

Names of God 2024 Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, April 14, 2024

INTRODUCTION

NOTE 1 – Last Sunday we begin a new extended series on the Names and Titles of God (i.e., OT concentration). We do well to review the Names and Titles of God, as each provides unique insight into His character and nature.

QUOTE 1– “Names were particularly important in the biblical world. The *New International Encyclopedia of Bible Words* reminds us that ‘in biblical cultures a name did more than identify; it communicated something of the essence, the character, or the reputation of the person or thing named.’ This fact helps us understand why the Bible is filled with so many and wonderful names of God. Each . . . reveals something about the essential nature and character of God (and no one name or title could possibly sum up who He is).”

QUOTE 2 – “Scripture’s names and titles [i.e., for the Lord] are unveilings. Through the names and titles given, God unveils Himself, stripping off the layers of mystery, so that we might see [i.e., or know] Him as He really is.”

NOTE 2 – Thus far we have covered: **a)** ‘El ‘Olam (The Eternal God); **b)** ‘El ‘Shaddai (Almighty God); and **c)** ‘El ‘Roi (The God Who Sees [Me]). This morning we have much to cover as we consider more Names and Titles of God!

‘EL ‘ELYON

Q. What does ‘El ‘Elyon mean?

A. It can be translated as “the Most High God.”

NOTE 2 – ‘El ‘Elyon and similar Names or Titles particularly reveal the might, sovereignty and supremacy of God. In Scripture this phrase appears some 30 times. Of its 30 appearances, 19 are found in the Book of Psalms. Note:

Psalms 7:17 (Emphasis Mine)

17 I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness;
I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord **Most High**.

Psalms 9:2 (Emphasis Mine)

2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, **O Most High**.

Psalms 47:1–2

1 Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.
2 For the Lord **Most High** is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.

Psalms 57:2 (Emphasis Mine)

2 I cry out to **God Most High**, to God, who vindicates me.

Psalms 91:1 (Emphasis Mine)

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of **the Most High** will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

NOTE 3 – The theme of the supremacy or exalted nature of God abounds in Scripture via ‘El ‘Elyon and beyond! Let us note that one of the most significant demonstrations of the supremacy of God is found in Daniel chap. 4:

1) The Dream of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:1–8a, 9–18 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

1 King Nebuchadnezzar,

To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth: May you prosper greatly!

2 It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the ***Most High God** has performed for me [*the underlying Hebrew term herein is not ‘El ‘Elyon but a related term that similarly emphasizes and/or communicates the supremacy of God].

3 How great are his signs,
 how mighty his wonders!
 His kingdom is an eternal kingdom;
 his dominion endures from generation to generation.

4 I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 5 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. 6 So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me. 7 When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. 8 Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. . . .

9 I said, “Belteshazzar [i.e., the Babylonian name for Daniel], chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you. Here is my dream; interpret it for me. 10 These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. 11 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

13 In the visions I saw while lying in bed, I looked, and there before me was a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven. 14 He called in a loud voice: ‘Cut down the tree and trim off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the animals flee from under it and the birds from its branches. 15 But let the stump and its roots, bound with iron and bronze, remain in the ground, in the grass of the field. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven, and let him live with the animals among the plants of the earth. 16 Let his mind be changed from that of a man and let him be given the mind of an animal, till seven times [i.e., years] pass by for him. 17 The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the ***Most High** is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people.’

18 This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, had. Now, Belteshazzar, tell me what it means, for none of the wise men in my kingdom can interpret it for me. But you can, because the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

2) Daniel Interprets the Dream

Daniel 4:19–27

19 Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you.”

Belteshazzar answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!
20 The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth,
21 with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— 22 Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth. 23 Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.’

24 This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the ***Most High** has issued against my lord the king: 25 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the ***Most High** is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. 26 The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. 27 Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”

3) The Dream Fulfilled

Daniel 4:28–33

28 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. 32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the ***Most High** is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”

33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

4) Fallout for Nebuchadnezzar and Beyond

Daniel 4:34–37

34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the ***Most High**; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: "What have you done?"

36 At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Q. What do we see in this lengthy account re: the Lord?

A. God is exalted above the kingdoms of this earth and reigns supreme.

Q. How might this insight born of 'El 'Elyon and related terms impact or influence?

A1. It should cultivate a heightened sense of reverence re: the sovereign Lord and King.

A2. It should cultivate a heightened sense of "accountability" before Him accordingly.

SUMMATIONS

Q. Who is God? What is His revealed character and nature?

A1. The Lord has revealed Himself as 'El 'Olam or the Eternal God

A2. The Lord God has revealed Himself as 'El 'Shaddai or "Almighty"

A3. The Lord has revealed Himself as 'El 'Roi or as the God Who Sees

A4. The Lord has revealed Himself as 'El 'Elyon or as God Most High

Q. To what degree will you allow such elements to impact you?

Jeremiah 9:23–24a (ESV, Emphasis Mine)

23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he **understands** and **knows me**.

CONCLUSION

NOTE 1 – Feel free to give either in person or online at www.NewLifeBarre.org.

NOTE 2 – Check out our website for any of our beyond Sunday ministries (MM; WM; CYC).

NOTE 3 – Potluck Supper final Sunday of the month. Special guest during Potluck (OCC Recipient).

Numbers 6:24–26

24 The LORD bless you
and keep you;

25 the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

26 the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.