

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 14:17-24.

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Let me talk to your boss" analogy.
2. "In a world full of much confusion and uncertainty, we need to know with assurance that someone is in control. Floods, rogue nations with nuclear bomb capabilities, H1N1, families disintegrating, children going astray, finances disappearing, the rise of Islam and so many other occurrences cause us to wonder if anyone is at the controls of this world ... Someone, most assuredly, is in complete control of everything that happens. Nothing takes Him by surprise and He never thinks, '... I didn't see that one coming.' Who is He? He is *EI Elyon* – the Most High God" (L. Adams, *thepoint*).
3. In Genesis 40:16-17, "top" is *elyon*.
4. God is first called "Most High" in Genesis 14:17-24. In this text, He is called "Most High" four times.
5. In Hebrew, "Most High" is *Elyon*. Thus, "God Most High" is *EI* (God) *Elyon* (Most High).



DISCUSSION:

1. **God Most High is the possessor of heaven and earth.** Genesis 14:19, 22.
 - A. A "possessor" is "a person who owns something or has a particular quality" (New Oxford American Dictionary).
 - B. God is Most High in that He possesses, or owns, heaven and earth. Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 50:10-12.
 - C. God possesses (owns) heaven and earth because He made heaven and earth. Psalm 24:1-2A; Genesis 1:1A.
 - D. God created men and made us stewards over His possessions. Psalm 8:3-8; Daniel 2:37-38.
 - E. Everything in heaven and earth was here before we were! Who did it belong to then? To the same One it belongs to now, God Most High! God never relinquished His ownership rights. Jeremiah 27:5; Psalm 83:18B.
 - F. Men forget God and their place. Psalm 73:1-11; Isaiah 14:13-14.
 - G. Everything we have belongs to God. Job 41:11; 1 Chronicles 29:14-15A.
 - H. "Possession of stolen property" and "corn crop" analogies.
2. **God Most High takes care of His possessions.** Genesis 14:20A.
 - A. The LORD jealously guards His place as God Most High. Deuteronomy 6:10-15; Daniel 4:29-35.
 - B. He holds men accountable for their stewardship over His possessions. Psalm 82:1-8.
 - C. He *delivers* His faithful followers. 2 Samuel 22:1-22. Why subject them to suffering at all? Discipline! Daniel 5:18-21.
 - D. Applications:
 - 1) Fear God Most High. Psalm 47:2.
 - 2) Submit to God Most High. Psalm 78:34-37; Luke 6:35-36.
 - 3) Cry to God Most High. Psalm 57:1-3.
 - 4) Trust in God Most High. He won't let you down! Psalm 21:7; 91:1-4, 8-9.
3. **Glorify God Most High.** Genesis 14:21-23.
 - A. We complain. Psalm 77:2-4, 7-10; 73:1-3, 12-14.
 - B. Why? Psalms 78:11-17.
 - C. Don't! Lamentations 3:38-39.
 - D. How? Study about God Most High. Psalm 77:1, 5-6, 11-15A.
 - E. Instead, give thanks; tell of His wonders; be glad, exultant; and sing praise. Psalm 9:1-2. Daniel 4:1-3.
 - F. "Once you understand the sovereignty of God, it is easier to obey those commands in the New Testament that charge us to rejoice in all circumstances of life. God tells us through the Apostle Paul that we are to 'be ... always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father' (Ephesians 5:18, 20). Doesn't this become easier, beloved, when you know that your Father, *EI Elyon*, God Most High, is in control and that nothing can happen in His universe without his permission? Even when we are wronged by others, we can still give thanks. Although man has been given a free will, still God so rules and overrules that no man, angel, demon or devil, nor any circumstance of life, can thwart His plan. Praise our God Most High that neither necessity, nor chance, nor malice of Satan controls the sequence of events or their causes. *EI Elyon* rules supremely over all. And because He does, you can understand how all things work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). In everything you can 'give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus' (1 Thessalonians 5:18) ... O Beloved, the next time you start to murmur or complain, run to your *EI Elyon*, trust in His name, and give thanks" (K. Arthur, *Lord I Want To Know You*).

CONCLUSION: Acts 16:17.