



Lewiston Church of Christ

March 17, 2019

Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

Randy Thornton: 208-758-3289

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee' Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

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Great Words in God's Word

(Fourth in a series of bulletin articles on Bible words)

“Elohim”

God exists beyond our limited understanding of Him. He is greater than any words can describe. Nevertheless, to get through our thick human brains, God chose to reveal Himself to us in both deeds and words over time. Our primary source for comprehending Him and His deeds is the Bible.

In the Old Testament, “*EI*” is the singular form of the Hebrew word for God (or god) and “*Elohim*” (אֱלֹהִים) is the masculine plural form. But that’s a grammatical technicality that does not always determine its meaning. In actual usage, *Elohim* can singularly refer to *YHWH*, or to a plurality of ‘gods’ in general, including the Canaanite pantheon of gods or the gods of Egypt. Since it can be used flexibly, we need context to define it.

The God of the Bible is personal and specific. Therefore, *YHWH* (His proper name) occurs 6,828 times in the Old Testament and *Elohim* occurs 2600 times (“*E*” is used 238 times). While *Elohim* is the general term for deity, in the Hebrew Bible it usually refers to *YHWH*. One of the main points of the Bible is that *Elohim* is *YHWH* and *YHWH* is *Elohim* (the name “Joel” literally means, “*YHWH* is *Elohim*”).” It was “*Elohim*” who spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai from a burning bush and introduced Himself as “*YHWH*.” (Exodus 3:4)

Despite all the notions about deity that humans contrive, the oneness of God comes through in God’s word. A command that Jesus called the “greatest” declares, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

The passage above uses *YHWH* (Lord) and *Elohim* (God) interchangeably. So, while *Elohim* can refer to any number of presumed deities, singular and plural, the only *Elohim* in God’s word who stands as the one true God is the God of Israel: ***YHWH***.

Joel Solliday