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## **Elohim**

**its meaning, and the words,**

### **“Let Us”**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God’s love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God’s will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# Elohim, its Meaning, and the Words, "Let Us."

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## Topics.

The meaning of Elohim.

The linguistic roots of Elohim.

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## THE MEANING OF ELOHIM

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- **Genesis 1:26–31:** Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Based on the word Elohim, and the words, 'let us,' some believe Jesus was with God from the beginning. However, the following notes show that the word Elohim, and the words, "let us," can refer to the heavenly host of angels.

**Elohim:** is a masculine plural form of El, and can refer to:

1. God.
2. Gods.
3. Yahweh (יהוה, yhwh) the God of Israel.
4. Angels.
5. Foreign gods, for example, in the following verses, elohim refers to the gods of Egypt:
  - **Exodus 12:12:** For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods (elohim) of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.
  - **Exodus 18:11:** Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods (elohim): for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.
  - **Joshua 24:20:** If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, (elohim) then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.
  - **Joshua 24:23:** Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods (elohim) which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.

In all these verses, the writer uses elohim in reference to "foreign gods," this is because elohim can refer to God, gods, deity, and idols.

6. In rare exceptions, elohim can refer to:

- Rulers or judges.
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## THE LINGUISTIC ROOTS OF ELOHIM

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The linguistic roots of Elohim, "El" (אֱלֹהִים, el) is a general term for deity that can be traced throughout Semitic languages, mainly Old Akkadian, Amorite, Ugaritic, and Hebrew, it can also be traced through Babylonian, Phoenician, and Aramaic as well. "El" was also the name for the god that

was the head of the Canaanite pantheon, and "El" is seen as father and creator in several ancient texts. In many cases, he is referred to as the "ancient one" or "eternal one" and is often pictured as merciful and benign, which are also common pictures of Yahweh in the biblical text, because of this it is possible "Yahweh" replaced "El" as a proper name for God and "Elohim" replaced "El" as the general term for God, which is why elohim can also refer to deities and foreign gods etc, unlike Yahweh that can only ever refer to the one true God.

**Conclusion:** since Elohim can refer to a host of heavenly beings, I am willing to accept angels, (Elohim) are included in the words, "let us."

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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