

TOPIC: KNOW THE GREAT NAMES OF GOD – PART 2

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Date: 10 Jan 2010

SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

Psalm 72:17-19

¹⁷ May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed. ¹⁸ Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. ¹⁹ Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

INTRODUCTION

1. When we acknowledge the Name of God, there is protection.

Psalm 91:91:14b

I will protect him for he acknowledges My name.

The name of the Lord is depicted with various usages of words. In Psalm 91, we see the protective hand of God. An old woman somehow had the Lord's name associated with that of the feathers of a bird. One day while in a lift, someone attempted to rob her. All she could remember regarding the name of the Lord was 'feathers.' So, in desperation, she cried aloud, "Feathers, feathers" and in response the robber scrambled out of sight. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

When we are caught in a situation that is not routine, e.g. while climbing a mountain or being caught in a traffic situation where a potential danger is about to happen, we should pray. We should pray before, during and after an event. We can be praying before we start a new school term, having new students or new posting. It is about taking authority.

2. God will bless those we bless in His name.

Numbers 6:24-27

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. So they shall put My name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

The above is the Aaronic blessing. Aarons and his sons were told to put the name of the Lord on the people and He will bless them.

As high priest, Eli had failed in his responsibility to bring up his children to observe their priestly responsibilities. One day, Hanna, who was barren, came to the temple and prayed with great weeping. 1 Sam 1:10. Initially, Eli thought she was drunk as she was moving her lips without uttering any sound. Later, when told of her great anguish, Eli said, "Go in peace and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him." Though Eli failed as a high priest, he still represented God and his words had authority and power. It was done as it was pronounced on her. She wanted a child while God wanted a prophet, a successor to Eli.

Husbands, bless your spouse; cell leaders, bless your people. Be careful that we do not slander our leaders. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom while rebellion is the beginning of foolishness. With insubordination in our heart, our wisdom may become futile. God will turn it against us. Let's do the reverse by blessing the difficult colleague or the classmate who stole your notes. Prov 18:21 tells us that death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Today, let's run through two great names of God: EL-ELYON and EL-SHADDAI

EL-ELYON: The Most High God/God Most High

EL = Strong and Mighty God

Shaddai = The Breasted One

EL-Shaddai – God Almighty

EL-ELYON = God Most High

This is the superlative of superlatives with no one greater before or after Him. He is the Mighty Creator. Between the Creator and the created, there is no match. The entire realm of creation has none that can match Him. The created is limited with boundaries but not so the Creator. He is limitless, boundless and can neither be measured nor contained. We need to know our standing before the Creator. What applications can we draw from knowing this truth about God?

Application #1

Psalm 92:1

It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 97:9

For You, LORD, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted above all gods.

What are some things that we can give thanks to God for?

Application #2

Honor God with our tithes and offerings. We see this below:

The name, El-Elyon first appeared in Genesis 14:18-20 as below:

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) a tithe of all.

Giving of tithes has never been abolished.

Deuteronomy 16:16b

„,and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

We know this in the natural. When we visit people during Lunar New Year, we don't appear empty-handed. When Saul lost his donkey and was asked to see a prophet, his lament was that he had no gift. As we see, it is customary to bring a gift.

When we come to corporate worship, as in Romans 12:1, we are to present ourselves, together with our fruits and tithes. Proverbs 3:9 says to 'honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of your increase.'" What is the firstfruit? It could be the first pay-check we receive for starting on a new job.

Heb 7:1-2

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom Abraham gave a tenth part of all.

Heb 7 is a repeat of what happened in Genesis 14. When something is repeated twice, we need to pay attention. In Heb 7:8 says, "Here, mortal men (Aaronic priests) receive tithes but there He (Jesus) receives them of whom it is witnessed that He lives." When we give tithes, we give it unto the Lord.

Application #3.

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
Pride comes before a fall.

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says; "God resists the proud but it gives grace to the humble."

This verse applies to all men, Christians and non-Christians alike.

e.g. #1 – Lucifer – Satan.

How did he fall? Look at Isaiah 14:12-15 and notice the "I will..." that he said.

¹² *How you have fallen from heaven,
O morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!*

¹³ *You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. [a]*

¹⁴ *I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."*

¹⁵ *But you are brought down to the grave,
to the depths of the pit*

When he fell, one-third of the angels fell with him. However, as those who misbehaved (Gen 6) were chained in Tartarus, the number of fallen angels actively at work is now less than one-third (2 Pet 2, Jude)

e.g.#2. Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4:17

¹⁷This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will, and sets up over it the basest of men.

Daniel 4:25

²⁵That they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will.

Who are the watchers and the holy ones? These are powerful angels assigned over nations and the world. In heaven, there are different councils. This council decides accordingly the affairs of the nations. Why? It is so that the living may know that the Most High lives (v25). The heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord.

Applying this to our situation, your boss is in the hand of the Lord. If it's time for him to go, he will have to go. The Most High rules in the kingdom of men. If God is for you, who can be against you? King Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful man then and he was warned by Daniel. He might be the most powerful but God is above all, the most powerful. When Nebuchadnezzar thought himself to be as powerful as God, he became insane and ate grass from the field. He even ended up sleeping in the open with dews of heavens making him wet. He behaved like an animal for 7 years till he knew that the Most High ruled in the kingdom of man and gave to whomsoever He chose.

Isaiah 57:15

*¹⁵ For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with those who are contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.*

Application #4

Dwell and abide with the Most High God.

Psalm 91:1

¹ He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High(EL-Elyon) shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (El-Shaddai).

This speaks of dwelling in His presence. Abiding means to connect and walk with God. Next, let's cover the name, EL-Shaddai.

EL-SHADDAI – Almighty God

Application #1

Be blameless before El-Shaddai

Genesis 17:1

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

This is the first mention of El-Shaddai. It called Abram to be blameless. There are 2 persons in the Bible mentioned as blameless: Job and Noah. Before the Law was given, it was said of Job (Job 1:1) that he was blameless. For Noah (Gen 6:9) it was said that he walked with God. For Abram, by his faith in God, he was pronounced righteous. What is righteousness? It is having right standing in God. It is not relying on one’s own strength and ability. The patriarchs were ignorant of God’s righteousness, seeking to establish their own righteousness. This we see in Romans 10:3-4:

Romans 10:3-4

³ For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Philippians 3:9

⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

The righteousness is ours through faith in Christ. See also Romans 4:5.

2 Cor 5:21

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

We need to know that in Christ Jesus, we have the righteousness of God, the same righteousness that God has. With anything less than that, we would not be able to stand before God.

As we think of the application to be blameless, this means to hold on to faith with a good conscience. See 1 Tim 1:19 and Romans 8:1-2. If our conscience is troubled and we think we are less than righteous, we will be giving ground to the devil. It is pagan to be thinking that we have to work out our righteousness. Where we have confessed our sins and know our position in Christ, we can ask the devil to go away. Psalm 130 tells us that with God there is forgiveness. The devil will beat us with guilt and condemnation, leaving Christians defeated with guilty conscience. Faith leaks and as a result, one is shipwrecked. We shouldn’t seek to establish our righteousness. It is all by His grace and mercy, not deserved but given. In Romans 8:1-2, it says there is no condemnation - for who? It’s for those who walk not in the flesh but in the Spirit. Isaiah 64:6 says that our righteous acts are like filthy rags. They are like stained clothes. We need to realize that the price has been paid and we cannot add one iota more to the price. This gift of righteousness has to be received to become ours.

In Mark, the woman who had issue of blood said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” Unknown to her, as in Isaiah 61:10, the garment is the garment of salvation. She touched His

garment with earnestness. If we earnestly seek God, 2010 will be different for us. Seek His kingdom and His righteousness first (Matt 6:33).

Romans 1:17 says the just shall live by faith. We need to know we have right standing and place no confidence in the flesh except on Christ the solid Rock. It is nothing else but Christ and Him crucified. We cannot depend on our works of righteousness to have us justified. My confidence cannot be in the way I pray or in the number of times I read the Word and neither should my confidence be in the manner of worship. My confidence should be in God. (Phil 3:3 – no confidence in the flesh) When we gather in our cell group, we seek to know the God of His Word. Confidence is not even in our faith but in God who gives us faith. Jesus shall have the supremacy. He is God.

Application #2

Based on the Covenant, God makes available His abundant grace to all who receive it by faith.

We need ideas, peace, healing, creativity, protection, favor, presence of God, gifts of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, divine intervention, etc – the abundant grace for such is given. However, grace has to be received by faith.

Romans 5:2

Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

God's grace flows along the channels of His promises. Everything we have is through the knowledge of Jesus. Ignorance is not bliss. Grace flows through His promises and faith follows promises. When we keep on believing in His promises, His grace flows. We need to stand on His promises so that His grace will reach us.

Application #3

The evidence of our keeping His Covenant is circumcision of our hearts.

Genesis 17:9-11

⁹ And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. ¹⁰ This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; ¹¹ and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Every Jewish child is to be circumcised on the 8th day. We are the true Jews, having circumcision of the heart, in the Spirit.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Acts 7:51

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

Circumcision of heart means we are obedient and commit to walk in the Spirit. It is not just giving mere mental assent. It is having a sensitive spirit and flowing with the Spirit. It is becoming less inclined to lust, to stealing, to gossiping, to being hurt, etc. It means living in total dependency on the Holy Spirit. It is about brokenness (Luke 9:23).

As an application, let's talk about the car park. All it requires is just 5 to 10 mins' walk. We have a right to park and so do others. To carry the cross and to deny ourselves is to deny ourselves the rights to park and allowing those in greater need to do so. The car park is for those with physical ailments, those with young children and new-comers.

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise.

In Joshua 5-6, we see a quick succession of things that took place. A new generation was circumcised. They ate the Passover (Blood of Christ) and the manna ceased. They ate from the Promised Land, they encountered the Lord of Hosts and they conquered Jericho (strongholds)

We cannot conquer Jericho without encountering the Lord. Jericho represents strongholds. What are strongholds? These are the issues in our lives. Now, Jesus called the twelve to be with Him to do 3 things, i.e. to share the gospel, to heal the sick and to cast out demons. We need to arise to our Priestly, Prophetic and Kingly anointing.

In the Priestly anointing, we are to minister to God. In the Prophetic anointing, we are to minister to brothers and sisters. In 1 Cor 14:3, it is to edify, exhort and comfort. Prophecy is speaking forth the Word of God. This must be present in all our cell groups. Kingly anointing is for us to heal the sick and to cast out demons; to take authority over our situations and circumstances. What was permissible before is not permissible in 2010. We have to make up our minds and choose this day who we will serve. Darkness will increase and so will the light. We are either in the light or in the world. Our comfort may have dulled us of the reality of things happening elsewhere. What should we do? We need to come back to God for who he is and for what His names represent.

CONCLUSION

Application Summary of EL-Elyon

1. Give thanks, praise and worship our God Most High.
2. Honor God Most High with our tithes and offerings.
3. God resists the proud but give grace to the humble.
4. Dwell and abide with the Most High God.

Application Summary of El-Shaddai

1. Be blameless before El-Shaddai.
2. Based on the Covenant, God makes available His abundant grace to all who receive by faith.
3. The evidence of our keeping the Covenant is circumcision of our hearts.

God's Covenant to Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 15:8,9

Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" So He said to him, "Bring Me a 3 year old heifer/female goat/ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon."

Covenant is not a contract but perpetual and is annulled upon death. God knew that Abraham could not fulfill his part of the covenant. In the Abrahamic covenant, God cut the covenant with His Son.

Genesis 15:17

When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking furnace/firepot with a blazing/flaming torch appeared and passed between the pieces.

The blazing pot is the Lord Jesus Christ. Here was Father God cutting the covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ. God breathed into Abraham and energized him to produce Isaac. With God nothing is impossible.

Psalm 89:34

My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

El-Shaddai – Luke 1:37 – Covenant for life.

El-Shaddai – All Powerful and All Sufficient Provider, Protector, Prosperity Giver, I AM...

Some may feel this year is a difficult year. There are problems with marriage, children, studies, etc. Some may be living under guilt and condemnation. Our God is a forgiving God. Will you trust in Him? Will you cling on to Him to keep His covenant?

End

