

## EL ELYON

### **INTRO//**

What's up Faith Students! Welcome to the best night of the week, I'm so glad each of you are here!

- Tonight we're ending our series: Name Drop
- In this series we've covered just a few of the names of God, what they mean and what they tell us about his character + nature
- His names tell us so much about who He is!

**Interaction:** Can anyone tell me the names of God we've looked at so far in this series?

- Yahweh (I am who I am)
- Jehovah Shammah (The Lord is there)
- Jehovah Nissi (The Lord is my banner)
- Jehovah Shalom (The Lord is peace)

-Tonight we're looking at the name "El Elyon", it means the most high God.

### **ILLUSTRATION//**

-A time you thought "nothing compares to this"

### **OR**

-GOAT's in sports (or movie, music artist, etc) better than everyone/everything else!

El Elyon is a name that reveals God is greater than all. He is supreme + sovereign, NO ONE is like or near Him. He is the most high God, alone, Holy, set apart, perfect, one true God.

We see this name FIRST in **Genesis 14:18-22** when Abraham rescues Lot and they go to Melchizedek, the priest of the "most high God". We also see this in many other times throughout the OT.

### **CONTEXT//**

-Many cultures in that time (like the Canaanites) referred to their gods as El which means God and Elyon which means "most high", and their highest God would be called "El Elyon".

-And in scripture we see this name used for God many times, usually in combination with Yahweh, to distinguish him as the true, most high God.

For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth  
you are exalted far above all gods. (**Psalm 97:9**)

### **TENSION//**

-But what makes God truly set apart and higher than any other god or idol? What makes God different?

-Have you ever wondered what separates the Christian God from others? Why is he the right God to worship and follow? In a world with so many religions, some similar, how do we know which is really true?

Tonight I want to walk through a few places in the OT that we see “El Elyon” used, what it shows us about God and how it proves that Yahweh really is the one true most high God”.

\*pray\*

In **Psalm 91:1-2** it says: “Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.”

### **1//YHWH IS OUR PROTECTION**

-There is rest and shelter in God.

### **ILLUSTRATION//**

-Sketchy things you can't trust

-Rollercoasters/State fair rides

-Our styrofoam football helmets at my high school

-Unlike those, God can be trusted! He truly protects! Look at his track record (scripture)

-Because we can trust Him, we can REST in His presence

-True, genuine rest for our SOUL

-We find rest when we serve God ALONE. (He ALONE is my refuge)

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord] (**Matt 6:24**)

-It's unstable to have a split surrender!

-the author of Psalm 91 notes that God ALONE is his refuge

-When we run to other things/people outside of God looking for what only He can give, we will be disappointed!

-When God isn't alone our shelter/place of safety, we won't be able to rest/be at peace

-God protects us, but we have to choose to come under that protection

-Walk in alignment with His will + word

-He is the most high/most powerful, so He is worthy of our surrender and can be trusted

-Another story/passage that uses "El elyon" and shows how God is set apart is in Daniel 3

-Many of us know the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, we studied it in our Daniel series a few months ago!

-If not, these 3 men were servants under King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon. At one point, King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue and issued a decree or law for everyone to bow to it, if not they'd be thrown in a furnace.

-Well these 3 men had seen the faithfulness of YHWH, the one true God, so they didn't bow to this false god and idol.

-King Nebuchadnezzar did what he threatened and threw them in a furnace as hot as it could be.

-But when this happens they notice not only are the 3 men in the furnace, there's a 4th! (This was Jesus!)

-Jesus joined them in the fire and protected them and when King Nebuchadnezzar notices this he's humbled and in awe of YHWH.

-He then says this in **Daniel 3:26**

**"Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most**

High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire."

-Nebuchadnezzar was so amazed the 3 men were protected and that there was a 4th man in the fire, that he immediately knew and called the servants of the most high God!

-This man had just made a giant statue and demanded it to be worshiped, but now sees YHWH is the true most high God, and Nebuchadnezzar himself worships Him.

-Not only do we again see the most high God protect, but we see he is present.

## 2//YHWH IS PRESENT

-God is present with Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego in this moment

-By their side, with them in the fire

-This is a picture and a foreshadowing of what would happen in the future

-Jesus stepped down into our painful dark reality to protect and rescue us

-Save us from sin + death

**-Hebrews 4:14-16** "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet he did not sin."

-He stepped into our reality, experienced our struggles and pain, and saved us

-This alone makes Him stand separate from any other god

-Why is YHWH the most high God? Why is he set apart? How is He different?

-He stepped into our reality and rescued us!

-Every other religion/belief system says that we have to work our way to god, we have to be good enough

-The reality is that we can't, we never can be/do good enough to reach God

-So YHWH came to us! He stepped down from glory and met us right where we were

-And meets us right where we are! Jesus not only stepped down to be present and rescue us, but the Holy Spirit is with us always.

**Romans 8:9** “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you”

**Ezekiel 36:26** And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

**John 15:26** “But I will send you the Advocate (comforter)—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.

-As followers of Jesus, we have the spirit of God with us! He dwells in us! He is present with us at all times!

-YHWH is different, He’s set apart, He’s the most high God because he rescued us and made His dwelling place among us! He is near and with us at all times and moments.

-YHWH is worthy of all of our praise and worship because He is greater than any other god or thing we worship

-Would we not settle, but would our eyes be opened like King Nebuchadnezzar to recognize YHWH truly is the most high God! No one is like Him! No one is near Him!

-and what a joy it is that the most high, powerful, supreme, sovereign, matchless God is with us and desires a relationship with us!

### **ALTAR//**

1. **Salvation-** Anyone that wants to enter into relationship with the most high God and be filled with His spirit
2. **Worship-** Praise the most high God for what He has done in your life, thank Him for what He’s done but also worship Him simply for who He is. No one else is like Him, no one else is Holy/pure! He alone is worthy!