

#3 NAMES OF GOD: “*El Elyon*”

- A. **We all understand** the expression, “putting someone in their place.”
1. It means helping someone remember they are not as great as they think they are.
- B. **We human beings** need to be “put in our place” from time to time.
1. To accomplish that it will help if we understand the place of God.
 2. One man said, “I’ve learned two things: number one I’ve learned that there is a God, & number two I’ve learned that I’m not Him!”
 - a. There may not be a lot of wisdom in that observation, but it is a good beginning.
 - b. In order for man to know his place, he needs to know & acknowledge God’s place.

- c. One way for us to know God’s place is to study the names used in Scripture to describe God.

Prov 18:10 (Solomon) – The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it & are safe.

- C. **Today we will discuss** a name of God that indicates His strength, & that we can run to Him for safety.

1. The name is El Elyon: “God Most High.”

- D. **El Elyon** was an important name to the Hebrews because their pagan neighbors were constantly bragging about their gods.

1. They would build shrines for their idols on the hills & highest mountains.
2. The Jews should have been aware that their God sat in the Heaven of heavens, high above the mountains, because He is “God Most High.”
 - a. El Elyon designates God as the absolute Ruler of everyone & everything (**Psa 47:2**).

E. Do you know what is most interesting about this name of God?

1. It is the name His enemies used to address Him.

Isa 14:12-14 (The Lord addressed the King of Babylon who reflected the lusts of Satan) – How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, ***I will be like the Most High.***’

Mark 5:6-7 (Demon possessed man) – When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran & worshiped Him. 7 And he cried out with a loud voice & said, “What have I to do with You, ***Jesus, Son of the Most High God?*** I implore You by God that You do not torment me.”

[Even the forces of evil recognize El (Elohim: Creator) to also be El Elyon, God Most High.

In this lesson we will discuss two men who came to understand this fact.]

I. GOD MOST HIGH—OWNS EVERYTHING

A. Summarize (Genesis 14:1-16), Read (14:17-23). Why didn't Abram accept the offer of the King of Sodom?

1. First, because in doing so Abram would be forming an alliance with an evil ruler.
2. Secondly, because Abram didn't need anything from the King of Sodom.
 - a. Abram knew that he was in an alliance with God Most High who owned everything & would distribute His possessions according to His Sovereign Will.
 - b. Abram didn't want to leave a false impression with the King of Sodom, i.e., that he had anything to do with Abram's victory.
 - c. So Abram chose to honor God Most High as the chief cause for the success of the battle.

B. How did Abram honor God Most High?

1. Abram gave everything back that was taken in the battle except Lot's family & a tenth of the spoils, which he gave to the priest Melchizedek.

C. Who was Melchizedek?

1. He was another Canaanite king who wasn't involved in this war.
2. The writer of Hebrews described him as "King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God (7:1).
3. When he uttered the words "*Blessed by Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven & earth*" (14:19) – Abram knew, at that point, that he was in the presence of a man who knew & served the true God as did Abram.
 - a. Abram new El or Elohim: God the Creator.
 - b. Melchizedek described God to Abram as El Elyon: the Most High God.

4. So, Abram gave a tenth to this priest, king, & by doing that he acknowledged God's ownership of all things, & that God Most High was the cause of his success over the proud pagan kings.

D. Since God is God Most High, then everything rightfully belongs to Him.

Deut 10:12-14 – And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways & to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul, 13 & to keep the commandments of the Lord & His statutes which I command you today for your good? 14 ***Indeed heaven & the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it.***

1. Do you know why God has always wanted His people to give something back to Him? It's not because He needs our money to do His will.
 - a. He commands us to give as a reminder to us that He is the Strength in our successes & the Source of our possessions, & by requiring us to give some of those things back to Him we are acknowledging that He is God Most High, possessor of heaven & earth (cf. [2 Cor 9:7-8, 10](#)).

[So to understand God Most High we have to acknowledge God's high place, His preeminent position as the One Who Owns Everything. That will put us in our place. Abraham grasped that Truth.

Now let's meet another man who came to understand that God Most High not only owns everything, He rules it too.]

II. GOD MOST HIGH—RULES EVERYTHING

A. Nebuchadnezzar was feeling invincible.

1. His army had experienced such great success in their exploits that the King came to think of himself as a god.

B. He certainly believed that his gods were stronger than the God of the Hebrew captives.

1. But the King himself wanted to be worshipped too, so he built a 90 foot statue for that purpose.
2. And when Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego (three Hebrew men) refused to worship that image, they were thrown into a fiery furnace.

Dan 3:25-26 – “Look! ...I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; & they are not hurt, & the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” 26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace & spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego, *servants of the Most High God*, come out, & come here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, & Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire.

C. Imagine what a powerful lesson that event taught the Hebrew captives.

1. They were so far from home, & yet God Most High came to their rescue, proving that He ruled over the greatest King on earth – *Have we forgotten that fact?*

D. On that occasion Nebuchadnezzar spoke very highly of God Most High (**Dan 3:28-29**), the King even promoted the three Hebrew men.

1. But there is a difference between acknowledging God Most High & accepting His rule.
2. In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar explained to the entire world how he came to accept that God Most High rules over everything including Babylon (Read **Dan 4:1-3, 28-33**; cf. **4:17, 25, 34**).

Napoleon was asked, “Is God on the side of France?” Cynically he replied, “God is on the side with the heaviest artillery!” That was before Waterloo. After after he was banished to St. Helena he is said to have repeated the words of Thomas a Kempis, “Man proposes but God disposes!”

[To understand God Most High we have to acknowledge God’s high place, His preeminent position as the One Who Owns & Rules Everything. That will put us in our place. The King grasped that Truth.

Finally, God Most High reigns on behalf of His people, & today that means He reigns on behalf of the church (Matt 28:18; Eph 1:20-23; Col 1:18; Acts 2:36; 10:36; Rom 14:7-9).]

III. GOD MOST HIGH—REIGNS OVER THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE (THE CHURCH)

A. He reigns over our enemies.

1. The Israelites were always concerned about their enemies.
 - a. They often called out to God Most High for help (Psa 83:17-18), & they trusted His power to deliver them (Psa 91:9-11).

2. We are also confronted by a subtle & deadly enemy.
 - a. False teachers, denominationalism, doct. error (Phil 1:15; Rom 16:17-20; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43).
 - b. Temptations, persecutions, & even death, and yet we have the same protection from God Most High the Israelites had (1 Pet 5:5-11; 1 Cor 10:13; Rom 8:31-39; 1 Cor 15:20-28, 50-58).

B. He reigns over our circumstances.

1. The Israelites didn’t believe in fate: bad luck or good luck; they believed, rightly, that nothing ever happened apart from God’s knowledge & purpose (Lam 3:38; Psa 57:2-3).
2. We also have trying circumstances that test our faith.
 - a. The only way to endure those trials, with faith in tact, is to trust God Most High to reign over those trials to bring about His purpose & our good (Rom 8:28; Jas 1:2-4; 1 Pet 1:6-9).

CLOSING

A. Does El Elyon “God Most High” reign over you?

1. Have you put Him in His rightful place, or have you put Him in the place you want Him to be?
2. You might examine a few things in your life:
 - a. Priorities (spiritual or physical)
 - b. Giving (bountiful or sparing)
 - c. Service (for self or others)
 - d. Concerns (heavenly or earthly)
 - e. Worship (daily or sporadic).

[Once again, we will never know our place in this world until we acknowledge the High Place of God Most High.]

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

“El Elyon”

Solomon wrote, “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it & are safe” (Prov 18:10). The name of God – El Elyon – “God Most High” speaks to the strength & the security He can provide. El Elyon designates God as the absolute Ruler of everyone & everything (Psa 47:2). Even the enemies of God knew Him to be “God Most High” (Isa 14:12-14; Mark 5:6-7).

I. GOD MOST HIGH—OWNS EVERYTHING

- A. Abram *trusted* God for victory (Gen 14:1-16)
- B. Abram *refused* the King of Sodom (Gen 14:17, 21-24).
- C. Abram *honored* God (Gen 14:20).
- D. El Elyon implies that everything belongs to God (Gen 14:18-20; Deut 10:12-14).
 1. He asks us to give back to Him as an acknowledgment of that fact (2 Cor 9:7-8).

II. GOD MOST HIGH—RULES EVERYTHING

- A. Nebuchadnezzar *ruled* with an iron hand (Dan 3:1-23).
 1. But he acknowledged the POWER of God Most High (Dan 3:24-29).
- B. Nebuchadnezzar *relished* the glory of his rule.
 1. But he acknowledged the RULE of God Most High (Dan 4:1-3, 28-33; cf. 17, 25, 34).
 2. Napoleon quoted Thomas a Kempis, “Man proposes but God disposes!”

III. GOD MOST HIGH—REIGNS OVER HIS PEOPLE (THE CHURCH)

[God reigns through Jesus Christ – Matt 28:18; Eph 1:20-23; Col 1:18; Acts 2:36; 10:36; Rom 14:9]

- A. Over our *enemies* (Psa 83:17-18; 91:9-11): false teachers, tempters, persecutor & even death (Phil 1:15; Rom 16:17-20; Matt 13:24-30, 36-43; 1 Pet 5:5-11; 1 Cor 10:13; Rom 8:31-39; 1 Cor 15:20-28, 50-58).
- B. Over our *circumstances* (Lam 3:38; Psa 57:2-3): trials of faith (Rom 8:28; Jas 1:2-4; 1 Pet 1:6-9).

Does El Elyon “God Most High” reign over you?

Are your Priorities (spiritual or physical)? Is your Giving (bountiful or sparing)?
Is your Service (for self or others)? Are your Concerns (heavenly or earthly)?
Is your Worship (daily or sporadic)?

We will never know our place until we acknowledge the Place of God Most High!