

Elohim

Billy Davis, a UPC Minister, in a debate against Perry B. Cotham, representing the so-called Church of Christ, said, “Now in Genesis chapter 1, he [Cotham] opened up with “*elohim*,”... *Elohim* is a plural word, but it does not denote Godhead in plurality nor persons of the Godhead. Genesis 1—the word “us” is in Genesis 1:26—but “us” doesn't mean two, three, nine, or twelve. It has to be identified. So it is not clear, nor is it acceptable, that you can stand before people and say “us,” therefore there is three. *Elohim* is a plural word, but it is always used with a singular verb, and in 98% of the time it is always addressed to God and followed with a singular verb, adhering to the fact that God is one, singular. Now the *elohim*, the plurality of *elohim* is greatness, infinity, and incomprehensibility, but not persons. *Elohim* is not persons, nor is there any doctrine anywhere in God's word that would establish that there are persons per se, “personalities,” quote, unquote, in the Godhead. *Elohim* is a class name, Jehovah is His personal name, and so there is no foundation there in his argument to say *Elohim* is plural, therefore that means three persons in the Godhead. Absolutely not.”

(Cotham-Davis Debate on the Godhead and Miracles Today, Grand Prairie, Texas: Perry B. Cotham, December 7-10, 1986, Second printing, n.d. [1988], 22; Excerpt from First Night, Second Speech: Billy Davis, [UPC Minister])