

Eloah - The Only God

Would you testify unjustly on God's (Eloah's) behalf or speak deceitfully for Him? Would you show partiality to Him or argue the case in His (Eloah's) defense? Would it go well if He examined you? Could you deceive Him as you would deceive a man? Surely He would rebuke you if you secretly showed partiality. Would God's majesty not terrify you? Would His dread not fall on you? Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ash; your defenses are made of clay.
– Job 13:7-12 HCSB

There is a tendency on the part of many Christians to try to defend God. They read portions of Scripture that make God seem scary or bloody or vengeful and think to themselves, "This does not fit my view of a loving, kind and gracious God. This passage of Scripture must not be truly inspired. It was added by mere men."

But I would like to introduce you to another name of God – Eloah. It is a name that has been used since around 2200 BC. It is God's name when He or mankind is trying to emphasize that He is the only God – not merely the God of Israel.

Some trace *Eloah* to *alah* ("to terrify") or *alih* ("to be perplexed, afraid; to seek refuge because of fear"). *Eloah* and *Elohim*, therefore, would be "He who is the object of fear or reverence," or "He with whom one who is afraid takes refuge". Contradictory? Not at all. Isn't the policeman both an object of fear to the criminal and an object of comfort to the law-abiding citizen? We must maintain a balanced view of God.

We must make sure that we do not add to the Scriptures in order to make them more "palatable." After all, isn't that the error Eve committed in the Garden of Eden?¹ For some reason she felt she had to add to God's word to make it more emphatic. When the serpent (under the inspiration of Lucifer) challenged her on the addition, it of course broke down. She then began to doubt God. But it wasn't God's part that broke down, it was hers! We must neither add nor detract from God's Word.²

Eloah is simultaneously an object of fear to those who disobey Him and a source of comfort to those who submit to Him. He does not need us to defend Him. He merely requires our testimony to be honest, impartial and complete.

¹ Genesis 3

² Revelation 22:19-20