



# CHRIST CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

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Bible Name Dictionary

**Bible Name:** Baal

**Language:** Hebrew

**Pronunciation:** bah'-al

**Meaning:** The name 'Baal' means 'Lord.' It is derived from the Hebrew root word 'Baal' meaning 'to marry', 'to possess', 'to own', 'to rule over' or 'to have dominion' (heavy emphasis on dominion).

**Alternative meanings include:** 'Husband', 'Master' or 'Owner.'

**Please note:** 'Baal' is a Semitic title generally applied to a variety of different patron-gods among the inhabitants (or cities) of ancient Palestine. It can also apply to various human officials.

The most popular usage of the word 'Baal' pertains to the chief-god among the Canaanite nations, Hadad, the god of storms, rain, thunder, fertility and agriculture. Historically speaking... the priests of 'Baal' were the only humans allowed to utter the sacred name of Hadad. This prompted the common people to adopt the word 'Baal' as a substitute title for Hadad (as a means of avoiding a deadly curse).

Apparently... 'Baal' became the patron-god of a variety of different Canaanite cities in the area of ancient Palestine. This is evidenced by place names such as: 'Baal-Berith', 'Baal-Hazor' and 'Baal-Peor.'

More on the word 'Baal'... it generally denotes the owner of something (such as a home). It can also apply to someone (in this case a man) possessing certain skills of mastery (i.e., a master carpenter).

\*\*\* This is generally the case when the name is applied to a person. \*\*\*

In some cases... the word 'Baal' can have reference to the ruler of a particular territory, and in other circumstances it can directly apply to the citizens (or inhabitants) of a city (in its plural form 'Baalim').

\*\*\* This word can also have reference to man taking a wife for marriage. \*\*\*

(This is generally the case when dealing with the covenant relationship between God and Israel.)