

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# Elohim

## *The Sovereign, Mighty Creator*

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**E***lohim* is the very first title of God that you encounter in the Bible: “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1).

The Hebrew word for the name *God* is actually *El*, or *Elohim*. Fascinating in its translation, this name is one of God’s more frequently occurring titles; it shows up more than 2,500 times in the Bible! It is important that we understand its meaning.

*El* is the root word of *Elohim*, and it describes God’s greatness and glory; it displays God’s power and sovereignty. Although this word is composed of only two letters, it offers a glimpse into the depth of the Hebrew language, which is a language of pictures.

Consider the name *Elohim*, which extends the scope of *El*’s root meaning. *Elohim* brings forth a new dimension to the God of power: He becomes the God who creates! Thus far, two facets of God make up the word *Elohim*: (1) total power, might, and complete sovereignty; and (2) complete creativity.

Notice that in the Bible’s very first verse, God was shown as the Creator! In using the name *Elohim*, Genesis 1:1 makes the statement that tremendous, unimaginable power is involved in the force of God’s creativity.

*Elohim*, in His mighty power and creativity, caused our vast universe to exist.

*Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.* (Hebrews 11:3)

God's name, *Elohim*, is amazing in itself, but it bears another striking characteristic that makes it even more distinctive: the Hebrew ending for *Elohim* is plural! Why? Because it describes the divine trinity of the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. No singular word could describe this element of God's personality.

Several places throughout the Bible confirm this plurality. Genesis 1 says this about the creation of the first man, Adam:

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.* (Genesis 1:26–27)

God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all involved in the powerful creative process that occurred upon the earth. Genesis 1 shows that the Holy Spirit was present: “*And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light*” (Genesis 1:2–3). Why was the Holy Spirit moving upon the face of the waters? Because He was preparing to create! Jesus was actively involved in the creation process, too:

*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.* (Colossians 1:16)

Active, present, and full of creative power: *Elohim*! Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This increases the impact of Jesus' shocking statement to the religious men of His day: “*Before Abraham was, I am*” (John 8:58). What an exciting, infinite personality!

I like this analogy: God is the Architect, Jesus is the Builder, and the Holy Spirit is He who breathes the life of God into the structure. *Elohim*: those who are mighty and powerful; those who are creative and sovereign.

There is yet another facet of *Elohim*, making Him an active part of His creation. It is *Elohim* who makes covenants with those whom He created! Later, you will study the name *Jehovah*, the name in which God reveals His ways. *Elohim* is the name in which God

reveals His power. It is this very power and creativity that allows God Himself to enter into a covenant relationship with you and me. The apostle Paul had a revelation of *Elohim*:

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*  
(Romans 1:16)

Paul said, "God's covenant of salvation with you and me is His power!" Don't ever speak lightly of the gospel, God's covenant with us, because that is His power that gave us eternal life, His power that saved us now and forever! Our covenant-making God, *Elohim*, sustains all that He created through His own might. Throughout Genesis, whenever God created, He spoke first and then manifested His power.

Naturally, *Elohim* loved His creation, and He desired to preserve it. Although God was protective toward the people of His creation, they only seemed to get better and better at being worse and worse! As the people sinned, they separated themselves further from their Creator. God is merciful, but He is also holy and righteous. Sin was (and still is) offensive to Him, and something had to be done before the people destroyed themselves. *Elohim* observed that this growing sinfulness was spreading like cancer through each successive generation.

As man continued in this downhill pattern, God began to notice a man named Enoch. Enoch wasn't outstanding in his hunger for God, and

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***God is the Architect, Jesus is the Builder, and the Holy Spirit is He who breathes the life of God into the structure.***

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his life was fairly uneventful until he reached the age of sixty-five. But then something happened that turned his life around: his wife bore a child, and God told him, "Name that baby Methuselah," which means, "I've had enough of this sinfulness, so when that child dies, a flood will come upon the earth."

Surely no child received the tender loving care that Methuselah received! Enoch lived in a day that was devoid of modern medicine. Death was a frequent visitor, and it often claimed the lives of small babies and children who lacked resistance to disease. You can imagine Enoch's shock: "If this baby dies, the deluge will come and totally destroy the earth. Take good care of him!"

Something began to happen within Enoch's heart as he cared for Methuselah: he began to respond to his Creator. During the next three hundred years, Enoch cultivated his relationship with God. Finally, something really tremendous happened: "*Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him*" (Genesis 5:24).

One day Enoch was going about his usual routine, increasing in faith, when suddenly, God just reached down and carried him out of this life and into life eternal! To *translate* means "to carry across." Hebrews 11:5 says that Enoch was translated by faith! Meanwhile, Methuselah was still alive, growing older, probably keeping people on pins and needles. The people knew the day was coming when the floods would arrive.

Although Enoch had been walking closely with God, the same thing

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***When you enter into a covenant with God, His promises are also made to your children and each successive generation of your family.***

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cannot be said about the other people in his generation. Their sinfulness vexed God continually, yet Methuselah lived longer than any other person recorded in the Bible—969 years! His life was tremendously long for one reason: God kept extending His mercy and grace, hoping to preserve His creation. He loved those people, and He did not want to destroy them.

Methuselah had a child named Lamech, and one of his sons was Noah. Notice the family line: when you enter into a covenant with God, His promises are

also made to your children and each successive generation of your family. One day, God spoke to Noah:

*The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*  
(Genesis 6:13)

God proceeded to give Noah directions for building an ark, and Noah obeyed. Over the years, people began to take God's warning for granted. I would have thought that when Noah started building, they'd have said, "Oh no! Methuselah's dead, and God is going to send that flood He warned us about!" But the people reacted totally differently—they scoffed at Noah. They'd had almost one thousand years to repent. Noah preached continually about God's intentions, but people still rebelled. God always warns His people beforehand when judgment is on the way. He wants to give everyone a chance to repent first.

One day, as I was picturing Noah in my mind and imagining how he built the huge ark, the Lord began to reveal Noah's faith to me. Noah had tremendous faith—especially considering the fact that rain had never before fallen upon the earth!

Noah built that ark to comply with God's specifications, and it took 120 years to accomplish the task. Just imagine having people harass you for that long! He had every physical reason to stop in the eightieth year and say, "I've had enough of building this ark while everybody else laughs! God, this is ridiculous. I've never even seen rain before, and here You have me preaching that there's going to be a flood! I quit!" But Noah didn't give up; instead, he confidently held on to God's Word and continued to build the ark.

*Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*(Hebrews 10:35–36)

Noah received a big reward for his patience: he had fulfilled the will of God! He and his family were spared, and the seed parts of the earth were saved so that it could be replenished, too.

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***When God calls you to accomplish something, don't quit!***

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When God calls you to accomplish something, don't quit! God could have said, "I've had it. I'm destroying this whole earth!" But He didn't say that. Noah could have quit very easily, but he didn't. And you should never give up, either. You have been created in God's image, and God never quits.

After having accomplished God's will, Noah and his family were spared. When the flooding was over and the ark rested on top of Mount Ararat, God revealed another facet of His personality to Noah: *Elohim*, "the God who makes covenants." God first spoke as *Jehovah* and told Noah to make a sacrifice unto Him. The animals Noah offered made a sweet-smelling sacrifice to the Lord. Then, something beautiful happened.

*And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*

(Genesis 9:11–13)

*Elohim* showed Himself in two ways: He created a rainbow by His mighty power, and He made a covenant with Noah. That rainbow was God's sign to Noah that He would never flood the earth again, and the rainbow should still remind you and me of that same covenant. God, mighty and powerful, wants to protect His creation. When you see a rainbow, think of *Elohim*, the God who enters into everlasting agreements with His people!

God made a covenant with Abraham, too. The first time God ever spoke to Abraham (when he was still called *Abram*) is recorded in Genesis 12:1–3. When God first spoke to him, He used two names: *Jehovah* and *Elohim*.

*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I*

*will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

This is how God revealed Himself to Abraham—as a God of blessing! He was speaking as *Jehovah*. You will study the name *Jehovah* later, but these few verses will allow you to distinguish God as *Elohim*—the covenant God of might.

*And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.*  
(Genesis 15:2–5)

God was covenanting with Abram to give him a child. When Abram said, “Lord, God,” he was saying, “I know Your ways, because You have revealed them to me. But I want a covenant with You, because You are able to give me a child.”

In this covenant, God commanded Abram to do three things: (1) leave his country, (2) leave his relatives, and (3) travel to a land that God would show him. But Abram obeyed only two of the commands—although he left his country for the land of promise, he took two of his relatives with him.

Abram was accompanied by his nephew, Lot, meaning “a wrapping,” and his father, Terah, meaning “delay.” Terah really did create a delay for Abram. God wanted to make a covenant with Abram, who was to become the “father of faith,” but Abram could not make the agreement while his eyes were on his family instead of on God.

While traveling to the land of promise, Terah, who was very old, needed to stop and rest. Abram, Lot, and Terah halted their journey at a place called Haran, which means “dry and parched.” They stayed there until Terah’s death two years later. God had commanded Abram not to take his relatives, but because Abram did things his own way, he ended up in a dry, parched place where he couldn’t hear from God.

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***We are supposed to love, honor, and obey our parents—but we are not to revere our relatives above the Word of God!***

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We are supposed to love, honor, and obey our parents—that is a commandment from God Himself—but we are not to revere our relatives above the Word of God! That’s when trouble comes. Let God have the very first place in your life. When you do, your spiritual walk will never become dry and parched; it will always be refreshing.

Abram had been delayed for almost two years, and when he finally did reach the Promised Land, he found famine. Imagine how discouraged he must have felt! After a two-year delay in this desert called Haran, Abram finally arrived at his destination—only to find similarly terrible conditions. In addition, Abram hadn’t heard from God in two years. Abram probably wondered whether he would ever hear God’s voice again!

Many people wonder why God rarely speaks to them—when they haven’t obeyed His first instruction. Silence might be God’s way of saying, “You haven’t finished what I asked you to complete. When you fully obey My first words, I’ll speak to you again—but not until then!” It took Abram a while to get the hint.

When he finally reached the land of promise, Abram built an altar between Bethel, which means “the house of God,” and Hai, which means “a place of ruin.” I would have built the temple right inside “the house of God,” but Abram was just beginning to walk by faith. Perhaps he wasn’t quite ready to build a temple in Bethel.

The major activity with which Abram concerned himself during his lifetime was building altars. He was a man who communed regularly with God (*Jehovah*). He highly esteemed the covenant God of might. One really

positive point in Abram's story is that, although there were delays, God always overcame them.

Be encouraged by the accounts of the men of faith who paved our way. We have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and to be encouraged by how God divinely overcame the flaws of their humanity.

Abram, his wife, Sarai, and Lot traveled to Egypt to avoid the famine. When they returned, Abram's altar had been destroyed, so he rebuilt it. Then, Abram took his family and moved to a place between Mamre, which means "fatness," and Hebron, which means "fellowship." Perhaps this was Abram's way of saying, "Satan, you can't destroy what I've built! I'll just rebuild it. And not only that, but I'll build a second, even better altar."

Abram's new altar was significant because it showed that his communion with God was flourishing, but Abram was still having trouble with unbelief concerning God's promises about his descendants. He and Sarai still had not had any children. Abram probably said, "Just in case I don't receive children from God, I can raise my nephew, Lot, as my own child." Abram was trying to play it safe, just in case God didn't come through on His part of the bargain.

Eventually, however, Abram and Lot had no choice. They had to separate—and it turned out to be the best thing they did! They both had herdsmen who were tending flocks, and soon these herdsmen began to have great disagreements among themselves. One day, Abram confronted Lot.

*Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.*

(Genesis 13:8–9)

Abram really exercised his godly qualities. He didn't say, "Well, Lot, since I'm older, you'd better honor me. I'll take the best portion of land." No! Abram said, "Lot, there are two sections of land: one to my right and

one to my left. You choose whichever one you prefer, and I'll take the section that is left."

Many people who read this instantly think that Abram was being humble because he didn't want to take the best for himself. But that was not true. Abram knew *Elohim*—"God Almighty" and "the God who makes covenants." Abram didn't care which section of land Lot chose; he knew that regardless of where he lived, God would protect him.

Lot immediately looked around and saw two things:

*Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.*  
(Genesis 13:10)

Then, Lot said, "Abram, I'll take that nice, well-watered plain over there. You can have that mountainous region." Having made their decisions, Lot and Abram separated. Abram and Sarai moved to the arid, mountainous area. And when they got there, what do you think happened? God spoke to Abraham again:

*The LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*  
(Genesis 13:14–15)

It must have been wonderful to hear from God again! Abram finally knew that the time was near to draw into a covenant with almighty God. When God spoke, Abram did not merely look around casually and say, "This, for me? Oh, God, how nice!" The Bible says that Abram lifted up his eyes. I believe he looked upward and received a vision of faith, enabling him to see what God saw.

When Abram looked northward, I think he saw the entire northern part of the Holy Land. Southward, Abram saw far, far beyond the mountain that blocked his view. Eastward and westward, what do you think he saw?

He probably saw all the way to the Mediterranean Sea and over into Jordan! Abram's relatives were out of the way; now he could focus his eyes on God, who instructed him further: "*Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee*" (Genesis 13:17). A faith vision isn't enough. You have to do more than just have a vision—you have to live it. You have to walk it!

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*A faith vision isn't enough. You have to do more than just have a vision—you have to live it.*

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I once heard about a man who would sit in his rocking chair on his front porch and say, "I wish I had a million dollars. I wish I had a million dollars." Do you think he ever received a million dollars? No! You can't obtain a million dollars while sitting in a rocking chair. You don't get things by wishing for them. Some people have the vision, but they don't have the action that goes with it, and they miss out on their blessings.

God told Abram, in effect, "You have to act on this vision! Walk through the land; I will give you the land under your feet." I think Abram was the world's first jogger. He jogged north, south, east, and west. I can imagine what the Canaanites said as Abram jogged past them. "Who is that man who just jogged down the road?" someone probably asked. "I don't know, but I saw him going the other way yesterday."

Abram was running as the man who would possess the land. He was thinking of God's promise that his seed's seed would possess the land. As he ran, I'm sure Abram said, "This is mine, this is mine..." as he prepared himself to enter into a covenant relationship with God.

But after Abram claimed that land, something happened—and it didn't surprise me a bit! A wicked king named Chedorlaomer roused up a group of other kings, and they traveled down from Elam (present-day Iran) with trouble on their minds. They attacked Sodom and Gomorrah—land upon which Abram had trod—abducting people and stealing their possessions. The kings even captured Lot, Abram's nephew.

The devil will try to steal what you've claimed! When you claim something and tread upon the ground of God's Word by speaking His promises, you had better prepare for battle. Some people stake their claims, but

as soon as the enemy says, “You can’t have that,” they’ll lie down and play dead! Of course the devil will try to steal your blessing—Jesus has told you that he would—but through Jesus, you have power over Satan and can refuse to let him take anything from you.

Abram wasn’t about to play the enemy’s game; he really got bold. Abram said, “They can’t do this! I trod upon this land, and it’s mine. So I won’t put up with the enemy’s tricks.”

I wondered, *How could one man be so bold?* But then I realized that it’s because he knew *Elohim*—the God of covenant relationships. He knew that God would not have given him land if He wasn’t going to help him keep it. That land was for his seed’s seed. Abram banded together a group of men, and they went up to Elam and took back everything!

Some people say, “Nuclear weapons will destroy the world!” But I don’t think that will ever happen, because God is bigger, mightier, and more powerful than any bomb that man has ever made. God is not going to have His earth blown up until He is ready to finish it the way He wants. He will do it by fire, but I don’t believe the fire will be started by an atomic bomb. I don’t accept that idea, because God knows how to take care of His creation and He has done so for a very long time.

God knows how to care for you because you have entered into a covenant relationship with Him. By faith, you’re the seed of Abraham; and God told Abraham, “*Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee*” (Hebrews 6:14). He is your covenant-making God. He is the God of might and power. He strengthened Abram and gave him might and power to win, and God will give you might and power to win, also.

*In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*  
(Genesis 15:18–21)

When He entered into a covenant with Abram, the Lord God said, “We have a relationship between ourselves, and I’m giving you all of this land.”

What would it take for Abram and Sarai to realize the impact of having a covenant with almighty God? At this point, all they seemed to realize was that they were supposed to have seed (children), and they still didn’t have any! Abram must have thought, *It’s going to take a lot of might and power to keep this covenant, because we’re way past childbearing years!*

However, when Abram was ninety-nine years old and Sarai was eighty-nine, God finally told them that they would have children. He also changed their names: Abram became *Abraham*, which means “father of a multitude,” and Sarai became *Sarah*, which means “princess of many nations.”

How could this be? The Bible says that Abraham laughed aloud when God changed his name—he simply couldn’t believe that he would father many nations! And Sarah laughed, too, when she overheard God telling Abraham that he would have a child. Abraham’s divine Visitor said, “Sarah laughed,” and she was so embarrassed that she denied it.

Nevertheless, Abraham and Sarah did have a child, and God pre-named the baby Isaac, which means “laughter.” Abraham and Sarah both laughed, but God had the last laugh! Hebrews 11:11 talks about Isaac’s birth: “*Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed.*” It took more than just Abraham’s faith to have seed; both he and Sarah had to be in agreement! The word *strength* in Hebrew comes from the Greek word *dunamis*, which means “miracle-working power.” Who gave Sarah that miracle-working power? *Elohim*, the God of might and power!

You need to have a renewed image of the God of might and power—the God who is more than able to see you through any difficulty! If God (*Elohim*) is for you, who can possibly be against you? No one! *Elohim* is more powerful than any person or thing that exists, and He is on your side.

God wants you to rely on Him as your Source of power and might. He wants to be *Elohim* to you, for

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**God wants you  
to rely on Him  
as your  
Source of power  
and might.**

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you, and in you. Right now, no matter what the circumstances in your life might be, will you let Him renew your spirit, mind, body, emotions, and image? Every time you see the word God, say, “That’s *Elohim*, the God of might and power—and He’s my God!” Praise the Lord!

Following are some Scripture references that refer to God as “*Elohim*.” When you need His power and might to work in your life, read through these Scriptures and refresh your vision of His covenant with you.

*I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*  
(Psalm 91:2–4)

*They shall be my people, and I will be their God: And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.*  
(Jeremiah 32:38–40)

[Solomon] said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart.  
(1 Kings 8:23)

*Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth*  
(Psalm 57:1–3)