



**“El Olam: The Everlasting God”
Reflections on the Names of God**

I. Considering the Eternality of God

cf. Ecclesiastes 3:11 King Solomon reminds us that God has “set eternity” in our hearts. He also expressed how impossible it is for us to grasp what “God has done from the beginning even to the end.”

- James 4:14 reminds us that our lives on earth are just a vapor—here today and gone tomorrow.
- Billy Graham “My home is in heaven. I’m just traveling through this world.”
- “Transiency is stamped on all our possessions, occupations, and delights. We have the hunger for eternity in our souls, the thoughts of eternity in our hearts, the destination of eternity written in our inmost being, and the need to ally ourselves with eternity proclaimed by the most short-lived trifles of time. Either these things will be the blessing or the curse of our lives. Which do you mean that they shall be for you?” (Alexander MacLaren)
- “I believe in immortality of the soul because I have within me immortal longings.” (Helen Keller)
- “Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever, and this must either be true or false. Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only seventy years, but to which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever.” (C.S. Lewis).
- “Live near to God, and so all things will appear to you little in comparison with eternal realities.” (Robert Murray McCheyne)

The Nature of El Olam

- We finite creature can never comprehend an infinite Creator. We mortals just cannot grasp immortality. Yet, someday these mortal bodies will take on immortality. cf. 1 Corinthians 15:53
- Genesis 21:33 “And Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God (*El Olam*)=” everlasting, perpetual, always, forever and ever, and eternal
- When we speak of El Olam, we are saying God is...
 - the One who was, and is and ever shall be
 - the eternal Father
 - the everlasting God
 - the God of forever and ever
 - the Father of Infinite Majesty
 - the boundless One not limited by time and space
 - the God of eternity past, present and future
 - the One who gives us everlasting life
 - the One who will finish His work in us
 - the One who is our perpetual strength
 - the One who is with us always
 - the God of history
- Exodus 15:18 “The Lord shall reign forever and ever.”
- Ps. 41:13 “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, From everlasting to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.”
- Psalm 90:2 “....from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.”

“Baruch ata Adonai Elohenu Melech Ha Olam = “Blessed be the Lord, Our God, King of the Universe.”

Note: This “King of the Universe” is none other than the one Daniel 7 calls “The Ancient of Days” who has “an everlasting dominion which will not pass away.” (cf. Dan. 7:9, 13-14, 22)

II. Living Under the Wings of El Olam

- Deut. 33:27 “The Eternal God (El Olam) is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms...”

1. El Olam is the Eternal God who gives strength to the weary.

cf. *Isaiah* 40:28-31 (esp. v. 28)

“(El Olam) does not grow weak and tired.” He has boundless energy.

- El Olam gives us new strength in old situations and keep on going.
- El Olam enables us to run in the busy times and not grow weary.
- El Olam enables us to walk in the slow times and not give up.

2. El Olam is the Eternal God who never forsakes His promises.

Lam. 2:17 “The Lord has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago...”

cf. Proverbs 3:5-7; Hebrews 10:23 “He who promised is faithful.”

“I believe the promises of God enough to venture an eternity on them.”

3. El Olam is the Eternal God who is worthy of obedience and worship.

“It has always seemed absurd to suppose that a god would choose for his companions, during all eternity, the dear souls whose highest and only ambition is to obey.” (Robert Ingersoll)

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen” (1 Tim 1:7)

4. El Olam is the Eternal God who is best revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

a. El Olam has revealed Himself in creation (General Revelation). cf. Romans 1:20

b. El Olam has revealed Himself in His Word (Special Revelation). cf. Exodus 15:18; Psalm 41:13; 90:2; Dan. 7:9, 13-14, 22)

c. El Olam has revealed Himself in Christ (Ultimate Revelation). cf. John 1:14; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1; John 8:58; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 13:18; 1 John 1:1; Rev. 1:18

e.g. Nicene Creed (4th Century): “[Christ is] eternally begotten of the Father...begotten, not made.”

5. El Olam is the Eternal God who is the source of our eternal life. cf. John 3:16

- Philippians 1:6 “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

6. El Olam is the Eternal God who is always with us.

- Stories of Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah. Eternal God gave the same answer: I AM WITH YOU!

Jesus Christ, El Olam in the flesh: “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Conclusion: “How old is God?”

Job 36:26 “...the number of His years is unsearchable...”

- “My religious beliefs teach me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time of my death. I do not concern myself with that, but to be always ready whenever it may overtake me. That is the way all men should live, and all men would be equally brave.” (Stonewall Jackson, Civil War General)
- “Death is but a passage. It is not a house, it is only a vestibule. The grave has a door on its inner side.” (Alexander MacLaren)
- Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”
- Some have chosen NOT to walk through that door.
- “Nobody could stand an eternity in heaven.” (George Bernard Shaw). Oh, how wrong he is...

Discussion Questions

1. Why do we have such a hard time grasping eternity?
2. Which of the practical applications regarding El Olam are you most appreciative of this week?
3. In what area of your life are you most weary?
4. Where will you be spending eternity and how can you be certain?
5. Besides seeing Jesus and loved ones, what are you looking forward to in heaven?