

# Bite Size Bible Study

lord, Lord and LORD #194

By Pastor Lee

If you have noticed, when you are reading your Bible in the King James Version (other versions will use these words similarly), you may have frequently come across the word “lord,” but you may not have noticed that this word is written three different ways: all lower-case letters (lord), all upper-case letters (LORD) and only the first letter in upper-case (Lord). Each of these styles of writing the word “lord” identifies different Hebrew words.

## “lord”

*Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my **lord** being old also?* (Genesis 18:12, KJV)

When you see the word “lord,” written in all lower-case letters, it is the Hebrew word *adon*, **Strong’s #113** and means “lord” or “master,” one who has authority over another. In the example above (Genesis 18:12) this word is a description of Abraham, Sarah’s “lord.”

Whenever this word is written as “lord” (all lower-case), this word is referring to men, but when this word is referring to God, then the first letter is written in upper-case (see Exodus 23:17).

## “Lord”

*And said, My **Lord**, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:* (Genesis 18:3, KJV)

Besides the few times the Hebrew word *adon* is written as “Lord,” the word “Lord” (first letter in upper-case) is used for the Hebrew word *Adonai*, **Strong’s #136**. While this word is translated as “Lord,” it doesn’t exactly mean “Lord.”

As previously mentioned, the Hebrew word for “lord” is *adon*. When this word is written in the first person, possessive (my lord), it is written as *adoniy*, (see Genesis 18:12). The plural form of the word *adon* is *adonim*, (see Exodus 26:19). The first person, possessive, plural form (my lords) is written as *adonai*, (see 1 Kings 22:17).

אֲדֹנָי **adon lord**

אֲדֹנָי **adoniy my lord**

אֲדֹנָיִם **adonim lords**

אֲדֹנָיִם **adonai my lords**

If the Hebrew word *Adonai* literally means “my lords,” why is it only translated as “Lord” so many times (see Exodus 4:13 as an example)? Most names attributed to God are in the plural including *Elohiym* (literally meaning “powers”) and *Shaddai* (literally meaning “my breasts”).

The word *Adonai* (a plural word) is another name used for God that means “my lords.”

## “LORD”

*And the **LORD** appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;* (Genesis 18:1, KJV)

When the word “lord” is written in all upper-case letters (LORD), the Hebrew behind this word is the name of God, – YHWH).

## Lord God and LORD God

*And he said, **Lord GOD**, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?* (KJV, Genesis 15:8)

In this verse Hebrew phrase Lord GOD is written in Hebrew as; אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה, which transliterates as; *Adonai YHWH*.

The word *Elohiym* is the Hebrew word for “God.” But in Genesis 15:8 the word “god” is written in all upper-case because it is the KJV’s translation of the name *Yahweh*. Because the word *Adonai* means “lord,” they couldn’t translate this as “Lord LORD,” so they chose to use the word “god” for *Yahweh* and wrote it in all upper-case letters (Author’s Note: Just another case of a translation disregarding the actual Hebrew text).

*And the **LORD God** took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.* (KJV, Genesis 2:15)

In this verse the phrase “LORD God” transliterates as; *YHWH Elohiym*. The name *Yahweh* (whose pronunciation is debated) is the name of the God of the Bible.

Throughout the Old Testament, the KJV, and most other translations, translate the Hebrew name *Yahweh* as “LORD,” in all upper-case, and this is the case in Genesis 2:15.

Following this word is the Hebrew word *Elohiym*, which is often translated as “God.”

It pays to pay attention to these three variations on the word “lord” when reading the bible.

Ref. What is the difference between lord, Lord and LORD? By Jeff A. Benner  
<https://ancient-hebrew.org/god-yhwh/difference-between-lord-Lord-and-LORD.htm>