

PP Elohim: The Mighty God Over All

Genesis 1

6/7-8/2014

Fanny J Crosby is known for the many hymns that she wrote in her lifetime
 In May of 1820, she was 6 months old and caught a cold, and her eyes became inflamed
 The regular doctor of Putnam County, NY was out of town, so a man posing as a doctor gave her
 the wrong treatment and within days, her eyesight was destroyed
 Despite this terrible event, when she was 8, she wrote: *'O what a happy soul am I! Although I
 cannot see, I am resolved that in this world Contented I will be; How many blessings I
 enjoy that other people don't! To weep and sigh because I'm blind, I cannot, and I won't'*
 A preacher once said to her, Fanny, *"I think it is a great pity that the Master did not give you
 sight when He showered so many other gifts upon you."*
 She replied quickly, *"Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would
 have been that I should be born blind?"*

As we turn our thoughts to knowing the names of God, take note that mankind did not come up
 with the names of God we find in Scripture
 God gave them, God revealed them, God continually re-introduced His people to Who He is
 And when He gave a name, it was a window into His character and nature
 Because God wants to be known, He wants to have a relationship with His creation
 Last week we looked at the name Jehovah, only given to His people, revealing our God to be
 faithful to His promises, unchanging, and a strong tower for us giving us peace
 The name we learn today is God's name given for the whole world, showing all creation His
 power, plans and purposes

PP Corrie Ten Boom, survivor of a Nazi concentration camp, tells us of the power of God's
 names, *'Look around and be distressed. Look inside and be depressed. Look at God's
 Name and be at rest.'*

The very first of His names God gave us in the bible is His name **Elohim**

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." **Genesis 1:1**

4 words into the Bible and we are introduced to its author and main subject... **'God'**

In Hebrew, this name is *Elohim*, a name that displays God's creative, governing power as He
 sovereignly reigns over all His creation

The last two letters, 'im' indicates plurality

4 words into the Bible, we met Elohim, the tri-une God, One God, three Persons, Father, Son and
 Holy Spirit

So why did God introduce Himself to us in this way?

PP 1-The name Elohim was given to help us trust in His power over our lives

PP *'What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.'*

A.W. Tozer

Here we are, right at the beginning of the Bible and God is immediately introducing Himself
 He is saying to us, *'Hello, I am Elohim, and I want us to get to know each other.'*

And what He wants us to know about Him are these two things:

First, everything has come from Me, I am the Creator of all there is
 God isn't a tree, a cow, or the sunshine, nor is He any part of creation at all
 He is the Creator of all there is!

Though all creation points to His glory, He is above it, outside of it, yet working His will and purposes all through it

But again, remember that Elohim speaks of the Triune God-Father, Son and Spirit
 And all three Persons possess the same infinite perfections and all were involved in Creation

PP The Father willed the creation into existence by His authority: *"For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm."* Psalm 33:9

PP Yet **Ephesians 3:9** tells us that God *'created all things through Jesus Christ'*

Again that word *'through'* is seen as John explains that the Father made all things through the

PP Son: *"All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made."* John 1:3

Father willed creation into existence, and it came into being through Jesus, yet the book of

PP **Job** says, *'By His Spirit He adorned the heavens'* 26:13

We only need to look in our text in Genesis 1:2 and see the Spirit's creating activity: *"The earth*

PP *was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."* Genesis 1:2

But **second**, I already existed in *'the beginning'*, when the clock started ticking

Did you know that time had a beginning?

PP **Jude** wrote that all glory belongs to God, *'before all time and now and forever. Amen.'* 25

Time had a beginning, it was created by God, and He set this cosmic clock into motion

PP *"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."* Psalm 90:2

In His nature, He is ever outside every aspect of creation, yet He is involved in every part of it

Listen to Paul who wrote in **Colossians** in speaking of Christ, *'For by Him all things were*

PP *created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things and in Him all things hold together'* 1:16-17

Elohim, eternal Creator, sustainer of all His creation

He is always over us, greater than anything, His strength has no equal, yet He is always near us

Theologians call it transcendence and immanence...greatness yet nearness

PP *'Am I a God who is near', declares the Lord, 'and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?' declares the LORD. 'Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?'* Jeremiah 23:23-24

His greatness reminds us that He is bigger, and over any problem that comes into your life

His nearness reminds us that He will never leave us or forsake us, ever!

His freedom from the clock means He never is in a hurry, things are never truly urgent, He is never out of time, He knows the outcome because He is already there

Mighty God, Creator of the universe, Elohim is His name

PP *"There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."* 1 Samuel 2:2

PP 2-The name Elohim was given to help us trust in His plan for our lives

There is a blueprint that comes with our lives, one that was written before Genesis 1:2

PP ***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10***

‘*Beforehand*’ was before He created this world, how, because He has always known us! Just as God is outside of time, over it, He is also outside and greater than all creation He didn’t assemble the universe from raw materials floating around, He created those raw materials and then the Spirit adorned

“The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2

One might mistakenly gather here that these raw materials were already in existence, for the second verse in Scripture says that the ‘*earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep*’

The earth, and darkness, and water were already existing skeptics say

But you must go back to verse 1, ‘*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*’

Earth and water were created, by God, out of nothing, and even darkness of verse 2 was created

PP ***“I form light and create darkness” Isaiah 45:7***

Yet the earth and heavens-*the universe*-needed the adorning that Job spoke of, for ‘*the earth was without form and void*’, a phrase that means it was a *wasteland*

The potential was there, it just was yet to be shaped into the form that God had planned

The Holy Spirit began to do just that, and suddenly it becomes clear that Elohim is not only the Creator God, but He is the God Who shapes everything to His will and plan

God has a plan, and He bends and shapes and molds every part of creation to it

All history is His story, not ours, it is His plan brought about by His power for His glory

PP His plan is the good news of His salvation: *God saved us because we could not save ourselves, saving us from eternal condemnation and death, saving us for a life of joyful service, doing this through His Son, for the fame of His glory*

PP ***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.”***

Ephesians 1:3-4

The mighty power of God is seen in creation, but it is also seen in His plan for our lives

And His plan would find its highest point not in the display of stars in the night sky, nor the thunder of the Niagara Falls, but in redeeming the wasteland of humanity wrecked by the devastation of sin

This was His plan all along, before He created, not an afterthought, but a forethought!

PP ***“This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time” 2 Timothy 1:9***

Elohim’s plan has never been foiled, or interrupted or altered in any way contrary to His will

He is the mighty God, Who shapes all of creation to His sovereign, good, and perfect plan

And no power in all creation can thwart it, no power can stop the gospel!

PP 3-The name Elohim was given to help us trust in His purposes in our lives

PP Our planet is 8,000 miles wide, but our sun is 870,000 miles wide

So big that if you hollowed it out, it would hold about 1,300,000 of our earths.

And yet supergiant red star “Antares” is 700 times wider than our sun

PP Even greater is the Canis Majoris star which is around 2000 times our sun's diameter
 Another way to try and grasp the size of creation is to know that light, which travels at a speed of
 186,000 miles/second, makes it to the moon in 1.25 seconds, 8.3 minutes to the sun

It makes it to our largest planet, Jupiter in 41 minutes

To the farthest planet you can see with the naked eye Saturn in 85 minutes

To the next nearest star, the Alpha Centauri in 4.3 years

Remember Antares, the supergiant red star, 604 years

PP To get all the way across the Milky Way Galaxy light has to travel for 100,000 years

PP To get to our nearest large Galaxy neighbor, the Andromeda Galaxy, 2,000,000 years

To what scientists think is the edge of our observable universe, light would need to travel
 at 186,000 miles per second for about 15 billion years

PP ***"Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!
 For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm."*** Psalm 33:8-9

All creation exists to show the glory of God

God created all there is for a purpose, to shine a light upon His power and perfections

If you took 30 photos of the Grand Canyon, all from different angles, each one would show a
 unique but consistent view of an incredible, awe-inspiring and beautiful wonder

Friends, each name of God does the same as they each reveal a unique view of God

But think of this for a moment

The same is true if you took every single one of us whom God has created for His glory

We who have been created in His image, whose abilities, passions, bodies, talents, all function as
 a photo album of God's glory

Each a window into His magnificent and powerful, creative nature

Showing others the wonder of God is our highest purpose we can have!

Whatever God's specific call on your life is, the goal is to show people the glory of God

That all people everywhere on this planet might see and hear of the amazing things God has
 done, and experience His love and mercy through...us

Maybe you are a student in middle school, or high school, or college, or a home schooling mom

Perhaps you have a job with a high degree of visibility, or one where you are in a cubicle and no
 one in senior leadership knows your name

You are called to join the rest of creation and reveal to those around you Elohim, our Creator,
 our Redeemer, the One Who personally invites us to serve Him

Genesis 1:26 records Elohim speaking, ***"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."***

Whatever it means to be created in the image of God, somehow, we image and are like Him

PP And while sin fractured that image like a distorting cracked mirror, James says, ***"With [our
 tongues] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in
 the likeness of God."*** James 3:9

PP Elohim created mankind in their image and after their likeness, then gave us our purpose:

***"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the
 fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves
 on the earth."*** Genesis 1:28

Some read this and see in it a command to have lots of kids, and take care of the earth

And God does want us to enjoy families, and to manage creation and steward it well

But this has so much more meaning in the mind of God, and it is still very much in effect for us!

We are to bring the glory of God and the power of the gospel to all the nations of the earth

PP Listen to the great commission with fresh ears: *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'"*

Matthew 28:18-20

No matter what specific calling God has for your life, it is to fulfill this mission
And we cannot find the joy of a purpose-full life without joining Christ on His mission of making disciples

Does your life seems empty and desolate, and you no longer even have hope it will change?

Has this life has worn you out?

Is your life a mess, feeling like a wasteland?

Are you drifting not knowing what purpose your life has?

Call on the name Elohim, and be reminded of God's nature and character

And hear Him whisper into your soul: I created you, exactly the way you are, defects and all!

You are absolutely stunning to Me, beautiful in My eyes, altogether desirable!

Look through the lens of My name, not the lens of magazines, and Hollywood, and you will see
your true beauty reflected in My eyes

And look through My name at your scars, physical and emotional and mental

But I am Elohim, I am the redeemer, Who makes all things new

I took your empty and sin-ruined life, and caused you to live!

I saved you, because you could not save yourself, and I did it through My Son, for My glory!

So join my mission, and joyfully serve!

This is My name, I am Elohim!

Do you remember Fanny J Crosby, the hymn write made blind in a tragic medical mistake?

Who said to that minister, *"Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I should be born blind?"*

He responded to her, in surprise, and asked her why

"Because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!"

She knew her mighty God had a perfect plan for her life, and she would accept no other

Pray