

May 13, 2020

Elohim – He is the Strong, Creator God **Genesis 1:1**

*“Beauty is the voice of God. Every flower, tree, river and lake, mountain, and sunset is God speaking.”
– Frank Laubach*

*“Elohim” - **Used 2550 times** in the O.T. First used of God’s creative activity. God is the absolute and supreme source of everything that is.*

1. As Elohim, God Shows He Pre-existed. [He is timeless]

There is an assumption of God in Genesis 1:1 – “In the **beginning**, God...” He already existed, before creation itself.

God has neither a yesterday nor a tomorrow. Everything for God is right now because He has no past and He has no future. He is the right now, ever-present God.

2. As Elohim, God Shows He is Plural [He is a Trinity – Father, Son, Holy Spirit]

In the beginning, **God...** - The name used for God in Genesis 1:1 is from the Hebrew Elohim. Elohim is the plural form of the simpler name El. **Elohim occurs thirty-two times** in the first chapter of Genesis. After that the name Yahweh appears as well and is often paired with Elohim and, in the NIV, the two together are translated “the Lord God.”

The word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible. It comes from the Latin word, Trinitas and was first used by Tertullian in the second century. The word actually means “the state or character of being three.”

Light Symbolizes The Trinity – M. R. DeHann

In saying “God is light” the biblical authors are telling something about the Trinity. A scientific analysis of sunlight reveals that it consists of three kinds of rays:

1. Chemical rays: These rays are invisible and can neither be seen or felt.
2. Light rays: These rays can be seen but never felt.
3. Heat rays: These rays are felt but never seen.

God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. We know the Godhead consists of three Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father corresponds to the chemical rays of sunlight; No man hath seen God at any time. The Son, who is the light of the world, corresponds to the light rays, the One whom we can see

but not feel. The Holy Spirit corresponds to the heat rays, since He is felt in the lives of believers but never seen.

3. As Elohim, God Shows He is Powerful. [He is Creator]

“In the beginning God **created**...” The first thing God wanted us to know about Himself is that He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Ken Hemphill, “The evangelical church has long proclaimed its conviction that God created out of nothing (“ex nihilo”) everything that is. *The early church saw the doctrine of creation as central to faith. The church faced a pagan world that believed the universe was eternal, and that whatever gods existed, they were finite parts of this universe. As you study church history, you will find that many of the hymns and creeds of the church expressed the bedrock certainty that God was the Creator of all that exists. The doctrine of creation was viewed as the beginning point of theology.*”^a

Tony Evans, “Scientists have reported that each of the 100 billion to 200 billion galaxies they believe they have discovered has up to 100 billion stars in it. And if 100 billion to 200 billion galaxies each containing up to 100 billion stars is too large for you to grasp, just consider the galaxy Andromeda.

“Andromeda is roughly 2.5 million light-years away from us. (Light travels at about 186,282 miles per second.) So if you had friends living in Andromeda and you sent them a message at the speed of a radio wave (which travels at the speed of light), you could receive their reply in about 5 million years. You can’t send a text message to Andromeda regardless of how intelligent your smart phone might be. And all God—Elohim—did was say something. He merely spoke the word, and worlds were formed. (I’m glad He didn’t shout.)”^b

4. As Elohim, God Shows He is Personal. [He wants us to know Him]

The fact that He reveals Himself in His Word shows that He wants us to know Him.

Isaiah 45:11-12 (NLT2)

¹¹ This is what the LORD says— the Holy One of Israel and your Creator: “Do you question what I do for my children? Do you give me orders about the work of my hands?”

¹² I am the one who made the earth and created people to live on it. With my hands I stretched out the heavens. All the stars are at my command.

Adrian Rogers once said,

“The great God of the universe Who heaped up the mountains, scooped out the oceans, and flung out the stars wants to have a relationship with you.”

Application:

- ***God made all of His creation, and then He climaxed His creation with you and me.***
- ***The understanding that God is Elohim, the Creator and Sustainer of all that exists, gives us confidence to face life's difficulties.***

See also Isaiah 40:26-31 and 42:5

^a Ken Hemphill, *The Names of God*, Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2001, under “Elohim”.

^b Tony Evans, *The Power of God’s Names*, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014, under “Elohim”.