

July 13th 2008. Names of God: Elohim: Gen1:1-5, 26-31

This last week there has been a bit of a fuss made about baby names

Due mainly.....Keith Urban and Nicole Kidman.....Sunday Rose

- **It just goes to show.....in our society...Names are really just labels**
They may be given.....because of some meaning in the name itself(soccer team)
But they don't usually say too much about the character

- **Shakespeare in 1594** (Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet)

O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
 Deny thy father and refuse thy name.....
 What's a Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,
 Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
 Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
 What's in a name? That which we call a rose
 By any other name would smell as sweet.....

- **For God however, names are different.....Names are powerful.....**
In particular the names He uses to reveal Himself to us.....**The Names of God**
 - **These** are the Names you are to know me by....These Names tell you who I am

It is of course an incredible thing that we can know anything about God at all
 Paul writes in 1 Tim 6:15-16 about God and says:

***"God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light,
 whom no one has seen or can see.
 To Him be honour and might forever. Amen."***

→ if God had not chosen to make Himself known.....

..then we never would have been able to discover Him...**for being God**

He is way beyond our human comprehension—beyond our finding out

God's revelation of Himself to humankind.....began of course.....when He made us in
When He Placed within....that special something.....that not only separates us from...
but gives to us.....potential to know that of Himself.....He chooses to reveal

- **→that gives us the Permission** and the Opportunity....to seek after Him...
 that we might be found of Him.

And even without our seeking.....because of that image of God within....broken and God's revelation of Himself is obvious in all He has made: →Rom 1:18-20

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

So God expressed something of Himself through all He created....including man

Then

In a truly astounding move.....He chose for Himself a special people.....Jewish through whom He would declare Himself.... as the Only True God

• **Through the Patriarchs and the Prophets**

- First by oral tradition.....Stories kept true in their hearts by God the Spirit
- Then... from the time of Moses.....by the written and inspired Word..

God revealed to us...who we are.....How mankind began and why our state is as it is
And more about Himself.....About His holiness.....Mercy...compassion.....& plans

- **And it is in the very first sentence.....**this Inspired and Holy Scripture
- This ancient and sacred book preserved over thousands.....by God Himself

That we find revealed the very First of the names....by which God declares Himself His character.....Who he is.....to us who seek Him:→

Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth."

Here we see God beginning to educate mankind about Himself.....
and about ourselves in relationship to Him

He is Elohim.....a title that is a plural noun.....**yet always** when used for our God.... is accompanied by **the singular verb**

Because God is more than one.....

Later he will clearly reveal Himself as three Persons yet one God....
yet here in Genesis 1 ...He commences the unveiling

IN v26 Elohim says: "Let us make man in our image"

Then in v27 we are told: **"So Elohim created man in His own image".**

And straight away this name sets Him apart from us humans.....from the angels

For only God can be three in one.....a mysteryonly be accepted by faith

• **But also here we see..... that unlike humans**

Elohim had no beginning and has no end

In the beginning He was already present.....

for there was no time when God was not

• **He created from** nothing the heavens and the earth....And He created by a Word

Hebrews 11:3 says:

"By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear."

Indeed it is this name Elohim that contains the idea of creative and governing power
Of omnipotence and Sovereignty

And in Genesis 1:1—2:4.....Elohim is the only name used for.....35 times

- **Elohim.....**Who by His mighty Power creates the vast universe
- **Elohim.....**Who says and it is done
- **Elohim.....**Who brings into being what was not

There is nothing that precedes our God.....therefore nothing that can equal Him

In power....in majesty....in glory.

• **Paul makes this point to the Greeks on Mars Hill.....**

when using the Greek equivalent.....**Says in Acts 17:24-26**

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live."

But then....as we progress into the book of Genesis.....we come across

A further characteristic connected to the name **Elohim**

It's a characteristic that really comes to the fore in the personal name...Jehovah

- **But it is here....**right from the beginning....**included** in this most powerful name
And it is the power and the right to make a covenant

To choose...from a posit of supreme and ultimate strength.....to create a relationship
...**with one** who is weaker....and inferior...in every way

- **So it is that when....**in Gen 6:11-13 we read that God(Elohim)...
because of the violence.....Decides to destroy the earth by flood
He will not completely.....as it breaks the covenant He has already made

So in Gen 6:18 it is Elohim who says to Noah

I will make my covenant with you

And after the flood.....God uses the name Elohim.....as He gives to Noah the rainbow

- **Much later in Jewish history**.....King Solomon...in his prayer of dedication
Says in 1 Kings 8:23

"O Lord, God(Elohim) of Israel, there is no God(Elohim) like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way."

So what a great name for God this is

And what comfort there is in this name for every believer

- **On the one hand it signifies supreme power...sovereignty.....glory**
He is the champion of champions.....and we are under protection
- **On the other hand it signifies One** who has made with each of us....thro Calvary
A covenant which He is ever able to keep.....
A covenant that is full of promises

Not a God to be trifled with...that's for sure

But a God will never forsake us....will always be there for us.....

And who has promised to take our surrendered lives....and absolutely transform them

