

The Most High God - Class Notes – Week Two

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.

On to the 70s questions:

- [Deu 32:8-9 ESV] 8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. 9 But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.
- KJV says, "according to the number of the children of Israel." This is why some teachers say it had nothing to do with fallen angels or "sons of God".
- Guess what? Israel didn't exist when the nations were created!
- NET Bible says, "according to the number of the heavenly assembly."...sound familiar?
- Old Testament Worldview from Deut 32:8-9 from Faithlife Study Bible (Michael Heiser).

From Faithlife Study Bible (Michael Heiser):

- **Deuteronomy 32:8–9 and the Old Testament Worldview**
- Deuteronomy 32:8 describes Yahweh's dispersal of the nations at Babel and his resultant disinheriting of those nations, allowing them to come under the power of other, lesser gods (*elohim*). Deuteronomy 32:9, by contrast, states that the nation of Israel belongs to Yahweh alone:
- When the Most High apportioned the nations as an inheritance, when he divided up humankind, he established the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage (author's translation).

- English translations based on the Masoretic Text, the traditional Hebrew text of the Old Testament, read “sons of Israel” instead of “sons of God.” The phrase “sons of God” comes from manuscripts of Deuteronomy found among the Dead Sea Scrolls—scrolls much older than the Masoretic Text. The reading “sons of God” is also found in the Septuagint (the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament). The reference to the events at Babel—the dividing up of humankind—in Deuteronomy 32:8 highlights an important point regarding this manuscript disagreement. The division of the nations at the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1–9) is connected to the Table of Nations of Genesis 10, which directly precedes it. The Table of Nations catalogs 70 nations but does not include Israel. This is because Israel did not exist at the time of the Babel event. This makes the reference to “sons of Israel” in Deuteronomy 32:8 anachronistic: “sons of God” was most likely changed to “sons of Israel” sometime after ad 100, when the Jewish community—partially in response to the Septuagint—standardized the Hebrew text...
- **The Israelite View of the Nations and Their Gods**
- Deuteronomy 32:8–9 is fundamental for understanding the worldview of Old Testament Israel. These two verses explain both the existence of the foreign pantheons and their inferiority to Yahweh. A parallel passage to Deuteronomy 32:8–9, Deuteronomy 4:19–20, provides some context:
- And do this so that you do not lift your eyes toward heaven and observe the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of the heaven, and be led astray and bow down to them and serve them, things that Yahweh your God has allotted to all of the peoples under all of the heaven. But Yahweh has taken you and brought you out from the furnace of iron, from Egypt, to be a people of inheritance to him, as it is this day.
- Deuteronomy 4:19–20 and Deuteronomy 32:8–9 represent two ways of describing the ancient Hebrew conception of world religions. In Deuteronomy 32:8–9, God apportions the nations to the sons of God; here, however, God allots the gods to the nations. Israelites, in other words, believed that Yahweh, their own supreme, unique God, essentially sentenced the nations and their gods to each other. At Babel, Yahweh, like a father dismissing and disinheriting his children, judges all the nations for their disobedience (Gen 11:1–9). Then, in the very next chapter, He calls Abraham (Gen 12:1–3), effectively starting over in creating an earthly human family for Himself.
- These other gods, which Deuteronomy 32:8 refers to as “the sons of God,” were members of Yahweh’s heavenly host. Scripture elsewhere condemns both the members of the nations and their gods for disloyalty and corruption, showing that these foreign gods are fallen members of the heavenly host (Psa 82).

According to Canaanite religion, there were 70 sons of El (their god) who gathered on Mount Hermon, the Canaanite “mount of assembly.”

- This is one of the many distorted pagan views after the Tower of Babel incident that were similar to the Biblical account.
- By the way, there are various accounts throughout the world that tell the Babel incident and other related stories, but Moses set the record straight in the OT.

70 elders went up the mountain with Moses to meet with God [Ex 24:1-2, 9-11].

From Derek Gilbert and “The Great Inception”:

- “For the first time since Eden (not including the burning bush incident, of course), humans were in the presence of Yahweh on His holy mountain. This was an early taste of the reconstituted divine council.”

- "...How many elders of Israel were there? How many nations did God create after the Tower of Babel incident? How many sons of El in the assembly of Mount Hermon? Seventy, seventy, and seventy. Coincidence? No! It was another message to the Fallen: *A day is coming when my people will again take their place in the divine council.*"

The Canaanite version reminds me of Paul's words:

- [Rom 1:25 ESV] 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Let's look briefly at the 70 bulls that were sacrificed at the Feast of Tabernacles. (Num 29:12-34)

- "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall keep a feast to the LORD seven days.
- Short version: 1st day: 13 bulls, 2nd day: 12 bulls, 3rd day: 11 bulls, 4th day: 10 bulls, 5th day: 9 bulls, 6th day: 8 bulls, 7th day: 7 bulls.
- **13+12+11+10+9+8+7=70!**
- Coincidence? No! The number 70 (or 72) for the nations, etc. is more about the totality of the pagan pantheon than an exact number. Means all of the other gods besides the one true God, Yahweh.
- The 70 bulls was not a sacrifice to the other gods, it was celebrating the deliverance from the wilderness (where evil lived—represented by 70) into the Promised Land (where God's presence and blessing lived). That's what the Feast of Tabernacles celebrated—deliverance from the gods of the nations.
- This is one reason for Zech 14:16 –
- And it shall come to pass, [that] every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

70 Nations Answer 70s Questions (mostly):

- [Exo 15:27 KJV] And they came to Elim, where [were] twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten (70) palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.
- What do you think this means? (12 wells and 70 palm trees have to imply or symbolize something)
- Even Michael Heiser is still pondering this one...

Here's another 70 that I believe is significant...

- [Exo 1:5 KJV] And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt [already].
- I believe God is saying the same thing that he has been saying – that Israel is the beginning of the end for Satan and his fallen angels that rule the nations.

Another! The Septuagint (LXX):

- **From www.gotquestions.org:**

- The Septuagint (also known as the LXX) is a translation of the Hebrew Bible into the Greek language. The name "Septuagint" comes from the Latin word for seventy. The tradition is that 70 (or 72) Jewish scholars were the translators behind the Septuagint. The Septuagint was translated in the third and second centuries B.C. in Alexandria, Egypt.
- **Me:** the NT writers quoted from the LXX 80% of the time.
- Why do you think that the Jewish tradition includes 70 or 72 translators?
- Probably because they were thinking of the 70 or 72 nations that were created at Babel, or the elders that went up on Mt Sinai to meet with Yahweh or the 70 souls that came from the loins of Jacob or all three.
- The nations and God's answer to the nations and the gods that rule over them.
- This would all be related to the Divine Council.

70 Nations Answer 70s Questions:

Jesus sent 70 disciples.

- [Luk 10:1, 17-20 KJV] 1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. ... 17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. 18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. 19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.
- For illustration purposes...NIV, ESV, NET and others have 72. 70 and 72 are speaking of the same thing.
- [Luk 10:1 NIV] 1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.
- From *The Unseen Realm*, by Michael Heiser: "Jesus sent out *seventy* disciples. The number is not accidental. seventy is the number of nations listed in Genesis 10 that were dispossessed at Babel...The implications are clear: Jesus' ministry is the beginning of the end for Satan and the gods of the nations. The great reversal is underway."