

## THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE

Introduction, 2 October 2022

### OBJECTIVES

Know: Categories, nature and functions of spiritual beings

Understand: Bible writers believed in a spiritual realm and wrote about it.

Practice: Never read the Bible the same way again.

### EVANGELICALS RECOGNIZE THREE CLASSES OF SPIRITUAL BEINGS

1. God (Father, Son & Spirit)

2. Angels

3. Demons (fallen angels)

Most consider “gods” to be imaginary beings that only pagans believe to be real.

Does this view adequately explain all the biblical data?

See the document “First Testament Terminology for Spiritual Beings”

### THE HEAVENLY HOST

Heiser, Michael S. *Angels: What the Bible Really Says About God's Heavenly Host*. Lexham Press. 2018

#### Terms that describe their NATURE

“Spirit” (rûah; plural: rûahôt). 1 Kings 22:19-23

“Heavenly ones” (šamayim). Psalm 89:5-7

“Stars” (kōķebîm). 1 Kings 22:19

“Holy ones” (qedōšîm). Psalm 89:5-7 [Heb. 6-8]

“Gods” / “divine Beings” (’elîm; ’elôhîm). Ps 89:5-7

#### Terms that describe their STATUS

“Assembly” (lemma: ’ēdāh; construct: ’adaṭ). Ps 22:17

“Council” (sōḏ). Job 15:8

“Congregation” (qāhāl). Psalm 89:5

“Assembly, assembled meeting” (mô’ēd). Isa 14:12

“Court” (Aramaic: dîn). Daniel 7:9-10

#### Terms that describe their FUNCTION

“Angel” (mal’āk; plural: mal’ākîm). Gen 28:12

“Minister” (verb: šrt, Piel stem: šērēt). Ps 103:21

“Watcher” (’îr; plural: ’îrîn). Dan 4:13

“Host” (šaba’; plural: šeba’ôt). Psalm 103:21

“Mighty ones” (gibborîm, ’abbîrîm). Psalm 103:20

“Mediator” (mēlîš). Job 33:23

“cherubim” (keruḇîm). Num 21:6 [winged, not angels]

“seraphim” (šerāpîm). Isaiah 6:2 [winged, not angels]

## HOW SHOULD WE THINK ABOUT SPIRITUAL BEINGS? SEVEN VIEWS

1. *Materialist*: "Spiritual beings do not exist. Therefore, the Bible is wrong, outdated, backwards, misleading."
2. *Skeptical*: "Spiritual beings may not exist, but ancient readers believed in them. Therefore, the Bible employs their myths, in order to teach them moral ideals."
3. *Agnostic*: "We do not know if spiritual beings exist, or not. But we can still learn what the Bible says about them."
4. *Mystic*: "Spiritual beings may exist as part of a multiverse. Therefore, we can consider them to be real, until proven otherwise."
5. *Biblicist*: "Spiritual beings must exist, because the Bible say they do, and we believe the Bible."
6. *Religious*: "We know that spiritual beings do not exist, but we are not sure about the ones described in the Bible."
7. *Spiritualist*: "We know that spiritual being exist, and the Bible teaches us who they are and what we can do about them."

*Recommendation*: Which ever position you hold, we shall learn what the Bible teaches about spiritual beings, so that we can think clearly about them.

## CONCEPTS

*Divine council*: Spiritual beings that surround the throne of God, with whom He communicates.

*Godhead*: The self-existent, supreme Being, who created all others.

*Spiritual beings*: Non-physical (incorporeal), self-conscious, living personalities.

*Spiritual realm*: All spiritual beings that remain unseen to us human beings, most of the time, whether nearby or far away.

*Worldview*: All that a community believes to be real, true, knowable, and that explains members' experience.

## THE GODS

*Exodus 15:11*. "Who is like You among the gods [’ēlim], O Yahweh [yhwh]?" Legacy Standard Bible

*Exodus 20:3*. "You shall have no other gods [’ēlōhîm] before me!"

Did Moses believe that other gods are real?

If you believe in angels, they why do you not believe in gods?

### IMPORTANCE OF THIS SUBJECT

1. Pagan gods play a role in the history of Israel and of the Bible.
2. Other gods remain part of the belief of billions of humans to this day.
3. Jesus cited First Testament bible verses that talk about gods.
4. New Testament books also talk about invisible rulers exercising authority over nations.
5. Christians are to struggle against “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens” (Eph. 6:12).

### POPULAR AMERICAN CULTURE

1. Luciferian conspiracies in government and business.
2. UFO sightings attributed to “cosmic” origins (extraterrestrials).
3. History channel finding “ancient aliens” in archeology.
4. TV series “Stranger Things.”
5. Jonathan Cahn’s new book, *The Return of the Gods*.
6. Disney’s *The Owl House* and *Little Demon*.
7. World Economic Forum’s Yuval Noah Harari.

### JESUS QUOTED FROM PSALM 82

“Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I SAID, YOU ARE GODS’? If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? John 10:34-36

*Psalms 82:1, 6*

1. God takes His stand in the congregation of God; He judges in the midst of gods. Psalms 82:1
2. “God [Elohim] (is) standing in-the-assembly (of) El; amidst gods [elohim] (will) he-judge.”
3. I said, “You are gods, And all of you are sons of the Most High. Psalms 82:6
4. I-myself I-shall-say, gods [elohim] you (are); and sons (of) Alyon.”

*Psalms 89:5-7 (Hebrew 6-8)*

- 5 The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Yahweh;  
Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones.
- 6 For who in the sky is comparable to Yahweh?  
Who among the sons of the mighty is like Yahweh,       (‘mighty’ = ‘gods’ [‘elim])
- 7 A God greatly dreaded in the council of the holy ones,  
And fearsome above all those who are around Him?

### ASSIGNMENT

1. During your daily bible reading, watch for mentions of gods, angels, demons, and spiritual beings of various kinds.
2. Read chapter 1 in *Supernatural* for next time.
3. If you want more material with scholarly notes, then read *The Unseen Realm* by Dr Heiser.