

# Igziabeher

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**Igziabeher** (Amharic: **እግዚአብሔር** /əgzi'abəher/) means literally "Lord of a nation or tribe", i.e. God, in the Ethiopic or Ge'ez language, as well as modern Ethiosemitic languages including Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia.<sup>[1]</sup>

*Igziabeher* in Ge'ez is composed of `əgzi (Lord or ruler), plus a euphonic -'a added to the vowel to signify the possessive construct (i.e., "ruler of"), followed by *bihier* ("nation, tribe (Today, bihier, when directly translated into English, means tribe)"). Another, more generic Ethiopic word meaning "god" (including the deities of any other religion) is አምላክ (*`amlak*).

*Igziabeher* is also used within the Rastafari movement as a name of Jah (God). It may be heard in the reggae music of artists such as Peter Tosh (who recorded a song named "Igziabeher (Let Jah Be Praised)" on his album *Legalize It*), The Abyssinians, Third World and Midnite.

In the fourth century, King Ezana ruled a large part of modern-day Ethiopia. He worshipped several gods called Beher, Meder, and Astar. Igziabeher is possibly a variant of the name Beher. (2), (3), (4).

## Notes and references

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