

“The Names of Elohim: God”

Sermon Notes

- **Encountering the names of God will change us, so that we know him, worship him, and respond accordingly.**

In the beginning, God reveals himself as Elohim, the God who is...

(1) Powerful Creator

(2) Purposeful Designer

(3) Principal Sovereign

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of May 1st - 7th

Context

Genesis 1 is the beginning of the revealed story of Scripture. But it wasn't written at the time of creation. It was written, probably by Moses, many years later during the time of Israel's formation as a nation. How does that matter? What was going on for Israel at that time? Why would it have been important for them to tell of the creation account? In their historical context, what can you recall about ancient gods and goddesses in the days of the Israelites?

Who are the modern "gods and goddesses" in our day (e.g. superheroes, Allah, Hindu gods, etc.)?

Observation and Meaning

How are all other "characters" related to the main character, Elohim (God), in Genesis 1?

Name all of the things you learn about Elohim (God) in Genesis 1.

What does it mean that each day was "good"? (Hint: creation is moving from chaos to what?)

What is the pattern of what God did throughout the days of creation?

What do we learn from Gen 1:1-2 and John 1:1-2 about the work of the triune God in creation?

In a single sentence of your own summarize the main idea of the Genesis 1 creation account.

Application

What have you learned or been reminded of, with regard to Elohim: God?

What is hard to reconcile about the Genesis 1 creation account? What modern beliefs stand at odds with this account?

Where are you susceptible to creation worship, rather than Creator worship (Romans 1)?

What observations have you made about God's design for humans, with either masculine or feminine natures? What do you think about this idea?

What is one actionable way that your life changes, as you live in response to Elohim - the God who is Creator, Designer and Sovereign Ruler?