

#1 NAMES OF GOD: “Elohim” (Psalm 14:1; 1 Thess 1:9)

A boy asked his father one Sunday morning, “Daddy, can we go to church today?” The dad replied, “No son, we don’t go to church because we don’t believe in God.” Later that morning the boy said, “Daddy could you read to me from the Bible?” And his dad said, “No son, we don’t read the Bible, because we don’t believe in God!” At the lunch table, the boy said, “Daddy, could we say a prayer to God before lunch?” The Dad said, “Now son, get it through your head, in this house we don’t believe in God!” After lunch as he settled into his chair to watch a football game, his son came to him & said, “Daddy, do you think God knows that we don’t believe in him?”

- A. **No matter** how hard people try, they cannot totally clear their minds of thoughts about God.
 - 1. Despite the efforts of scientists, educators, authors & governments, most people DO recognize an all-powerful & all-knowing Creator.
- B. **The Christian** emphatically affirms God’s eternal existence.
 - 1. We stand behind the Biblical record that He is “the living & true God” (1 Thess 1:9), & it is our great privilege to know Him not only through His creations, but also through divine revelation.

[One way for us to know God is by examining His names; the names He used to describe Himself.

God revealed Himself by many names in the Scripture, & each name tells us something more about His nature.]

I. GOD’S FIRST NAME: “ELOHIM”

- A. **The name Elohim** is in the first verse of the Bible, & it’s used 32 times in the 31 verses of Genesis 1.
 - 1. Elohim is the primary name for God in the OT (2500 times); it is a plural noun, like “man” can be plural, implying that God is more than one Person.

Gen 1:1, 26-27 – In the beginning **God** [Elohim] created the heavens & the earth...26 Then **God** said, "Let *Us* make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So **God** created man in His own image; in the image of **God** He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen 1:2 (Holy Spirit) – The earth was without form, & void; & darkness was on the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. **Job 26:13** – By **His Spirit** He adorned the heavens. **Psa 104:30** – You send forth **Your Spirit**, they are created; & You renew the face of the earth.

John 1:3 (The Word of God, Jesus, the Divine agent of creation) – All things were made through **Him** [the Word, Jesus], & without Him nothing was made that was made (**Heb 11:3**).

B. **So God revealed Himself** as Elohim to remind us that He is the omnipotent Creator.

Job 38:4-11 – Where were you when ***I laid the foundations of the earth?*** Tell Me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? 6 To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 When the morning stars sang together, & all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it burst forth & issued from the womb; 9 When I made the clouds its garment, & thick darkness its swaddling band; 10 When I fixed My limit for it, & set bars & doors; 11 When I said, "This far you may come, but no farther, & here your proud waves must stop!"

Heb 11:3 – By faith we understand that ***the worlds were framed by the word of God***, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

[What should be our response to God knowing that the first name He used to describe Himself, Elohim, is connected to the creation of all things?]

II. FEAR & STAND IN AWE OF HIM

A. **We cannot know** everything about God from the creation, but we can understand enough to know that we are to fear His singular awesome power.

1. **Have you ever stood** at the rim of the Grand Canyon? ...**taken** a ship out to sea where you could see nothing but water? ...**watched** the ice of a mighty glacier shear-off & fall into the water? ...**driven** through a forest of endless trees? ...**climbed** a mountain high enough to feel very small & vulnerable?

Isa 40:25-26 (God) – To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. 26 ***Lift up your eyes on high, & see who has created these things***, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might & the strength of His power; not one is missing (**Psa 19:1-6; Rev 4:10-11**).

Psa 33:6-9 (David) – By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, & all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. 8 ***Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.*** 9 **For** He spoke, & it was done; He commanded, & it stood fast.

1. The name Elohim ought to strike a sense of fear & awe in every one of us.

B. **It is a shame** that God's name is so casually used.

1. Using His name in vain takes no power away from God, but it will certainly diminish man's perception of God.
2. For example, there was a time when the name "Hitler" struck fear in the hearts of men.
 - a. So to overcome that fear, his enemies made him the object of humor & ridicule; they made a mockery of him, made him out to be a big joke.
 - b. That's justifiable when you're talking about a raving madman, but in the case of God it is a serious offense ([Exo 20:7](#); [Deut 5:11](#); [Psa 89:7](#)).

[Secondly, the name Elohim ought to generate within us a desire to trust His power to control what He made.]

III. TRUST HIS POWER TO CONTROL

A. [Does it ever seem](#) that the world is out of control?

1. Does it seem that evil triumphs always triumphs over good, or that maybe God does not have "the whole world in His hands"?

2. What Paul said about God to the philosophers in Athens ought to remove every cloud of doubt from our finite minds about God's ability to control what He made, which is everything.

Acts 17:24-28 – God, who made the world & everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven & earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to ALL life, breath, & all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, & has determined their preappointed times & the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 SO THAT **THEY** SHOULD SEEK THE LORD, IN THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT GROPE FOR HIM & FIND HIM, THOUGH HE IS NOT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US; 28 for in Him we live & move & have our being...

3. The world is never out of God's control; He has a "preappointed" course that will allow those who seek for Him to find Him ([Acts 7:7-8](#)).
4. The name Elohim should give us confidence in God's power to control what He has made.

[Since God has control of the chaotic world around us, then He can surely control the anxious concerns of our lives.]

IV. TRUST HIS PURPOSE FOR LIFE

A. God has a general purpose for mankind.

1 Tim 2:4 – [He] desires *all men to be saved & to come to the knowledge of the truth*.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*.

2 Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that *all should come to repentance*. **Acts 17:30** – God...now *commands all men everywhere to repent*.

Rom 10:9 – *confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus & believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead...*

Acts 22:16 – Arise & *be baptized, & wash away your sins*, calling on the name of the Lord. **Gal 3:26-27** – For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus 27 For *as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*.

B. What is God's purpose for the Christian?

Phil 2:12-16 – Therefore, my beloved, as you have always *obeyed*, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear & trembling; 13 *for it is God who works in you both to will & to do for His good pleasure*. 14 Do all things without complaining & disputing, 15 that you may become blameless & harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked & perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16

holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Eph 2:25-27 – Christ also loved the church & gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify & cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that *He might present her to Himself a glorious church*, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy & without blemish.

1. That should give the child of God dignity & hope.
2. We have been given the *ability, opportunity & responsibility* to do His good pleasure, & at the end of time to be presented to Him as a holy & unblemished bride.
3. The name Elohim should remind us that God has a purpose for each one of us who serve him, & that we should strive to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

[Finally, the name Elohim, which describes God as Creator, ought to remind us that He also has the power to recreate.]

V. TRUST HIS POWER TO RECREATE

- A. In one sense, God has never stopped creating?

1. Physical things perhaps, but He has never stopped creating in the spiritual realm.

Psalms 51:9-11 – Hide Your face from my sins, & blot out all my iniquities. 10 *Create in me a clean heart*, O God, & renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, & do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

The Hebrew word for “create” is bara, which mean “out of nothing, something.” David felt that he did not have a clean heart or a steadfast spirit. Elohim was going to have to start from scratch & recreate David’s heart (spirit). That’s called “forgiveness” of sin.

2 Cor 5:17 – ...*if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation*; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ *reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them*, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Songs: “Have Thine Own Way” & “In His Time”

B. **It is the nature** of Elohim to create.

1. The One Who made everything from nothing is the One Who can also make a new creation out of us.

2. When you accept the gospel as being true, you carry the seed of spiritual life from God & when you obey it you become an entirely new creature.

1 Pet 1:22-23, 25 – Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 *having been born again*, not of corruptible *seed* but *incorruptible, through the word of God which lives & abides forever*...25 ...*the word of the Lord* endures forever." Now this is the word which by *the gospel* was preached to you. .

[The name Elohim should remind us that God our Creator also has the power to recreate what was once an innocent spiritual being – who became a carnal being – back into an innocent spiritual being if we will cooperate with Him.]

CLOSING

- A. **In discussing** the names of God, this is where we must begin.
- B. **His other names** would not have quite the significance without having established the meaning of His first name: Elohim.

GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible: Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior: Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins: Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48

“ELOHIM”

Despite the efforts of scientists, educators, authors & governments (Psalm 14:1), most people DO recognize an all-powerful & all-knowing Creator. The Christian emphatically affirms God’s eternal existence. He is “the living & true God” (1 Thess 1:9), & it is our great privilege to know Him not only by His created world, but through divine revelation. One way for us to know God is by examining His names.

I. GOD’S FIRST NAME: “ELOHIM”

- A. Elohim is the primary name for God in the OT (over 2500 times).
- B. Elohim is a plural noun (Gen 1:1, 26; Job 26:13; Psa 104:30; John 1:3; Heb 11:3).
- C. Elohim is the omnipotent Creator (Job 38:4-11).

II. FEAR & STAND IN AWE OF HIM

- A. Elohim has no equal; He is to be feared & held in awe (Isa 40:25-26; Psa 33:6-9).
- B. God’s name (Elohim) when misused will indict one with sin (Exo 20:7; Deut 5:11; Psa 89:7).
 - 1. Using God’s name in vain diminishes man’s duty to fear & stand in awe of Him.

III. TRUST HIS POWER TO CONTROL

- B. Elohim has the world He created under control (Acts 17:24-28).
 - 1. God has a “pre-appointed” course that will allow seekers to find Him (Acts 7:7-8).

IV. TRUST HIS PURPOSE FOR LIFE

- A. Elohim has a purpose for mankind (1 Tim 2:4; John 3:16; 2 Pet 3:9; Acts 17:30; Rom 10:9; Acts 22:16; Gal 3:26-27)
- B. Elohim has a purpose for each Christian (Phil 2:12-16; Eph 2:25-27).

V. TRUST HIS POWER TO RECREATE

- A. Elohim continues to create (restore) spiritual life (Psa 51:9-11; 2 Cor 5:17).
 - 1. God’s word is truth, & it carries the incorruptible seed of spiritual life to those who obey the gospel preached by the apostles (1 Pet 1:22-26).

His other names have greater significance when we understand the meaning of His first name: Elohim.