

# Hosea 12:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.

## Analysis

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YHWH of hosts: 'Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.' The declaration: וַיְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַצְבָּאוֹת יְהוָה זִכְרוֹ (vaYHWH Elohei hatsevaot YHWH zikhro—YHWH God of hosts, YHWH His memorial/name). This emphasizes covenant name (YHWH) and sovereign power (hosts). The זִכָּר (zeker, memorial/name) is YHWH—His character revealed through covenant history. This demonstrates that God's identity is bound to His redemptive acts and covenant faithfulness. Only through Christ is God's name fully revealed (John 17:6).

## Historical Context

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The title 'YHWH God of hosts' emphasizes divine sovereignty over armies—both heavenly (angels) and earthly (nations). Used extensively in prophets, it stresses God's power to execute judgment and deliverance. The 'memorial' language recalls Exodus 3:15: 'this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.' Hosea reminds Israel: the God who spoke to Jacob is YHWH sovereign over all powers. Archaeological inscriptions show 'YHWH of hosts' (or 'YHWH Sabaoth') in ancient Hebrew texts. This demonstrates that God's revealed name connects His character, power, and covenant relationship.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does the title 'YHWH God of hosts' reveal about divine sovereignty over all powers?
2. How does 'YHWH is his memorial' emphasize God's covenant faithfulness across generations?

## Interlinear Text

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|---------------|------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| יְהוָה ה      | י    | הַצֹּבָא וְת | יְהוָה ה      | זִכְרוֹ:        |
| Even the LORD | God  | of hosts     | Even the LORD | is his memorial |
| H3068         | H430 | H6635        | H3068         | H2143           |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 3:15** (References God): And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

**Isaiah 42:8** (References Lord): I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

**Psalms 135:13** (References Lord): Thy name, O LORD, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations.