

## HALLOWED BE THY NAME

### #1 – “Elohim: God”

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<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when *Elohim* created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from *Elohim* swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then *Elohim* said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And *Elohim* saw that the light was good; and *Elohim* separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>*Elohim* called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

*Genesis 1:1-4*

Introduction: To love God, we must know Him intimately. God reveals Himself to us in the Bible, history, experience, and especially Jesus. God’s revelations are consistent, so we can authenticate our knowledge of God through Scripture. One way to discern God’s character is to understand the names ascribed to Him in His Word, of which there are over thirty. Most of this information is obscured to readers of English translations, which utilize a few proper names to translate all of the names of God. The first of these names found in Scripture is *Elohim*, which is translated simply “God,” but means so much more.

#### I. What’s in the Name *Elohim*?

- A. Elohim is used over 30 times in Genesis chapter one alone, and appears 2,570 times in the Old Testament.
- B. Elohim is a plural noun which reveals to us the Trinity of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C. The root of Elohim is the proper name “El,” which means “the Strong One.”
- D. The name Elohim means, then, “the Strong One Who Keeps the Covenant.”

#### II. Our Creator is “the Strong One.”

- A. The name Elohim captures the awesome “otherness” of our Creator.

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe . . . *Deuteronomy 10:17*

- B. Our God is more powerful than any force we are able to comprehend.

“The greatest single distinguishing feature of the power of God is that our imagination gets lost when thinking about it.”  
*Philosopher/Mathematician Blaise Pascal, 1623-62*

- C. As portrayed in Genesis 1, Elohim is so powerful that He is able to speak the heavens and earth into being.
- D. Elohim is powerful enough to create order in any chaos of our lives.

#### III. Our Creator is “the One Who Keeps the Covenant.”

- A. Following humanity’s rebellion, God made a covenant with Abraham He has never broken.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart . . . *1 Kings 8:22-23*

- B. God’s covenant with His people is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus and the Cross.

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. *Colossians 1:13-20*

- C. We may trust that Elohim’s promises to us are absolutely true and dependable, since they depend on the nature of His character and not our own.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, . . . let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . . Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. *Hebrews 10:19-23*

Conclusion: Our Creator, Elohim, is the strong maker and keeper of great promises. He is more awesome than anything that we may comprehend, and yet he extends His grace to us in intimate and personal ways, reconciling us to Himself in the Cross of Christ. We can trust God!