

# The Most High God - Class Notes – Week One

## The Lord Our God Is One

Understanding The Divine Council

### Questions we will try to answer:

1. Why do we say, our God (Yahweh-the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) is the Most High god?
2. What's up with all of the 70's in the Bible?
  - A. Jesus sent out 70 disciples.
  - B. 70 elders went up the mountain with Moses to meet with God.
  - C. God separated the nations into 70 after the Tower of Babel event.
  - D. 70 bulls were sacrificed at the Feast of Tabernacles.
3. What did Yahweh mean when He said: "on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments" (Ex 12:12)?
4. What does Psalm 82:1 mean when it says: "God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment"?
5. Who are the "sons of God" in Gen. 6:4?
6. What does "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:7) mean?
7. Why is all of creation waiting for "the manifestation of the sons of God"? Rom 8: 19 (and who are they?)

### Connecting the dots of scripture:

- A lot of Bible study is connecting the dots in the Old Testament and then finding connections in the NT.
- The writers of the NT did this all of the time.
- For instance, the prophecies about the Messiah were scattered all over the OT and were a "mystery" – that's what Paul calls it. They were hidden from us and from the powers and principalities so that the Father could sneak the crucifixion and resurrection up on them!
- [1Co 2:8 KJV] 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

### Jesus connected the dots for the disciples (from the OT):

- [Luk 24:27 KJV] 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.
- They didn't really understand or connect the dots until after the resurrection.

**This teaching is based on the Bible with the help of Michael Heiser, David Burnett and Derek Gilbert.**

### The Shema – Deut 6:4-5:

- **[Deu 6:4-5 KJV]** 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- **[Deu 6:4-5 ESV]** 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- Name comes from the first two words of the prayer: Shema Yisra'el... (Hear, Israel)
- Does not say – there is only one god (or that other gods do not exist)...says to Israel that they only have one God!

### **The Divine Council in Ps 82** (credit to Michael Heiser)

**Ps 82:1** A Psalm of Asaph. God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

- The Hebrew word for God and gods here is elohiym.
- "God has taken his place" requires this instance of elohiym to be singular.
- "in the midst of the gods" requires this use of elohiym to be plural. God can't be in the midst of gods unless there are more than himself – he can't be in the midst of one!

**Ps 82:6-7** I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince."

- God calls these members of the heavenly host or divine council, "gods" (elohiym – plural) and "sons" (bene – plural).

### **The Divine Council in Ps 89**

**Ps 89:5-7** Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, 7 a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?

- "assembly of the holy ones" – divine council – plural
- These beings are "in the skies" – not earthly (some teachers try to say they are men...)
- They are "heavenly beings" (bene elim)
- God – Yahweh – is "above all who are around him"

### **"Sons of God" or bene elim / elohim**

- Job 38:7
- Job 1:6
- Job 2:1
- Genesis 6:4
- Deuteronomy 32:8
- Psalm 29:1

- “These are real heavenly beings...not cartoon characters” – Heiser

### **God of Israel (Yahweh) among or above bene elim / elohim**

If God is above or greater than something, they have to be real.

“to say God is greater than Mickey Mouse strips the meaning” (Heiser)

- Psalm 86:8
- Psalm 95:3
- Psalm 96:4
- Psalm 97:7,9
- Psalm 136:2
- Exodus 15:11
- Psalm 138:1
- Deut 32:17

### **Yahweh “better than” who?**

- “none besides me”
- “none like me”
- This does not imply that other elohim don’t exist.
- This just means that God is better than all of them. (incomparable)

### **What about monotheism?**

- Concept is new (17<sup>th</sup> century)
- Not an ancient Israelite concept – they have other gods in their Bible.

### **Who are elohim in the Bible?**

- The God of Israel (Ps 82:1a and others)
- The gods of the Divine Council (Ps 82:1b, 6)
- Gods (elohim) of nations, e.g.:
  1. Ashtoreth, the god/goddess of the Sidonians
  2. Chemosh, of Moab
  3. Milcom, of the Amorites
  4. Demons (shedim) (Deut 32:17)

5. Disembodied human dead (1 Sam 28:13)

6. Angels (Gen 35:1-7, ch 32, 48:15-16)

No specific attributes assigned to “elohim”

### **Elohim speaks of where they live...residence in spirit world**

- Yahweh
- Demons
- Disembodied dead
- Angels
- “Gods” of the Divine Council

### **Divine Council Order**

- Yahweh / Godhead
- Sons of God (Deut 32:8-9, princes of Dan 10)
- Mal’akim / Angels (messengers)

### **God’s Government of the Creation (Cosmos) was meant to include:**

- Loyal divine beings
- Loyal glorified human beings (starting with Adam & Eve)

### **Earth would be ruled from Eden (headquarters) by God with His loyal council**

- At the return of Jesus, this rulership will be re-instated.

### **Divine Council members have rebelled throughout history**

- Deut 32, Psa 82
- Elohim, shedim
- Demons

### **God’s Government (Divine Governance)**

- God wants to share the decision-making
  - 1 Kings 22:19-23
  - Dan 4:13, 17, 23-24

### **Other OT beings (higher than messengers, probably Sons of God level):**

- Cherubim (throne guardian)

- Seraphim (throne guardian)
- the Satan

**Questions (answered with the Divine Council worldview)...**

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**On to the 70s questions:**

- Answered at Babel and God's judgment – Gen 11:1-9
- Gen 10 lists the nations that came from the Babel judgment (there are 70).
- So Genesis 10 starts with the list of nations and then Gen 11 explains why and where they came from.

[Gen 11:1-9 ESV] 1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

[Gen 10:1, 32 ESV] 1 These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood. ... 32 These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.