Chapter One

Preamble & Introduction

Preamble

At the very apex of life experiences and expectations of humanity is the reality of a Supreme Spirit Being who looms large in the conscious and subconscious mind. The people of the world have varying measures of enlightenment of Who God is and thus respond to Him according to the degree of light they have. Within every human heart and conscience is a deep hole which can only be filled by knowledge of the only true God who transcends cultures of humanity.

The human quest to connect with the unseen and unknown supreme reality is the basis of all religious systems as Paul aptly said to the Athenians on Mars Hill.

> **Acts 17:21-31 (KJV)** 21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.) 22 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though

> he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

On the other hand, the faith and life we are called to rests on a different paradigm. God reveals Himself to those whose hearts are inclined to know Him not by the intellect but in spirit and yearn for the truth of who He is. This knowledge is hinged on a revelation of the only link between divinity and humanity, even the person and redemptive mission of Yeshua, Jesus . It is safe to say that the uniform testimony of scripture shows that after the crucifixion and resurrection of Yeshua, Jesus, there is no other way to Elohim God than by and through Him.

> **John 14:6 (KJV)** 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

This truth of course constitutes a stumbling block to all who cannot receive it.

In this course we will not seek to explore the depth of understanding of the various religious systems who try to frame God into their own mental boxes. The Supreme Being Who is the object of our study is uniquely different from the gods of various religions. Our study is of Elohim Whose portrait fills the Holy Scriptures – both the Old and New Testaments. We make the clear case of His distinct and unique personality by calling Him the Hebraic names for which He revealed Himself to Moses, Abraham and faith worthies of Old.

Our ultimate assignment is to allow Elohim God to use this teaching to grant His own people deeper insight into His person and identity so that worship of Him shall be conducted in understanding and faith by the ministration of the Holy Spirit who alone can grant understanding.

General Introduction to Theology

Christendom has gravitated to the worship of the 'Unknown God'. Across the world, people are 'in church' not to know and worship He Who Is the Supreme Being, but rather drawn into religious enclaves where they encounter men and women of God whose charisma and miracle working, or prophetic mantles are advertised as proof of ability to secure and guarantee divine intervention. The picture is disturbing:

multitudes flock to a fellow human who uses all possible tools not to reveal God to them but to make them his or her clients. These ministers supposedly have greater access to God and can receive whatever they demand from Him. Those who come are supposed to have no direct access to Him. In other words, popular modern-day Church culture fosters the concept of ministers as mediators between an All-Powerful God and a weak, helpless clientele.

The outcome of this strange fire is the average Christian walks in a state of co-dependency with part of the heart trusting God and the other part placing all trust in the word and actions of the intermediary. To sustain this tendency, a set of rituals that are performed inside religious centres on certain holy days act as a placebo which mitigates absence of vibrant personal relationship with God.

The Remedy: to know Elohim personally

The picture painted above ought not to be. This is because to know and understand Elohim is the mother of all knowledge as written in the Word:

> **Jeremiah 9:23-24 (KJV)** 23 Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

Three principal ways of knowing Elohim

The three principal ways to know Elohim, the God of heaven Who created and sustains the world are:

i. By a direct revelation from Him. This is entirely in His hands. Therefore the mystery of Election drives this process. This reality is true concerning all the personalities in the Godhead called Elohim!

> **John 3:27 (KJV)** 27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.
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> **John 6:44 (KJV)** 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
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> **John 6:65 (KJV)** 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

ii. By diligent study of the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Scriptures were inspired by Holy Spirit as Peter states in 2 Peter 1:20-21. What Holy Scriptures say of Elohim when understood and received in the heart have transformative effect on the redeemed. It is necessary therefore that discussions and expositions of the subject matter should not be academic and detached. There is need for Holy Spirit to inspire and direct teachings and writings just as it was in the first place.

> **2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)** 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

iii. By combination of direct revelation and diligent study. For the average saint, this combination is very needful. This combination can only be meaningful when the hearts of the seekers are filled with humility and genuine importunate desire to know Him.

> **Isaiah 57:15 (KJV)** 15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Definition of Elohim: Who Is Elohim God?

Elohim God is the Eternal Reality and Supreme Spirit Being Who created heaven and earth, mankind, other creatures and the things that fill the earth with form for His Own good pleasure, He sustains all creation by His own will and power as He alone rules and reigns over the affairs of mankind.

> **Daniel 4:34-35 (KJV)** 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: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

The Mystery of Elohim

Two principles about the mystery that Elohim is are helpful so we can truly rely on Him to tell us Who He Is.

1. Elohim Is a Mystery. The logic behind this assertion cannot be faulted.

He existed in time past well before we were conceived in the womb. Guessing Who He Is does not make sense. The problem with many theological studies is the tendency to try to fit Elohim into denominational boxes of spiritual ideology. This is often based on preconceived notions or limitations of understandings of Who Elohim is received by human founders of such denominations. In this way, many tend to forget that Elohim is intrinsically a mystery! How can humans with finite minds describe Elohim Who has an infinite Mind?

It truly makes sense therefore to rely on Elohim to reveal Himself to us as we posture in humility before Him. It is therefore necessary that we rely on the degree of revelation He grants to form the basis of our walk with Him while keeping our minds open to greater and deeper things that He may choose to unfold at the time He chooses.

> **Deuteronomy 29:29 (KJV)** 29 The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.
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> **John 4:21-24 (KJV)** 21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for

salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

2. The Mystery of Elohim will end one day, and we shall have full knowledge.

Our time on this side of eternity is like a pilgrimage as conceptualised by Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:20-21. During this period time defines life. The Holy Scriptures makes clear that there will be a day when time is no more! That time, we will be perfected in our knowledge of Elohim because the shroud of mystery is taken away.

Revelation 10:7 (KJV) 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets

1 Corinthians 13:9-12 (KJV) 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 John 3:2 (KJV) 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall

be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

This introduction leads us to humble ourselves to learn from Him about Who He Is!

A Spirit-led study of the Holy Scriptures, free of agenda is the only viable way to truly understand Elohim!

> **2 Peter 1:16-21 (KJV)** 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Holy Spirit Who inspired the writing of the texts of the sacred scriptures is at the end of the day, the best authority to enable us to diligently compare scripture with scripture so that a more complete Portrait of the Most High Elohim can be drawn in human language.

> **Isaiah 28:10 (KJV)** 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Understanding Elohim leads to better relationship

When we truly know Him, we can certainly relate better with Him – on His Own terms, not our personal preferences or perspectives. When we know Him, we can appreciate the import of His Words as final authority in our lives and instrument of saving our souls from the pulls of Satan, Sin, Flesh and the World.

In order to come to that the full scope of understanding, it is needful to take a systematic look at Elohim as presented in the Holy Scriptures, right from Genesis Chapter 1 and stretching to Revelation chapter 22. While the Holy Scriptures have various revelations of His mighty acts, they are also in essence a multi-dimensional presentation of an Elohim Who is peculiar and unique!

Three Courses will form the basis of a fuller theological understanding of Him. Let us give notice that the theology we speak of is from a Kingdom rather than academic or religious context. These three courses, when combined, will lead us to the inescapable conclusion that two mysteries of Elohim are indeed not mutually exclusive but rather mutually inclusive, namely:

1. There is only One Elohim as the Shema of Israel proclaims:

> **Deuteronomy 6:4 (KJV)** 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

2. Yet that same unique Elohim very clearly throughout the Holy Scriptures is revealed to comprise three Personalities. Right from the first chapter of the Holy Scriptures, the 'Us' factor of Elohim is vividly portrayed!

> **Genesis 1:26-27 (KJV)** 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Our next lesson will explore deeper depths of the triune nature of Elohim which is a cornerstone of the Kingdom! Our lives and identities as Kingdom citizens and ambassadors are directly tied to His triune personality which works in mysterious and not so mysterious ways to separate us from those who do not know Him. No one, no matter how educated or informed can grasp these mysteries through logic of human reasoning. As revelations, they come from Holy Spirit.

> **1 Corinthians 2:6-9 (KJV)** 6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is

written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.

Course Synopsis

Elohim, the God of Heaven Who revealed Himself to humanity through the writings of Moses in the Pentateuch Is the eternal reality presented in the Holy Scriptures with vivid language. He is also the substantive Supreme Being Who His saints are called to enjoy intimate relationship with as Father, not a ‘distant, Unknown God’! In order words, Elohim is real to His own. These questions are answered in the course:

- Who is Elohim?
- How is He described in the Holy Scriptures?
- What are the essential qualities that define His Being?
- How can we know Him?
- What are the implications of a proper understanding of Elohim rather than a mere emotional response or religious assumption of who He really is?
- What does it mean to worship Elohim in spirit and in truth?
- How can we join the Four and Twenty Elders at the throne of Grace to worship Him twenty-fours, everyday?

This course will establish the Mystery of the One Elohim revealed in vivid language as a Triune Being: Yahweh, our Father; Yeshua, Jesus, the Son and Ruach ha Chodesh, Holy Spirit. Their distinctive personalities and peculiar characteristics will be outlined. To receive inspiration from Holy Spirit to know a little about Elohim is a privilege because He Is wrapped in mystery which can only be lifted in the future (Revelation 10:7).

Two separate Courses will dwell on Yeshua, the Son and Holy Spirit. Part of this course will examine Yahweh, our heavenly Father in detail.

Assignment

(1). Who is Elohim? (2). In what 3 ways can we know Him.