

Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 2/8/10

The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson



Thought of the Week:

God's Glory is Declared in His Name, El Elyon, "Most High God"

Verse of the Week:

Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand. Genesis 14:19-20

Simply knowing the dangers of drug use and the ramifications of being arrested are not enough to keep people from drugs. That was the case in the lives of Alvan Adams and three other Phoenix Suns in April of 1987, when they were indicted on drug charges. Adams called the situation "a mess," and general manager Jerry Colangelo was also upset. "I feel hurt, deeply hurt," Colangelo said. "I feel for my kids. We have drug seminars every year. The players are warned. They have all that information, yet some choose to make a wrong decision. It's a blow to the Suns; it's a blow to the NBA."

Not only is knowledge inadequate, but there is a danger in knowledge. The more we know, the more for which we are responsible! Especially is this true in reference to knowledge of God. To know names of God and their significance, but not to appreciate Him, is very dangerous! John Bunyan said that he knew of no doctrine so dangerous as "the truth of God received carnally." Our God is El Elyon—God Most High—Creator of heaven and earth (see Genesis 14:22). This name was revealed in connection with the Gentile priest Melchizedek, a little-known leader through whom God preserved knowledge of Himself among the Gentiles. This King of Salem and priest of God Most High pictures the Lord Jesus Christ, who died to save all who come to God through Him, regardless of their human ancestry (Hebrews 7). In the three places where El Elyon is mentioned in Moses' writings, it is used in connection with God's revelation to the Gentiles. Furthermore, Romans 10:12 says that "Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (emphasis added). God is not only the God of the Jews, but He is Most High God of the whole world (Acts 17:25; Romans 3:29).

The sin of Satan was to claim equality with the Most High. He wanted to sit in God's place (Isaiah 14:12-14). The sin of man is also that of pride. He thinks he is a "little god," sovereignly able to run his own life, to make his own decisions independent of God. One of man's classic poems illustrates this lie. The poem *Invictus*, by William Henley, says, "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." That attitude is sin! Man is claiming to be like the Most High! He is elevating himself to sit in God's place. When King Nebuchadnezzar became filled with pride, God took his authority away and drove him from his kingdom (Daniel 4:30-34). Then, he learned to praise the Most High. Verse 34 records his words:

Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified Him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"

Nebuchadnezzar had a great kingdom, but God was really in charge! And El Elyon is in charge of our lives, too! David recognized this fact. He wrote, "I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills His purpose for me" (Psalm 57:2 emphasis added). Again, he said, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1 emphasis added).

Finally, David said, "I will give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High" (Psalm 7:17 emphasis added).

We must know the name El Elyon, the Most High God. But beyond knowing, let us appreciate Him and give Him praise and worship!

Time Out:

- (1) Who is really in charge of your life? With such a powerful God "calling the shots," do you ever need to worry?
- (2) What ungodly attitude is conveyed by poetry like *Invictus*? How else has your idea of God, the universe, and of yourself been perverted by man's literature?
- (3) How does knowledge of God Most High make you more responsible?