

El Elyon – The Most High God

- 'Most High' (from "to go up") 43x in OT (only 6 with El) 18x in Psalms, 11x in Daniel alone Deut. 26:19, 32:8; Psa. 18:13; Gen. 14:18; Nu. 24:16; Psa. 78:35, 7:17, 18:13, 97:9, 56:2, 78:56, 18:13; Dan. 7:25, 27; Isa. 14:14.
- **Supreme Court** – the highest God of all gods
El Elyon speaks of God's awesome majesty and supreme position as higher than the highest. There is no ruler or government or authority over God, but God the most high is the absolute authority. The most high is to be worshipped and honored as He deserves to be, and to be glorified and acknowledged. No one is to compete for His glory and honor or lift himself up. We do not make God Lord of our lives—He *is* Lord over all. Rather, we acknowledge His authority and right to govern our lives and yield ourselves to Him. We must recognize God *is* lifted up and *is* the Lord of Lords and King of kings.
- **Abraham** acknowledged God as the most High God – Gen. 14:18-20
- **Read – Psalm 83**
Just as Israel is today surrounded by powerful enemies, so she was when David wrote this Psalm. It may sound like David is wanting vengeance, but he is not. Notice the purpose he states—he wants God to chastise the heathen nations surrounding Israel so they will know who God is and recognize Jehovah to be the most high God in authority over all the earth and every people and nation.
Ps 83:18 - That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the **most high** over all the earth.
- **El Elyon humbles** those who refuse to recognize His supreme authority – Psalm 107:10-14
- **Satan** – Lucifer was given great honor and majesty, but became proud and defiant. He did not choose to submit to God's authority, but exalted himself to the place of God's authority. We marvel at Satan's utter arrogance, and yet we do the same as Satan when we know God's commands and follow our own will instead of yielding to God's right to govern our lives and do with us according to His will.
Isa 14:12-15 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the **most High**. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.
- **Nebuchadnezzar** – A great nation and leader, but proud and unwilling to acknowledge and yield to God's authority.

The first encounter with the most High God – The dream Daniel was able to interpret. Notice that Daniel clearly gives glory to God and tells the king that it is God who has given him the kingdom. The king acknowledges God's greater power in verse 46, but does not submit to Him as the ONLY God worthy of worship and obedience. There is no repentance!

Daniel 2:36-38 - This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

The second encounter with the most High God - Daniel's three friends refused to bow to the idol the king made and were thrown into the furnace. When they were not consumed in the flames, the king acknowledges that they are the servants of "the most high God" (verse 26) and that they were honorable in worshipping their God (verse 28), but the most High God is still the God of the Hebrews, not *his* God..

Daniel 3:26 - Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of **the most high God**, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

The third encounter with the most High God – Daniel's interpretation of a second dream. Daniel told the king that God was going to take the kingdom from him for seven years because of his pride and refusal to repent of his sins and acknowledge that it is God who rules over the earth, not he. (Note verses 4:25-27, 32) Note the fact that Daniel infers that the king is the basest of men and is king only to serve God's purposes, yet the king thinks of himself as great and worthy of honor when he says in verse 30 "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" No sooner had he spoken these words than God spoke and removed him from his kingly position.

Daniel 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the **most High** ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

Daniel 4:32 - And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the **most High** ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Nebuchadnezzar's repentance and testimony – Verses 34-37 of chapter 4 testify that the king finally came to his senses and acknowledged who he was and who God is to the end, he now praised and honored the King of Heaven and yielded to His authority..

Daniel 4:34 - And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the **most High**, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

- **Belshazzar**– Read Daniel 5:18-31 – Nebuchadnezzar's grandson knew about all the miraculous encounters with the most High God, yet defied His authority and refused to yield to Him or repent of his sin. God "crashed his party" and wrote his destiny on the wall. The same night, Belshazzar was murdered and the kingdom was given to another.

The following is from the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

“Nebuchadnezzar of Daniel 4 is the second king of Babylon by that name, is best known as the king who conquered Judah, and carried the people of the Jews captive to Babylon. Of all the heathen monarchs mentioned by name in the Scriptures, N. is the most prominent and most important. The prophecies of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, and the last chapters of Kings and Chronicles centered about his life, and he stands prominent, along with the Pharaohs of the oppression and the exodus, among the foes of the kingdom of God. The documents which have been discovered in Babylon and elsewhere within the past 75 years have added much to our knowledge of this monarch, and have in general confirmed the Biblical accounts concerning him.

The purpose of the book of Daniel is not to give an account of the life of Daniel. It does not provide his lineage, age, or very many events. The book is not meant to give a record of the history of Israel during the exile or of the captivity of Babylon. Its purpose is to show how by His providential guidance, His miraculous interventions, His foreknowledge and almighty power, the God of Heaven controls and directs the forces of nature and the history of nations, the lives of Hebrew captives and of the mightiest of the kings of the earth, for the accomplishment of His divine and beneficial plans for His servants and people.”

Historical facts of interest regarding Nebuchadnezzar

N. reigned 43 years - 604 BC - 501 BC Won many significant battles and conquered many peoples.

N. carried away vessels of the temple in Judah and took captives of those with noble lineage and education which included Daniel. Daniel rose to a prominent position in his kingdom by interpreting the dream of the great image.

N. put Jehoiakim, king of Judah in captivity and killed him. Put Jehoiakim's successor, Jehoiachin, in captivity in Babylon 37 years.

On numerous building inscriptions of N. he speaks of foes he had conquered and of many peoples whom he ruled. Note boast in Daniel 4:30 "Is not this great Babylon that I have built?"

N. put special emphasis on building temples and shrines to gods. He built paved streets, great walls, moats, gates, dams, and numerous bronze and gold idols.

N. inscriptions demonstrate that he was a very religious man. He practiced many offerings and ceremonies in connection with the worship of gods. He closed his inscriptions with hymns and a prayer. No mention is made of his ceremonies including pouring or sprinkling of blood, nor is any reference made to atonement, or to sin.

N. successor was Belshazzar (writing on wall) then Darius the Mede (Lion's den)