

The Names of Significant gods in Hebrew Bible

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Hebrew Bible proclaims that there is only one God & that there is no other as evidenced in the Decalogue & other passages like Isaiah 45:18, 21, 22. Even though the Bible proclaims there is only one God, we come to discover that within the history of Israel, many of her people succumbed to apostasy, namely, the worship of neighboring gods. Surrounded by other people-groups who worshipped other gods, the Bible records the names of those gods. Below is a list of some of the gods mentioned in the Hebrew Bible.

1. Molech: Molech (Milcom) was an Ammonite God. Leviticus 18:21
2. Ashtoreths: Baal's wife (female counterpart) which is the same god as Ishtar known as the "Queen of Heaven." Judges 2:13, 1 Samuel 7:3 Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-19, 25.
3. Dagon: The chief Philistine god. 1 Samuel 5:2-7
4. Baal-Zebub: The fly-lord, the god of the Philistines at Ekron He was believed to have the power to avert plagues of flies (which was feared in that region). 2 Kings 1:2, 3, 16
5. Rimmon: Syrian god of rain 2 Kings 5:18
6. Baal: The most prominent Canaanite deity, he was the god of fertility in the Canaanite pantheon & influence included agriculture, animal care, & human sexuality. 2 Kings 8:17, 18, 24-26; 2 Kings 23:5
7. Nergal: Lord of the nether world & associated with the sun god; the city god of the northern Babylonian city of Cuthah. 2 Kings 17:24
8. Adrammelech: A form of the sun god that was worshiped by the Sepharvites and to whom human sacrifices were offered. 2 Kings 17:31
9. Anammelech: A Hebrew rendering of a Mesopotamian god, Anu-melek; Anu was the name of the chief god of Assyria, the sky god. The worship of this god by the Spharvites included child sacrifice. 2 Kings 17:31
10. Bel: A god identified with Merodach (Marduk), chief Babylonian god. Isaiah 46:1
11. Nebo: Babylonian god of wisdom & arts. Isaiah 46:1
12. Chemosh: God of the Moabites and Ammonites. Jeremiah 48:7, 13.
13. Merodach: Chief Babylonian god, related with war (Marduk). Jeremiah 50:2
14. Tammuz: Babylonian fertility god. Ezekiel 8:14
15. Chiun: A star-god, identified with Saturn. Amos 5:26