

THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE

Session 2: 'God and the gods'

16 October 2022

Objectives

Distinguish: God, gods, and the sons of God.

Describe: The divine council in family terms.

Discover: Our destiny as 'sons of God'.

Download

Document: Session 2 outline

Images: PowerPoint slides

From: www.galencurrah.online

Discuss

What did you learn from *Supernatural* chapter 1: 'God and the gods'?

What are some of the ways in which your society shows its fascination with the supernatural?

Why is this?

- Escape from mundane, daily life (entertainment)
- Religious doctrine (God, gods, jinns, angels)
- Cultural themes (elves, sprites, ghosts, goblins)
- Conversion, preternatural experience
- Logical inference from creation
- God has 'set eternity in their heart' *Ecclesiastes 3:11 LSB*

Romans 1:18-20 Legacy Standard Bible

¹⁸ The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

What makes the Holy Bible seem so boring for many folk?

Maybe...

- Stories of ordinary folk living a long time ago.
- Church stories that seem too much like fables.
- Cultural way of life that seems backwards, brutal.
- Stiff, formal language devoid of passion.
- We have many, more-addictive things to do.
- 'Evangelical rationalism' that does not allow for a variety of invisible, divine beings.

What are some misconceptions that Christians have about divine beings in the Bible?

Commonly ...

- God himself is not particularly interested in me.
- This stuff is too weird, hard to believe.
- Angels look like pretty White girls with wings.
- It is the devil or demons who makes us commit sins.
- There is only one God.
- False gods do not exist.

What Are Elohim?

'In the beginning God [ʔElohîm] created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
ʔElohîm = God, the Creator.

'They sacrificed to demons [šedim] who were not God,
To gods [ʔelohîm] whom they have not known,
New gods who came lately,
Whom your fathers did not dread. Deuteronomy 32:17
ʔelohîm = demons who are not God

'The woman said to Saul, "I see a divine being [ʔelohim] coming up out of the earth.'" 1 Samuel 28:13
ʔelohîm = human ghost.

'Ascribe to Yahweh, O sons of the mighty [ʔelohim],
Ascribe to Yahweh glory and strength.' Psalms 29:1
ʔelohîm = gods

ʔElohîm are bodiless spirits. Yahweh himself is an ʔElohîm, but no other ʔelohîm is like Yahweh.

Psalm 82 LSB

¹ God [ʔElohîm] takes His stand in the congregation of God [ʔEl]; He judges in the midst of gods [ʔelohîm].

⁶ I said, "You are gods [ʔelohîm], And all of you are sons of the Most High [ʕelyôn]."

Job

'The sons of God came to stand before Yahweh'. 1:6; 2:1.

'I laid the foundation of the earth? And all the sons of God shouted for joy!' Job 38:4, 7

Who Are the Sons of God?

1. Adam, Luke 3:38
2. Fallen divine beings, Genesis 6:2
3. Israel, Hosea 11:1
4. Kings of Israel, 2 Samuel 7:14
5. Gentile gods, Psalm 89:6
6. Human Jesus, Luke 1:35
7. Our Lord Jesus Christ, Romans 1:4
8. Christian believers, Galatians 3:26
9. Spirit-led Christians, Romans 8:14
10. Resurrected Christians, Romans 8:19

Yahweh is expanding his family by including Gentile sons of God who replace fallen, divine sons of God.

Book of Daniel, chapter 4, LSB

¹⁷ This edict is by the resolution of the watchers,
And the decision is a command of the holy ones,
In order that the living may know

That the Most High is the powerful ruler over the kingdom of mankind
And gives it to whom He wishes.

Watchers: Divine beings who watch over the affairs of human kingdoms.