

MESSAGE FIVE: EL ELYON AND EL SHADDAI

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Genesis 14:17-24 (NASB)

17 Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 He blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
20 And blessed be God Most High,
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

He gave him a tenth of all. 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself." 22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.' 24 I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."

Genesis 17:1-8 (NASB) 1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,

1 "I am God Almighty;
Walk before Me, and be blameless.
2 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you,
And I will multiply you exceedingly."

3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying,

4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you,
And you will be the father of a multitude of nations.
5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram,
But your name shall be Abraham;
For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. 7 I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God

to you and to your descendants after you. 8 I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on God's names El Elyon and El Shaddai is to help you understand that He is the Most High God and the Possessor of everything and to help you trust that He is all-sufficient to meet all your physical and spiritual needs.

INTRODUCTION:

On August 5, 2010, a wall collapsed in a mine in Chile, trapping 33 men in a deep, dark pit. They were in a hole, over two thousand feet underground, with no way out. They couldn't see and were surrounded by barriers they couldn't penetrate. They were in a hopeless situation. For 17 days they didn't even know whether anybody else knew where they were. It's bad enough to be in a pit; it's even worse when you can't get out and nobody can get to you. In fact, these 33 men were all in the same hole, so they couldn't even help one another get out.

All of us know what it's like to be in a pit, to be in a situation you can't get out of, stuck in a place where you're locked in and no one can help you.

If those miners were ever going to get out, if they were ever going to be delivered, someone from on high would have to drill down low to reach them in their hole. They couldn't get up, so something up there had to reach down where they were to deliver them.

In Genesis 14 Abraham found himself in a situation like the one these miners faced. There had been a number of wars in the cities near him. Several kings had invaded Sodom and Gomorrah and had taken all their possessions, as well as Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family. Abraham had to do something to rescue Lot.

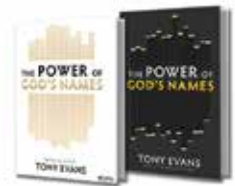
SERMON POINTS:

1. BELIEVE GOD IS EL ELYON—GOD MOST HIGH

- El Elyon is more powerful than all human rulers.

our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





- Several kings had invaded Sodom and Gomorrah and captured their king, inhabitants, and possessions (Genesis 14:1-12).
- Abraham took 318 of his best-trained warriors and rescued Lot, the king and people of Sodom, and all their possessions (Genesis 14:16).
- After Abraham defeated the kings and delivered Sodom and Lot, Melchizedek, the king of Salem, met Abraham (Genesis 14:18-19).
 - Melchizedek, whose name means king of righteousness, brought bread and wine to Abraham.
 - Melchizedek, who was also a priest, blessed Abraham in the name of the Most High God.
- El Elyon is higher than any other power in heaven or on earth.
 - El comes from God's name Elohim, the powerful Creator, and Elyon means highest or most.
 - Melchizedek blessed Abraham in the name of El Elyon because He is higher than every king and had given Abraham victory over the kings.
 - El Elyon is higher than you and the authorities over you.

2. BELIEVE ALL POWERS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH ARE SUBJECT TO EL ELYON.

- Evil powers are subject to El Elyon.
 - Satan wanted to be like El Elyon (Isaiah 14:12-14).
 - El Elyon judged Satan and threw him and his followers out of heaven (Isaiah 14:15).
 - Demons were subject to Jesus' power as El Elyon and needed His permission to enter the herd of pigs (Mark 5:12-13).
- El Elyon won't share His glory with anyone else (Isaiah 42:8).
 - Satan wanted to be like El Elyon (Isaiah 14:12-14).
 - The king of Sodom wanted credit for defeating the kings who had captured him.
 - Abraham refused to make a deal with the king of Sodom, who wanted to keep the captives of the defeated kings, while Abraham kept the spoils, in order to look like the victor (Genesis 14:22-23).
 - Abraham wanted El Elyon to get the glory for the victory (Genesis 14:24).

3. RESPOND TO EL ELYON AS THE SOURCE IN YOUR LIFE.

- El Elyon can meet your needs because everything in heaven and earth belongs to Him.

- Melchizedek, the righteous king of Salem and priest of God, reminded Abraham that El Elyon gave him victory (Genesis 14:19).
- Abraham's 318 trained men didn't win the battle. El Elyon did.
- Recognize El Elyon as your Source by giving back to Him from all He has given you.
 - Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe (10 percent) of all the spoils he had received from the defeated kings (Genesis 14:20).
 - God commands us to give back to Him from all He has given us to demonstrate our trust in Him (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
 - Abraham tithe because he recognized El Elyon as the Source and Owner of everything, and Abraham trusted Him.

4. REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR SOURCE AND HIGH PRIEST.

- Jesus Christ is our priest in the "order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5:1-10).
 - Melchizedek didn't have a genealogy; he had no father or mother.
 - Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13).
- We all must trust in Jesus as our El Elyon and our High Priest (Hebrews 7:1-8:2).
 - Jesus Christ is the King of righteousness, the King of peace, and as our High Priest and as the God-Man, He is the only mediator between God and man.
 - We receive God's material and immaterial blessings through Jesus, our High Priest.
 - When Melchizedek met Abraham, he may have been the preincarnate Son of God.
 - Have you trusted Jesus as your El Elyon and as your only access to God?

5. BELIEVE GOD IS YOUR EL SHADDAI—YOUR ALL-SUFFICIENT ONE

- El Shaddai reveals God's nurturing care for His people.
 - The prefix El comes from Elohim, the powerful Creator.
 - Shaddai comes from the Hebrew word shad, which means breast, referring to the nourishment only He can provide (Isaiah 60:15; 66:10).



THE POWER OF GOD'S NAMES

Sermon Outline



- Only El Shaddai, who is the All-Sufficient One and who alone can provide life-giving nourishment, could produce life through the elderly Abraham and barren Sarah.
- God reveals Himself as El Shaddai in the context of covenant.
 - A covenant is a formal, legally binding agreement.
 - When God reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham, He explained that He is El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One (Genesis 17:1-2).
 - Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ is part of the new covenant (1 Corinthians 11:25).
- God's covenants always involve blessing, and His blessings must be extended to others.
 - God promised to bless Abraham (Genesis 12:2a).
 - God's blessing to Abraham was intended to bless others (Genesis 12:2b-3).

6. DON'T FORGET EL SHADDAI DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP TO FULFILL HIS PROMISES.

- El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One, will keep His promise even if He seems slow..
 - Sarah and Abraham had to wait 25 years (from Genesis 12 to Genesis 18) for God to give them their promised son, Isaac.
 - Even though Abraham and Sarah came up with their own plan to have a son through Sarah's servant, Hagar, because God's plan seemed too slow, God still blessed them with Isaac.
 - Since El Shaddai is the all-sufficient, life-giving, covenant-keeping God, He does not need our help to fulfill His plan.
- When we try to speed up God's plan by human means, we delay His blessing and hinder His plan.
 - When Sarah gave Hagar to Abraham and she gave birth to Ishmael, their action stalled God's plan and created lasting problems for Israel (Galatians 4:22-23).
 - Abraham and Sarah should have trusted El Shaddai, who is all-sufficient and created life from nothing, and waited on His timing.

7. RESPOND TO EL SHADDAI WITH OBEDIENCE AND WORSHIP.

- El Shaddai commands His people to obey.
 - God told Abraham, "Walk before Me and be blameless" (Genesis 17:1).

- Christians must be holy as God is holy (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).
- God's role is to keep His covenant, and our role is to obey and wait.
- When God revealed Himself as El Shaddai, Abraham fell on his face in worship (Genesis 17:3).
 - Abraham realized that he and Sarah had made a mistake by trying to carry out God's plan with Hagar and Ishmael.
 - Abraham humbled himself before God.
- God changes our identity (our "name") to fit His promise and to remind us of His sufficiency to accomplish it.
 - God changed Sarai's name to Sarah, which means mother of nations (Genesis 17:15).
 - Those who believe in Jesus are called Christians, which means little Christs, and this title defines who we are.
 - Christians are also called sons and daughters of God, and these titles reflect our place in the new covenant (Romans 8:15-17).
- El Shaddai will provide for our physical and spiritual needs because He has made a covenant with Christians.
 - When we're beyond our capacity to provide for our physical or spiritual needs, like Sarah, who couldn't conceive a child, El Shaddai must step in.
 - When the hungry crowds greatly outnumbered the fish and loaves available, Jesus multiplied the food and fed more than five thousand (Matthew 14:13-21) and more than four thousand (Matthew 15:32-39).
 - When people realize their sin is a barrier to a relationship with God, El Shaddai provides grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 9:8).
 - Even as Christians, El Shaddai provides sufficient grace when we mess up as Abraham and Sarah did.
 - We must remind ourselves every day that without Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5).

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

EL ELYON IS THE ULTIMATE JUDGE. A health-care law has been passed. Regardless of your political position on the issue, an appeal has been filed for the Supreme Court to hear whether the U.S. government has the right to pass a law mandating Americans to purchase a product. Even though



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Congress passed the law, an appeal is being made to the "most high" human court about the right of even Congress to pass such a law! In other words, someone is going to the highest human court to get a final ruling. What you need to understand about knowing God's name as El Elyon is that you have access to the highest heavenly court of appeals—the Supreme Court of the spiritual realm. And the Judge, El Elyon, owns heaven and earth, time and eternity, history and forever!

EL ELYON CAN PROVIDE A WAY. If you're driving to your destination and get stuck in traffic, what do you do? You can continue driving on the congested highway, but it will take a while because a wreck, construction, or a stalled vehicle is blocking your way. Or you can get off the highway and find another route. Often situations and circumstances impede our progress and prevent us from getting to where we're trying to go. But El Elyon, the Owner and Possessor of all things, can provide another route to get us where He wants us to go.

NO POWER CAN STAND AGAINST EL ELYON. On June 11, 1963, George Wallace defied the federal courts when he blocked all African-American students from entering the University of Alabama. The only problem was that the White House sent the U.S. marshals, who said, "Move out of the way, Mr. Governor." The governor said, "I'm not going anywhere." So the U.S. marshals said, "You have two choices. You can voluntarily move out of the way, or by the authority of the federal government, we will move you out of the way." When the governor's options became clear, he moved out of the way. You see, there was somebody higher in Washington who overruled and opened the doors for African-American students, and this event opened the doors for the integration movement that would spread across the country. Likewise, when heaven decides to move, no power can stand against El Elyon, the Most High Possessor of heaven and earth.

EL SHADDAI PROVIDES LIFE-GIVING NOURISHMENT. When a woman breast-feeds her baby, she supplies what the baby needs for life. Likewise, the root of the word Shaddai means to supply the nourishment that someone needs for life. Both Abraham and Sarah had a problem: they couldn't produce life. Abraham was elderly, and Sarah was barren. How could God's promise—His covenant—be fulfilled when Abraham and Sarah didn't have the capacity to make life or nourish life? Only El Shaddai is sufficient, not only to create and nourish life but also to fulfill His covenant. And He can prove His life-giving sufficiency in our lives too.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:
WORD STUDY ON ELYON. The Hebrew word for God Most High points to God's supreme position as the highest power in heaven and on earth. In Psalm 77 Asaph proclaimed that when he thought he would surely drown in sorrow, he remembered Elyon's faithful deeds. Asaph trusted that God Most High would not only hear his lament but would also act on his behalf by keeping His covenant with Israel. And when God's enemies acted in rebellion against Him, Asaph declared his confidence that the Most High God, Elyon, would show His enemies that He alone is LORD over all the earth (see Psalm 83:18).

WORD STUDY ON SHADDAI. Shaddai comes from the prefix shad, which means breast, and refers to the nourishment a baby receives from his or her mother. Genesis 17:1 uses this word for the LORD, reminding us that only El Shaddai can provide the physical, spiritual, and emotional nourishment we need for life.

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you believe El Elyon is your Source who provides all your resources.

This sermon will help you trust that El Shaddai is all-sufficient to meet all your physical and spiritual needs.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"What makes El-Elyon Most High is He is a Possessor. ... He possesses by virtue of creation. He is also a Possessor because He possesses by rank. Nobody is higher than He is."

"You need to know this name [El Elyon] because there are people and powers that will seek to intimidate you."

"The concept of El Elyon means that you are to never elevate people, places, or things beyond the level that they should have."

"Don't first look at the odds, because a lot of times the number won't give you the final story."

"Whoever [is] your El Elyon is your god! And if your El Elyon is not the true God, then what you're doing is looking to a false god, which is idolatry."



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"Idolatry is simply looking to anything other than the true God to be god in your life."

"What you need to understand about knowing God's name as El Elyon is you have access to the highest court of appeal."

"The principle is simply this: you only have one source! The worst thing you and I can do is treat a resource like it's a source."

"My one Source is Possessor of all other resources because He's the Owner, Possessor, of heaven and earth."

"You've got to clarify what's the Source and what's the resource. A resource is merely the means God uses to get it to you."

"The purpose of the tithe is a visible, physical recognition that El Elyon is the Owner of heaven and earth! When you fail to recognize God's ownership, that means you're unresponsive to El Elyon's blessing."

"That job is not your source. That's why you don't get all shook up if you get a pink slip, because your job was never your source in the first place."

"When you are rightly related to Jesus Christ, you get what Melchizedek gave Abraham because Jesus is the continuation of Melchizedek."

"Jesus Christ is to you what Melchizedek was to Abraham. He is your King of righteousness, your King of peace."

"If the circumstance[s] are not looking in your favor, you need a Melchizedek. You need somebody who's in charge of what's right, who's in charge of the peace, who can make contact with God when you can't even reach God."

"Everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ is part of what the Bible calls the new covenant."

"A blessing is never only what God does to me; that's half a

blessing. A blessing has to go full circle. It's what He does to me in order that it might flow through me."

"God does not want your help, meaning He does not want you to go outside His plan to help Him out."

"When you and I go outside God to help God out, not only do we not help God out, but we delay the blessing. We get in the way of the program. We hinder the progress."

"As El-Shaddai, He has the power to work in the invisible, without something being seen, to bring about the visible."

"We've got stuff, but it hasn't been blessed because it hasn't been put in His position. See, it's better to have a blessed 99 percent than an unblessed 100 percent."

"He's powerful enough to be your sufficiency because of the covenant."