

**THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE**  
**Session 7: 'Rules of Engagement'**  
20 November 2022

### Objectives

**Recount:** How God defeated the gods of Egypt.

**Describe:** What God requires of human beings.

**Explain:** Reasons for Christian suffering.

### Download

**Images:** PowerPoint slides

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### Lesson Theme

"We are God's new human council on earth. And when we are glorified, we will join his divine family in the new Eden.." M S Heiser, *Supernatural*, p. 74

### Review 1: Deuteronomy 32:8-9

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."

### Review 2: Genesis 12:1, 3

1 The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you... 3 In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

### Review 3: Psalm 82:6-8

6 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." 8 Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

### Yahweh plans to train Israel through suffering

Genesis 15:13 "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there... 14 But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out."

### Yahweh brings real good out of real evil

Gen 50:19 "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

### God's reasons for our suffering

Exodus 5:1 Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go...'" 2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."

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### Pharaoh, 'incarnation' of the god Horus

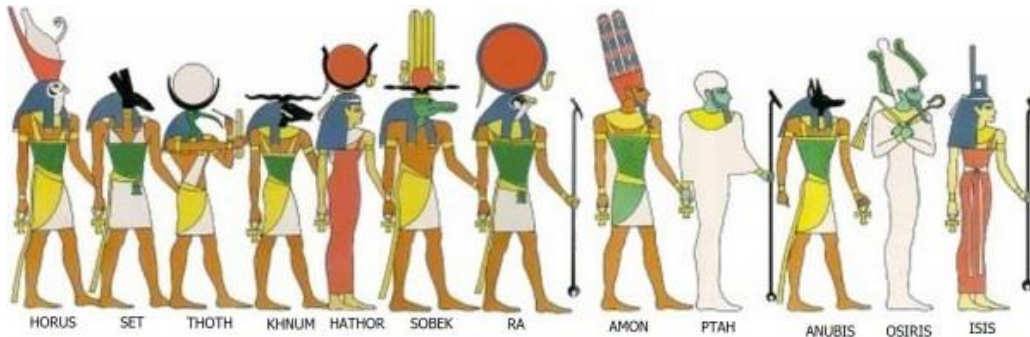
"The first known national god, specifically related to the ruling pharaoh who in time came to be regarded as a manifestation of Horus in life and Osiris in death." <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horus>

### Pharaoh has a son; Yahweh has a son

Exo 4:22 "Say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, 23 and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, [then] I will kill your firstborn son.'"

### Yahweh executes judgement on all gods

Exo 12:12 "I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD."



### Moses praises Yahweh above all other gods

Exo 15:11 "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? 12 You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

### Other nations hear about Yahweh's triumph

Exo 18:10 Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. 11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people." 12 And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

### Other nations hear about Yahweh's triumph

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### The divine council delivers Yahweh's Law to Moses

Deut 9:10 The LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words that the LORD had spoken with you on the mountain.

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Acts 7:52 "... the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, 53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Heb 2:2 The message declared by angels proved to be reliable.

### Yahweh's Law was to make his people holy

Lev 19:2 "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy... 4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God."

Deut 28:9 "The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself... 10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD."

### Yahweh's purpose was to draw in other nations

Exo 19:5 "If you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Isa 42:6 "A light for the nations." 51:4 "A light to the peoples." 60:3 "Nations shall come to your light" 49:6 "That my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

### Yahweh requires believing loyalty

Psa 13:5 I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

Jer 17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; ... for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.

Hab 2:4 The righteous shall live by his faith.

Deut 8:19 If you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, [then] I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.

### Men with loyal faith who messed up

Adam: listened to the devil, disobeyed God.

Noah: got drunk, cursed his grandson

Abraham: lied about Sara, slept with Hagar

Lot: moved to Sodom, committed incest

Jacob: lied to his father, cheated his brother

Judah: consorted with a prostitute

Moses: refused to speak, reacted in anger

David: murdered men, committed adultery

Solomon: allowed idolatry in Jerusalem

Jonah: ran from God's call to mission

### Yahweh still requires loyal faith

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Rom 11:22

## Session 7: 'Rules of Engagement'

If indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel  
Col 1:23

### Yahweh rewards loyal faith

- You who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. Deut 4:4
- Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. Gal 4:6
- Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared 1 John 3:2
- The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne. Rev 3:21
- We are to judge angels. 1 Cor 6:3
- Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. 1 Cor 15:49

### Yahweh tasks us with bringing nations to Him

In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith... You are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. Gal 3:26, 29

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." Matt 28:19

O Lord, ... you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed. Rev 15:4

**The apostles did so by continually starting and multiplying new churches!**

### Unseen world of the Bible: Summary to date

1. God created Eden, dwelling there with divine council members and with human beings.
2. The devil rebelled and deceived humans to disobey, bringing death and banishment.
3. God promised that a human being would one day crush the serpent's head.
4. After humans disobeyed at Babel, God placed them under divine council members as their gods.
5. Many of those gods failed at their task, so they will be deposed, dying like men.
6. God called Abraham, promising to bless all nations through his descendants.
7. God promised life to Israelites who would remain loyal to Him alone.
8. God gave the Law as a covenant, to diminish sin, as a test of loyalty.
9. Jesus came as Abraham's human descendant to bless Israel and the nations.
10. Jesus died to free us from sin and death, rising to reign over the nations.
11. Humans who put their faith in Jesus, remaining loyal to him, receive everlasting life.
12. God has charged Christian believers to make disciples of all the nations.
13. At Jesus' return, loyal believers will reign with Him over the nations, 'judging' angels.
14. Loyal council members and saved humans will dwell with God and Christ forever in a new Eden.
15. Disloyal council members and humans will be excluded from Eden, forever.