

God has a Name

5/5/24

Elohim – Genesis 1:1

Sunday AM

*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your **name** in all the earth.* Psalm 8:1

*I will praise you for what you have done – in your **name** I will hope for your **name** is good.* Psalm 52:9

The name of God. Each of the 900+ names mentioned in the Bible speaks to who He is so that we can know Him better and trust Him more.

God gave us His name to help us to **KNOW** Him and **TRUST** Him. He gave us His name to **REVEAL** to us His person/character to **RELATE** to us so that we might know/walk w/ Him.

This AM, I want to turn our attention to the 1<sup>st</sup> name of God in Scripture – found in the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of the Bible – yet is used more than 2,500x in the O.T. alone.

*In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth.* Genesis 1:1

The name translated God is – **Elohim** – which means the One/only infinite, all-powerful Creator.

Sometimes *Elohim* is shortened to *El* and is used as part of a longer name – *El Shaddai* (God Almighty); *El Elyon* (God Most High); or *El Roi* (God Who Sees).

It's also used inside of many biblical names like – **Daniel** (El is My Judge); **Nathanael** (Gift of El); **Samuel** (El has Heard); **Elijah** (El is Yahweh); and of course, **Israel** (El Perseveres)

When Jesus cried from the cross – *Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani* – **Elohim** why have you forsaken me?

Scholars believe **Elohim** is the plural form of *El* – and it's the only name used for God that's *plural* – which most scholars attribute to the triune nature of God – that Elohim is the 3 in 1 God – *Father, Son, and H.S.*

Of course, this aligns w/ other passages of Scripture...

*In the beginning was the Word (God in the flesh), the Word was w/ God and the Word was God.* John 1:1

*For by Him (Jesus) all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.* Colossians 1:16

From the start, God declared His name to make it clear that He's the one/only, eternal, and triune Creator.

I Elohim is **ETERNAL**

This raises the question – where did God come from? The name Elohim means that ***God has always been and always will be*** – **God IS!**

**Meaning** – He is the one/only eternal, sovereign, holy, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing, Creator God.

Have you ever gotten into a discussion w/ someone about evolution, invariably they'll ask – ***where did God come from?*** The answer is simple, in the 1<sup>st</sup> verse, the Bible says, **God IS** – that is, ***He has always been.***

Unlike the evolutionist, who has to make up w/ where the 1<sup>st</sup> atom came from, we don't have to make up an opinion about where God came from. We simply have to believe what God said – “**In the beginning, I WAS already present and accounted for b/c I AM.**”

**But what if God ISN'T?** If God is not, then there's no such thing as right/wrong, good/evil – there's no such thing as morality or truth – or chaos or order. If there is no God, then it truly is survival of the fittest. BUT...

If God is, then bad can be made good, sin can be atoned, and chaos can be brought to order. If God is, then there's hope for the hopeless and help for the helpless. If God is, then everything in life has meaning/purpose – and all of life is precious/sacred. But if God isn't, then we've got a mess.

I'm reminded of the boy who prayed, “Dear God, take care of my mom/dad, my sister/brother, my cat/dog – and God, please take care of yourself, b/c if anything happens to you, we're all going to be in a big mess.

In Elohim, God declares that **He IS** – that He's always been and always will be.

II Elohim is the **CREATOR**

What did Elohim do? **He created!** Genesis 1:1 says that *in the beginning, God created the heavens/earth.*

**bara** – means that *the eternal God created something from nothing*. IOW – we're all here by Divine design and sovereign providence – and not by blind chance. Elohim is the sovereign creator who existed before creation and who spoke creation into existence.

**And the creation testifies to His existence/power!**

*The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands.* Psalm 19:1

**To offer some perspective on the greatness of God.** Pretend the earth is a grape. In proportion, the sun is the size of a beach ball 163 yards away. The largest planet, Jupiter, would be the size of a grapefruit some (5) blocks away. The nearest star would be 24k miles away and the Milky Way would be 55 bil. miles wide. Meaning – if we possessed an atlas of our galaxy that devoted just (1) page to each star in the Milky Way, the atlas would run more than 10 mil. volumes of 10k pages each. It'd take a library the size of Harvard's to house the atlas and to flip thru it at a rate of (1) page per second would require over 10k years to finish.

If this doesn't scream intelligent design and creator – what does? Such expanse and order scream that in the beginning – God created something from nothing.

**Hold on pastor** – you're telling us to choose faith over science. No! I'm telling you to choose reason over unfounded theory. If any rationally intelligent person honestly looks at the facts, they must conclude that the universe declares there must be an intelligent creator.

For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for years. *Robert Jastrow – NASA Scientist – Prof. of Geophysics Columbia U.*

I'm also telling you that whether you believe in evolution or creation – faith is required. Science theorizes that *something somehow came from nothing*, while in God creating, you're putting your faith in the idea that *something came from someone*.

***Let me put it another way*** – if you put all the parts of a watch in your pocket – how long will you have to walk around until all of the pieces fall perfectly into place so you have a working watch? NEVER! Why? B/c the odds of this occurring are beyond possible. Yet how much more complex and vast is our universe?

**DYK** – evolution isn't science; it's just a theory or hypothesis. It doesn't even pretend to abide by the rules of science. And if someone tells you differently, they're trying to make a monkey out of you.

By rule, to be science, evolution must abide by the scientific method – which holds to the (4) principles – ***observation, hypothesis, testing, and repetition***. So, let me ask – did anyone see it? NO. Did someone come up w/ a theory? YES. Can this theory be tested? NO. Therefore, it can't be repeated. It's just a theory!

It's becoming increasingly apparent that evolutionism isn't even a good scientific theory. *Dr. Ouweneel*

That's b/c it's not science? It's theory. It's a religion requiring faith that seeks to eliminate God. The Bible says, *"The fool has said in his heart there is no God."*

How else can you explain how a person can deny God's claim as the creator in exchange for the belief that something came from nothing – exploded into a living micro-organism that fought for survival eventually turning into a complex single-cell creature that over 2 bil. years became a vertebra that began to swim in a pre-mordial soup turning into a tadpole, into a frog, into a fish, into an amphibian, into a reptile, into a mammal, into a monkey, and then bumping his head on something that straightened him up into a man.

Truth is – serious scientists, at the expense of being excluded, have been dropping this selectionist theory and Darwin like a hot cake for a super-intelligence.

What we've learned in the past 10 years of review of recent scientific knowledge of cellular morphology and physiology, the code of life (DNA), and the lack of supporting evidence for evolution in light of recent scientific evidence is a shocking rebuttal to evolution. *Dr. Issac Manly – Harvard*

**Why is this important?** B/c what you believe about God as Creator will determine not only what you believe about creation, but also about how you value life, truth, morality, and so much more.

If Elohim is the one/only eternal creator, then we're all here as a result of divine design/providence – and life has meaning, order, and purpose. If Elohim exists, and we're His creation, then we're accountable to Him and under His authority.

**Why is this important?** B/c if there is no God, then there is no difference b/w good/evil and right/wrong – morality is an illusion and truth is relative. Even more, humans are nothing more than complex machines driven by instinct and void of reason. If Elohim didn't create, then God is not and there is no such thing as sin. And if there is no sin, then man doesn't need a Savior – meaning the cross and the resurrection are but a hoax. No Elohim, then no Immanuel!

**But if Elohim IS** – then we learn that we're fearfully and wonderfully made as the crowning achievement of God – made in His image and not from the genetics of an ape. We have meaning/purpose in life – and not one of us is an accident, but a divinely inspired creation.

**If Elohim IS** – then He isn't just our creator, but He is personal/merciful desiring an intimate relationship w/ each of us. We're so special/precious to Him that He became a man in Jesus to rescue us from the power, penalty, and pain of sin to bring us into an everlasting relationship w/ Him.

**Elohim** – the Eternal Creator! What a bodacious claim made by God in the 1<sup>st</sup> verse in the Bible. It's as if God has taken our faces into His hands and has said look into my eyes and read my lips – I am God – your God – I am the eternal creator and sustainer of life who longs to have a relationship w/ you.

Paul Gentuso was a budding evolutionist until he studied the human hand in med school. He said, “In anatomy class, we dissected the human hand. In investigating it, I first removed the skin, then isolated the individual tendons/muscles and worked my way to the bone. The tendons of the hand are aligned in tendon sheaths, like self-lubricating pulleys, allowing the hands to work tireless, noiseless, and in an effortless fashion. It was perfectly designed to carry out all of the work it was called to do – everything from lifting a small object to lugging a tree trunk.”

The experience so deeply affected Gentuso that he completely changed his mind about the existence of God. He wrote, “In seeing how each tendon was perfectly aligned along the axis of each finger and how each finger moved in a coordinated fashion when tugged by individual tendons, it became obvious to me that there was a Creator who intelligently designed and created man. This was the first time in my adult life that I could say w/ assurance that a Creator existed. It was a spiritual experience for me. I went from doubt to certainty based upon seeing God's creation.”

Gentuso later became a missionary physician and a resident doctor in Nashville.

*Come let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95:6*