**God Is Government - Tony Evans Teaching - God's Names(6)**

On August 5th, 2010, a wall collapsed in Chile, in a mine, trapping 33 men in a dark place, in a pit. They were in a hole, with no way out. They couldn't see, and they were surrounded by things they couldn't penetrate.

Over 2,000 feet underground. They were in, I am sure you know, 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, there were 33 men, and they were all in the same hole.

It's hard when the only folk who can help you are in the same hole you in. All of us knows what it's like to be in a pit. To be in a hole that you can't get out of, stuck in a place where you're locked in on.

If they were ever going to get out, if they were ever going to be delivered, if things were ever going to change, something from up high would need to drill down low to reach them in their hole. They couldn't get up. Something up there had to reach down where they were to deliver them.

Abraham found himself in a situation in the book of Genesis chapter 14. There had been a number of wars in the cities, in the southern plains. We're introduced in verse 4 and 5 of chapter 14 to Chido Lamar, who led one of these coalitions of kings who was bringing havoc to the area.

Verse 11 tells us, they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply and departed. So he and his group of kings who had aligned with him were overriding other cities and other kings and other communities. So hell had broken out and chaos was ruling as plundering took place.

Verse 12 brings the story closer to home because we're told they also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed for he was living in Sodom. Those of you who know the history of this story knows that there was too much tension between Abram and Lot and the size of their cattle and the size of their crews and they couldn't occupy the same space. So Abraham told Lot, why don't you choose an area for you and your team to go to and your cattle to go to and I'll take another area so we don't have this conflict.

It says that Lot looked out and saw how green the pastures were at Sodom and he went down to Sodom and took his commercial enterprise there. In other words, he looked at the financial success he could have in a wicked territory. So he chose Sodom even though it was an evil territory because it had green pastures.

But lo and behold we find in this story in verse 12 that when the wars broke out among the kings that they didn't care who Lot was, where Lot came from, or who Lot was related to. Because we're told because he was in the environment that was being overrun, Sodom, that he and all that he possessed was taken captive too. So Lot is in a bad situation which automatically calls to Abram's, his uncle's attention.

Verse 13, a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Verse 14, when Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive he let out by his trained men born in his house 318 and went in pursuit as far as Dan. Don't mess with my peeps.

He divided his forces against them by night. He and his servants and defeated them and pursued them as far as Hobah which is in the north of Damascus. Abraham hears that this consortium of kings have routed Sodom and taken his nephew Lot hostage, his family, and all that he possessed.

When Abram discovers this, he gathers 318 of his trained men to go get his nephew back. This is a very determined situation because you've got 318 men going against a coalition of armies. 318, notice he said trained men.

He got the best that he could find. He didn't take any old man. He had a man who was willing to stand up, be equipped, to take on the responsibility to fight the battle.

Being a male wasn't good enough. You had to be a man for this one. And so he takes 318 trained men and it says he chased them to Dan and then he chased them to Hobah.

That's 240 miles. Without a car, a jeep, without an army vehicle, without a plane, 240 miles, I'm going to get my nephew back. I'm going to get my stuff back.

And you can't have what doesn't belong to you. So Abram in determination with 318 men recovers what had been taken, verse 16. He brought back all the goods and also brought back his relative lot with his possessions, also the women and the people.

He got it all back. I'm just wondering whether anybody has routed your life and taken stuff that they ought not have simply because you were overpowered. I wonder if anybody's ever invaded your circumstances and stolen your joy, stolen your peace, stolen your provisions, stolen your hope, stolen your tomorrow, stolen your future.

And has taken it away and you don't know where to find it. Abraham determined that lot would not be a casualty of war. Began to pursue him.

Two hundred and some forty miles, whatever it took to get back what was not rightfully theirs. The odds were against him, yet he recovered it all. Now, that's the backdrop to our name for God.

That's the sitzenleben, that's the situation in life that causes this new name for God in our series to become known. Because when the king of Sodom has been released from this consortium of armies that have attacked, he comes along with another king that had been delivered. And that king's name, verse 18, is Melchizedek.

The king of Salem brought bread and wine. He was a priest of, here it is, El Elyon, God most high. He blessed him, blessed Abraham of God most high.

So El Elyon again. And blessed, verse 20, El Elyon, God most high. Verse 22, Abraham said to the king of Sodom, I have sworn to Yahweh El Elyon, the Lord God most high.

So in just a few verses, we're introduced to this name for God, El Elyon. Remember El is the abbreviated form of Elohim. Elohim is the name given to God in creation.

In the beginning, Elohim created the heavens and the earth. And it talks about God's power, El. Elyon means highest or most.

It's from a word that is pronounced Elah. Elah, and it has to do with that being at the highest level. That being exalted, that which ascends or that which climbs.

So that's where we get the most high. El, power, Elyon, highest. So God most high.

What causes this name to come up in this context? What causes this name to come up is that God is higher than anybody else who thought they were in charge. He is the most high. The kings were high until El Elyon got into the fight.

When El Elyon got into the fight, he was most high. So that's why we've designated it in our title, the most high ruler. Notice why he is called El Elyon.

He is called El Elyon, verse 19. He blessed be Abraham of God most high, possessor of heaven and earth. Now, I don't know who you know, who you think is high.

I'm sure you've got some folk in your life who are high. They are high by position. Maybe they have a higher rank than you.

Maybe they're high by possession. They have more stuff than you. Maybe they're more high by recognition.

More people know of them than you. But whoever you know, as high as they may appear to be, be perceived to be, elevate themselves to be, no matter how high they are, they are a user of heaven and earth. Whoever you know is a user of something that has already been previously created for them.

Everything you have, you have because it existed before you got it. So on your best day, you are a user of something that predated you. Even if you missed the big stuff.

Even if you are high of rank, notoriety, possessions, power, privilege, whatever it is, you are merely a user of something. What makes El Elyon most high is he is a possessor. He is a possessor because his first name is El.

He possesses by virtue of creation. He is also a possessor by Elyon because he possesses by rank. That is, nobody is higher than he is.

So the statement is, I am going to bless you because of El Elyon or God most high. Now the reason why you need to know this name of God is because it allows you to put everybody else in their place. See, you need to know this name because there are people and powers that will seek to intimidate you.

There are the collection of kings because they think they in charge. The kings who want to rout and run your life. So you need to know El Elyon to know that there is always somebody higher than the highest person you know or the highest influence you have operating in your life.

You are to respect people. You are to honor people. The Bible says you give honor to whom honor is due.

But let's get something straight. Let's get something straight. I don't care how high you go.

You are not the most high. You are not the final court of appeal. Do you remember Satan? Isaiah 14 talks about Satan's rebellion against God.

And when it gets down to what he really wanted, it says, I want to be like the most high. I want to be El Elyon. I want to be the final court of appeal.

I want to be the place where everything winds up. What Satan's desire is, is to be like God by being the final place of authority. So the concept of El Elyon means that you are to never elevate people, places, or things beyond the level that they should have.

And absolutely nobody, and when I say nobody, I mean nobody, is to be your final court of appeal. Because whoever or whatever you make as your final court of appeal, you just made your El Elyon. You have said you are my God because you have the final say so.

Whoever has the final say so is most high. And if you want to give the final say so to another human being, if you want to give a final say so to yourself. Because you may be like the devil, you may want to be like El Elyon.

You may want to be your own highest because there's nobody higher than me. Throughout the Bible, men and demons recognize God as the most high. When the demons wanted to leave the crazy man, okay, he had mental illness and he wanted the demons, the demons asked Jesus for permission.

Can we go into the pigs? Don't cast us out to never never land. Do we have your permission? Because even the devil recognizes that there's somebody higher than him. Now, if the devil recognizes it and you don't, you're worse than the devil.

So our situation is that this concept of El Elyon means he is the final say so, the supreme authority who possesses the right to overrule. What did he overrule? He got 318 men, trained men, to overcome a collection of kings and their armies. The numbers were not in Abram's favor.

The circumstances were not in Abram's favor. He had 318 men, of course, plus El Elyon, the most high who overrules. So I need you to understand something, because if you don't understand this, you're going to miss the point.

And that is, don't first look at the odds. I mean, the Yankees payroll was 200 million. The Rangers payroll was 50 million.

See, you just can't look at the numbers all the time. Because a lot of times the numbers won't give you the final story. Respect your boss, don't call him El Elyon.

Respect your mate, don't call him El Elyon. Respect your banker, but don't think he's El Elyon because he does not possess heaven and earth. He got this little shack he working with.

Because remember now, whoever your El Elyon is, is your God. And if your El Elyon is not the true God, if your El Elyon is not Elohim, if it's not the true God, then what you're doing is looking to a false God to do for you. Which is idolatry.

Idolatry is simply looking to anything other than the true God to be God in your life. And so that is our scenario. That is what the word means.

You and I can appreciate this when it comes to the Supreme Court. There are many courts. There are many acclaimed courts and appellate courts and federal courts.

You got all these different courts. But then there is the El Elyon Court. This is the Supreme Court.

You know the importance of the Supreme Court is their ability to overrule lower court decisions. So the lower court may say no or yes. But if that thing ever works its way up to the Supreme Court, and they decide to hear the case, remember that.

If they decide to hear the case, don't forget that. If they decide to hear the case, I'm coming back to that. If they decide to hear the case, it then does not matter about lower level decisions.

Because they can be overridden by the highest court. The Elyon Court. The one that has the final say so.

What you need to understand about knowing God's name as El Elyon is you have access to the highest court of appeal. The Supreme Court. How big is this court? It owns heaven and earth, time and eternity, history and forever.

It is the final court of appeal. Now, all this has been introduction. Because two things happen here.

When Abram has been victorious, when the odds were against him, two of the kings that had been overridden come to him. The king of Sodom comes to him. When the king of Sodom comes to him, he says, let's make a deal.

Verse 21. The king of Sodom said to Abraham, give the people to me and take the goods for yourself. Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have sworn to Yahweh El Elyon, Lord God Most High, possessor, somebody say possessor, of heaven and earth.

I will not take a thread or a sandal or anything that is yours for fear you would say I have made Abraham rich. Let's talk about the first king. The king of Sodom, who was one of the nations delivered by Abram, says, Abram, you're a bad boy.

You did a great job. So here's what I want us to do. You give the people to me, because he had set all the people free.

You give the people to me and you keep all the stuff. Now, how are you going to cut a deal when you were the loser? Stick with me now, I'm going somewhere. He was one of the places that had been captured by the consortium of kings.

Abraham delivers him and he said, let's make a deal. You give all the people to me, you keep all the goods. Let's put this thing down the middle in light of the victory.

Wait a minute now. Last time I checked, you were captive, you were a slave, you needed to be delivered. I delivered you and you want to discuss a deal.

You want to negotiate. Abram says, well, we're not going to negotiate and here's why. What you want to do is you want to take these people and you want to claim them as your slaves so you can go back and declare victory.

Now, how do I know that's what the king of Sodom was thinking? Because Abraham said, lest they think you get the credit. See, he wanted to parade. You know some people like this.

He wanted to parade like, look at what we did. We got all these people back. We got all these folk who are now going to serve us.

Look at what we did. You did nothing but be a loser. But what you want is you want to share credit for something you had absolutely nothing to do with.

You want me to watch this now. You want me to take God's blessing and share it with you so you can get credit for it. Let me put it another way.

You want to take some of the glory that belongs to God alone and you want me to cut a deal with you so you can share his glory. There's a biblical principle here. The Bible says God will share his glory with no man.

Let me explain this to you. The devil always wants to cut a deal with you. He always wants to cut a deal for you and he to share God's glory.

For you and he to kind of joint venture and become a partnership so that you can share. He says I will not compromise and share God's glory with you so that you being an evil nation Sodom and Gomorrah can take God's glory and incorporate it into your evil enterprise. He says I'm not going to do that.

In fact let me tell you how definitive. I'm not going to take a thread. We're talking a needle and a thread.

I don't want a needle sewing kit. I don't want any thread because you had nothing to do with this. That leads him to the second king and it's the second king who introduces us to the word El Elyon.

Verse 18 Melchizedek the king of Salem. Okay watch this now. Melchizedek means king of righteousness Salem means peace and would become the name of Jerusalem the city of peace.

So he is the king of the city that one day would become Jerusalem the city of peace. He comes having been delivered with bread and wine. So he comes and he offers sustenance to Abraham.

He was a priest of God most high. Okay wait a minute now. Melchizedek means king of righteousness.

He's king of a city called peace and he's also a priest. Okay wait a minute. He's the king.

He's the righteous king. He's the righteous king over a city called peace and he's the righteous king over a city called peace who's also a priest of the most high God. So he's righteous as a man.

He's a king. He's a priest over a community called peace. I'm just trying to tell you who he is.

His name is Melchizedek. Melchizedek came and blessed Abraham. He blessed him.

To bless is to dispense favor to and through. He dispensed favor on him. Having been blessed he blesses him verse 19 in the name of the most high God.

I bless you in the name of El Elyon. And the reason I Melchizedek can bless you Abraham is I'm a priest. And the job of a priest is to stand between God and the people and be the point of transition from God to the people and from the people back to God.

The priest is the in-between person. He's the mediator. Well, wait a minute now.

I thought Melchizedek you were king. Because if you were king that means you in charge. I'm in charge but I'm also a priest.

So I'm in charge but I also stand between. Therefore I bless you but I also want to stand between you and God to let you know that God most high is on your side and I am one who is a priest of the possessor the owner the one who's in charge of heaven and earth. And blessed be God most high who has delivered your enemies into your hands.

How did he get delivered? I thought he got delivered from 318 men. That's what I thought. I thought they went over 240 miles to deliver them.

But Melchizedek said that's not watch this I'm going somewhere you don't want to miss this your 318 men were not your source of deliverance. They were your resource of deliverance. I got to say that slow because if you ever get this if you ever get this one everything changes for you everything changes for you.

I got this about 20 years ago or 20 years ago when I really came to fully understand this and it has been one of the most revolutionary principles in my life. Melchizedek says to Abraham the way you got delivered from the situation you and your nephew Lot were in was by El Elyon and the reason that El Elyon could deliver you is because he possesses heaven and earth. Now where were the kings who were causing your problem? On earth.

They were an earthly situation. Guess what? He owns heaven and earth so he came to bear. That's why 318 men could look like 30,000 or 300,000 men because they were joined by El Elyon.

What is the principle I'm trying to get you if you get this everything forever in your life changes. 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.

One of the reasons we are so messed up is we treat resources like they're El Elyon. I don't know if you hear me. When I discovered I knew it but when I existentially discovered that is experientially came into the realization that I Tony Evans only has one source but my one source is possessor of all other resources because he's the owner possessor of heaven and earth.

That means you don't have the last word. You can tell me no all you want to but if my source disagrees with my resource he'll pick up another resource because I never made you my source. Listen, listen see this is a freeing concept El Elyon is a freeing concept.

If I'm driving to downtown I'm on my way to downtown you know the direct route from this church to downtown is I-35 north. You get on I-35 north and you make your way to downtown but sometimes on my way down I-35 north it's blocked. Sometimes it's construction sometimes it's an accident and you get stuck.

You're stuck. There's nowhere to go. There's cars all over the place.

You're stuck on I-35. You're trying to get to where you're trying to go but cars have blocked you. Situations have stopped you.

Circumstances have impeded you and you can't get where you're trying to go. However for those of you who've been living here for a minute you know I-35 north is not your only option. If I get stuck going I-35 north trying to go downtown I'm going to get off at the next exit if I see that you're blocking me and I can't make progress I'm going to get off I'm going to cross over to Jefferson I'm going to turn right to the Jefferson Street Bridge I'm going to cross over and I'm going downtown.

But you say suppose it's blocked that's okay because I'm going to get off on Illinois and I'm going to go through South Dallas and I'm going to work my way around. See I have about five options available to me. I may get off on Keystone pull over and go down there and cross over to Zang and catch Zang and cross over to Zang and take over to Beckley and work my way down to downtown.

In other words while 35 is my preferred route my 35 is my desired route while 35 is my quickest route I just want you to know it's not my only route. Well now if I've got different routes to get downtown when my stuff gets blocked on my way there I want you to know the one who made downtown the possessor of heaven and earth ain't no one person block you ain't no one situation stop you not when El Elyon says that's not my only route. The problem is you think I'm stuck because you're stuck.

I've got options that you don't have any idea of because his name is El Elyon. See you've got to clarify what's a source and what's a resource. A resource is merely the means God uses to get it to you.

In this case he used 318 men. For Gideon he used 300 men. God has many of resources but it's a resource.

Look, look, look you go shopping at the grocery store cause the grocery store provides your food. No it doesn't. All the grocery store is is a resource.

Cause see when you go pick up the fruit and the vegetables in the grocery store that only got there because it was preceded by growing on somebody's farm and it only grew on somebody's farm cause seed had to be planted and the seed that had to be planted only grew cause there was ground for it to grow in but in order for it to grow out of the ground it needed from heaven rain and sunshine so heaven provided rain and sunshine to the seed on the ground planted by the farmer that produced the produce that got delivered to the grocery store so that you go thank the grocer but don't think the grocer is your source he's merely your resource he's merely your point of access and you say well what if my grocery store shuts down keep driving keep driving cause there's another store somewhere that's gonna provide you your fruits and vegetables don't get so stuck what do we do when we get bad service I'm not shopping here anymore you know why you can say that cause you know there are other options available to you see when Elyon is your source the thing that's blocking you is not your only option it's just the only option you see it's the only option you're used to it's the only option you're familiar with but Elyon owns it possessor of heaven and earth but I ain't finished okay watch this watch this this is the part you don't like I'm gonna tell you that mad cause I know you don't like it in advance but it's in the text the end of verse 20 says he gave him a tithe of all now you didn't quit closing your bibles I see you closing your bibles on me why did he give him a tithe and this is before the law we don't have the law the law of Moses hasn't even come yet you know Malachi 3.10 bring all the tithe into the storehouse we ain't even got there yet the law isn't there so whatever this tithe is preceded the law one of the things you will always see whenever God was going to bless something or somebody he would tell them to keep something back for him going all the way back to the garden of Eden no sin nothing's wrong but what is it from every tree of the garden you may freely eat you've been blessed but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat it lest you die he held back something why did he hold back the tree in the garden and why does Abram hold back the tithe he holds it back for you to confirm you recognize his ownership the purpose of the tithe is a visible physical recognition that I recognize 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 he responded because he had been blessed God had already provided bread and wine through Mount Kethedek it was his response to all that God had already done you know why you know why tithing is such a problem because we don't recognize what it does what it says you know what it says it says I give you permission to own me because when I'm in a hole and I need something to come from above I want to be owned by you I want you to own me it really should be no problem tithing now because you recognize now that what that means is you're acknowledging God you're my only source so I'm in a situation where I'm blocked on 35 I need you to come up with a new highway but I've given you permission to own me see it was a tangible demonstration of ownership that's what it was and it gave him a tithe of all he had it was no problem he didn't have to beg for it he didn't have to make him feel guilty if he didn't get it he didn't have to go down the road and call people's name out who give it and not call people's name out who didn't give it he didn't have to do that because he understood that this was a spiritual principle about your source let me explain something your job is not your source see as long as you think your job is your source then your boss is Elyon your 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 Elyon's my source I acknowledge him, I worship him as heaven and earth, I offer him my tithe because I'm banking on Elyon to find me a new spot to show me another highway I have one source one source and if you ever get this if you ever understand that you only have one source that overrules on June 11th, 1963 George Wallace defied the federal courts and he blocked the entrance to the University of Alabama he said no African American students no black students, no negroes are going to come into this school and he and his police force gathered out to block entrance to two students, two black students who were coming in the only problem is is that the White House sent U.S. Marshals and they said move out the way Mr. Governor of Alabama he said I'm not going anywhere well let me explain this to you you have two choices you can voluntarily move out the way or by virtue of the federal government we will move you out the way when he made the instructions inextricably clear when his options became clear they moved out of the way you see there was somebody higher up in Washington who overruled and who opened the doors for two students which opened the doors for integration and that spread across the country you see when heaven decides to move when up north decides to move down south has got to adjust that's El Elyon that's Melchizedek now I would like to end the sermon here but the New Testament won't let me so turn your Bibles real quick to the book of Hebrews turn the Bible to the book of Hebrews see if I was you I'd not only start tithing I'd make up for all those tithings I missed if I was you because I want to be owned by the owner of heaven and earth I ain't talking about you I said if I was you look chapter 5 verse 5 so also Christ did not glorify himself so as to become a high priest but he who said to him you are my son today I have begotten you just as he also said in another passage you are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek ooh he says in verse 10 being designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek concerning him we have much to say and it's hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing ooh the word dull of hearing means mule headed he says I'm trying to tell y'all something but your head is so like mules you not paying attention he says if you ever understood Melchizedek cause concerning him I got so much to tell you but if you weren't so mule headed you would understand that if you understand Melchizedek your life will never be the same but then he finally gets back to Melchizedek in chapter 7 and then he says for this verse 1 Melchizedek king of Salem peace priest of the most high God there he is most high God who met Abraham that's what we just went over in chapter 14 of Genesis as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him in whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of his spoils was first of all by the translation of his nature king of righteousness that's what his name means and then also king of Salem which is king of peace oh no you didn't he says Melchizedek is a king of a whole bunch of stuff he's king of righteousness he's king of peace he says he is king and he is ruler and that is his name he says without father or mother wait a minute there he says Melchizedek had no genealogy we can't trace back his mama or his daddy he says he says without mother and father having neither beginning of days nor end of days but made like the son of God he remains a priest perpetually oh oh no you didn't he says when back there when Abraham ran into Melchizedek he said let me tell you who Abraham ran into he ran into a king whose name is king of righteousness who's also the king of peace who's also the one who is a priest to the most high God and he says he had neither mother nor father but was like the son of God wait a minute now I'm going somewhere he says and Jesus Christ is after the order of Melchizedek he says when you are rightly related to Jesus Christ you get what Melchizedek gave to Abraham cause he says Jesus is the continuation of Melchizedek so who was Melchizedek he was the king of righteousness so there was a divine standard he is the king of peace he overrules the conflict he is the priest of God the one who stands between men and God to bring God to men and to bring the blessings and work of God down to men he says Jesus Christ is your Melchizedek in fact Jesus Christ may very well have been Melchizedek because it says he had no father or mother that is he was from eternity Jesus Christ is to you what Melchizedek was to Abraham he is your king of righteousness your king of peace and your in between person you need somebody who is in charge of what is right who is in charge of the peace that in spite of the conflict you are going through and you can make contact with God when you can't even reach God but it says Jesus is after the order of Melchizedek so if Jesus is in the right place that gets your case heard in the court of heaven but if you don't trust Melchizedek if you don't believe Jesus Christ to be who he is and don't treat him as the king of righteousness as the king of peace and as your in between priest person to God if you don't give him that credence if you don't give him that credit then your case cannot be heard that's why you end your prayer in Jesus name cause I want my case to be heard that means you gotta be right with God you've gotta have his standard and you've gotta be operating under the authority of Christ so that he can say God I'm your priest and Evans has got a case down there and the law courts are blocking him people are blocking him you remember the story when they told us we couldn't meet in the school anymore you remember that story and we were sitting there and they had everybody against us but God let there be an accident on the highway that blocked the people that were against us so they couldn't get to the meeting in time they had the vote the vote was in our favor they came in right after the vote it was too late because they had been blocked on the highway I can testify today that God will interrupt a situation overrule a situation cause guess what I learned his name and his name is El Elyon and that means he owns the last word he is my supreme court so when it comes to offering time you think I have a problem oh I'm gonna do what I gotta do cause I know I got access to a supreme court I got somebody who's gonna make the last word I got somebody who is my source you can't threaten me you can't overrun me you can't make me quiver why cause you not my source I got a source up there I appreciate if you my resource I'm a thank you if my resource but don't ask me to call you El Elyon cause you ain't all that you use heaven and earth but I know somebody who owns heaven and earth and his name is El Elyon he owns it he is the final word