

## An Examination of The Lord—The Names of God “Elohim”—Genesis 1:1

Remember with me, that to know the name of a person is to know their total character. To know one's name implies a relationship. Thus, we have recorded for God's people, in His love-letter to them, His names. *“The name of God holds an important key to understanding the doctrine of God and the doctrine of revelation...His Name is known only because He chooses to make it known.”*<sup>1</sup> **Matthew 16:13-17.** *“Even though he was mysterious, lofty, and unapproachable, He bridged the gap with humankind by revealing His name”*<sup>2</sup> (**Acts 4:12—Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved**”).

### Elohim—God—Genesis 1:1

This is the very first name revealed unto us in Scriptures. You will find it to be spelled: *Elohim. Sometimes El or Elah*<sup>3</sup>. As it is the first one revealed in Scripture, from which we find the origin of all things, there is great significance in this name. The Name “God” (Elohim) is the name most frequently used in the whole of the O.T. (2500 times). Sometimes it is seen in “compound form”! NOTE: **Exodus 20:2,5,7; Psalm 99:5,8 = “Jehovah El-oheka/ El-oyheenu” = “The LORD Thy God/Our God”; Isaiah 7:14 “Immanu-el” = “God with us”.**

In my studies, the Lord revealed several different references to the origin and meaning of this Name ELOHIM! Strong's Concordance will give you the meaning of “Deity or The Deity”. And this is right! Yet, there is much more contained in the name “**God**” than just “Deity”.

### The Strong One<sup>4</sup>

The name “**Elohim**” comes from two words: “El” and “Alah”. The first of those, “El” means “strength” or “the strong one”. Most certainly we find that God is the “Strong One”. (**Philippians 4:13; Psalm 18:1**). He is NOT one of the strong ones (plural), but He alone is the strong one.

Observe the text: “**In the beginning the God created the heaven and the earth**” (**Genesis 1:1**). He is observed right in the context as the strong one, for He formed, made, created the heavens and the earth!

### To Make an Oath/Swear<sup>5</sup>

The second part of the Name “**Elohim**” comes from the word “Alah”. “Alah” means to swear, to bind oneself by an oath, thus implying faithfulness. **Hebrews 11:11**. We are told in the Bible of God's faithfulness to His word: **2 Corinthians 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:13**.

### Plurality<sup>6</sup>

In the name, “**Elohim**”, is the trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit mentioned. The Triune God is spoken of immediately in Scripture! **John 10:30—“I and my Father are one”**. John Gill stated in his Exposition of the Old & New Testaments: “It [Elohim] is a word of plural number and though it has a singular, it is most often used in the plural form.”

We note this particularly in **Genesis 1:26,27—“Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness...So God (plural) created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”**

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1 Holman Bible Dictionary, “Names of God”

2 Ibid

3 The Scofield Study Bible, **Gen.1:1 Footnote**

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 Ibid

### “Worship”

I am also told that the name “**Elohim**” is derived from the Arabic Word meaning “to worship”. This is also in agreement with the person of God, who is alone worthy and to be the sole object of worship and adoration; as opposed to idols, false gods, persons, objects, etc. (**Matthew 4:10; Revelation 22:8,9**).

### Putting It All Together

The name “Elohim” is very significant. For in that Name of God is revealed the whole plan of salvation! Recall the meanings of the name: The strong one; oath making; plurality; the one who is to be worshiped.

Now observe the setting. God first introduces us to Himself as this amazing Being and Person. He states I am the strong one, who made an oath with myself, who is to be worshiped. This begs the question, “What oath did He make with Himself?” **Hebrews 6:13-18; Hebrews 13:20-21**. He made an everlasting oath to redeem me! He made it with Himself in eternity past: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit entered into a covenant with one another to save me, to redeem me. How can this be done? It is an easy thing to make an oath, but much harder to keep it! Because He is “**The Strong One**”. He swore He would do it. He is faithful to His word. He has the ability to perform His word. Because of these things, He is to be worshiped!

When we examine the Lord, how can we not judge Him faithful who had promised!