

- I think we would all agree that a person's name holds great significance ... How often does a person's name fit with their personality – whether it's immediately known or something they grow into ... A person's name, at times, holds family tradition and history ... Seldom do parents choose a child's name at random, without first thinking about it or having a personal story attached to it ... A person's name signifies value and belonging and relationship ... Just as we want to be known and understood as we are by others, so God wants to be known and understood as He is by you and me ... And so, throughout the Bible, God reveals to us His Names ... Each name speaks into the reality of who God is, and how this reality means to shape and influence our life

BACKGROUND

- Account we read in Genesis 1 is an historic account – meaning, on a specific day and year in history, God began **creating the heavens and the earth** ... Young Earth conviction – meaning, about 4,500BC, God created time and put the universe within it; He made our Galaxy and positioned our planet in a way to sustain life ... Genesis, then, covers a period from about 4,500 BC to 1806 BC (death of Joseph)
- Moses writes Genesis during the wilderness period, leading the Israelites out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan – the land God promised to Abraham and all of his offspring ... For 430yrs, the Israelites had been living in a nation that worshipped and followed many false gods and idols, and these practices, overtime, began to chip away Israel's faith in God, and their understanding of Him ... God leads Moses to write Genesis, so that, the Israelites can relearn who God is, what He has done and said and promised, and how they are to live in relation to Him and one another

ELOHIM

- In the first verse, God reintroduces Himself – **"In the beginning, Elohim created the heavens and the earth"** ... **"My Name is Elohim, and all that you see belongs to Me, because everything stems from Me."** ... Elohim is most used name for God ... Speaks of a supreme creator, with unlimited power and sovereignty ... Elohim is self-existent and eternal; there is no other like Him – [Deu4:39, 6:4](#) ... [Is42:5, 43:10, 44:6-7, 46:9-10](#)
- In Elohim, life exists ... Nothing comes to life unless He wills it to live, unless He brings it into existence – [Ps33:6-9](#) ... All of Creation finds its beginning in who God is ... [Heb11:3, Jon1:1-4, Col1:15-17](#) ... [Acts17:24-28](#)
- Elohim did not create out of need, nor because of some lack or imbalance ... God was perfectly complete, and is perfectly complete, in of Himself ... He freely and graciously chose to create – knowing full well that we would turn our backs on Him, reject Him, refuse to acknowledge Him ... Certainly, there is no other god like Him
 - Humanity as a whole **has exchanged the truth of God for a lie** ... We worship that which has been created rather than the Creator Himself ... We foolishly **exchange the glory of God** for our own glory, for our own name and purpose and will ... In our own ways and for our own reasons, we all have, at one time or other, blamed God for walking away from us, when in fact we were the ones who walked away from Him
 - Maybe you've never heard this before, or you often forget this truth, but despite how you feel and what you may otherwise believe, you are God's greatest creation ... You and I are the only creation that is made in the image and likeness of God ... Adam was formed by the hands of God, as a potter forms a piece of clay into a beautiful piece of art ... God knits us together in the wombs of our mothers ... He causes breath to come into our lungs when we are born ... He knelt down and **breathed the breath of life into Adam's nostrils** ... You and I are **wondrously made** ... **Augustine quote**
- Why are we here ... Why did God make us ... Why do you and I exist ... Is life truly **meaningless**, as Solomon says in [Ecc1:2](#) ... The point of life isn't to chase after some American dream, nor to achieve the best life now ... Nor is the point to sit on the sidelines, taking a passive approach to life ... You and I were made on purpose, for purpose ... And we find that purpose in Christ, and through the Scriptures

- The character and likeness of God was built into our DNA – we were created to be His image bearers ... In **Gen2:4**, Moses uses another Name for God when talking specifically about Him creating Adam and Eve – **Yahweh-Elohim** ... The supreme Creator of all things chooses to be relationally involved with those He created in His image ... He is concerned for their well-being; He enjoys their company; He holds close the relationship He has with them
 - God did not give up on us because sin separated us from Him ... No, He stepped in to redeem and restore what we foolishly forsook ... The Father sent the Son to restore the relationship between us and Him ... He sent Jesus to redeem the image we entrusted to sin ... By Christ alone is our relationship with God and the image of God restored for us, so that we can live how we were created to live – in Christ and through Christ
- **What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy Him forever** ... Piper rewords: **to glorify God by enjoying Him forever** ... Few weeks ago, I asked myself this question and I've been trying to work it out ... **Do I enjoy God?**
 - You may say, *"Of course! I like Him, I believe in Him; He's a great God."* ... I think it's possible for us to like God and yet not enjoy Him ... We all know someone who we like, but avoid spending too much time with – or worse being left alone with ... And we have a tendency to treat God in similar manner, don't we? ... So, do you enjoy God as much as He enjoys you?
 - Our relationship with God should be the most important relationship in our life – before our spouse, before our kids, before ourselves ... Our relationship with God takes the primary position in our life ... Because it is from our relationship with Him that all other relationships are grown and kept and enjoyed
 - God has blessed us beyond what we deserve ... Each blessing received we're to enjoy as God would have us enjoy it ... And as we do so, we in turn enjoy and glorify God ... So, we enjoy Him through our spouse, our kids, our job, our church, our talents and giftings, our finances, our home, our relationships
- God creates because He enjoys creating ... He enjoys watching us enjoy His creation ... He enjoys when you and I enjoy Him through His creation ... We were created to be in relationship with Elohim, and to bear His likeness and image in the world we find ourselves in ... To glorify Him by enjoying Him, and leading others to live the same way