

How Does Jesus Fit Into The Divine Council System

Series: Why Did God Create Us?

4 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell me, if you know so much.

7 as the morning stars sang together and all the angels (sons of God - *Elohim*) shouted for joy? (Job 38:4 & 7 NLT)

So the sons of God were created before God created humans.

What Does The Bible Say?

So how is Jesus God’s only Son when there are sons of God mentioned in the Bible?

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son (*monogene*), so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NLT)

Jesus is the unique Son of God.

17 It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, (Hebrews 11:17 NLT)

Issac was the unique son of Abraham.

Now let's look again in more detail at the divine council.

1 God (*singular - Elohim*) presides over heaven's court; he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings (*Plural - Elohim*): 2 "How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked?"

6 I say, 'You are gods (*Plural - Elohim*); you are all children of the Most High. 7 But you will die like mere mortals and fall like every other ruler.' " 8 Rise up, O God, and judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you. (Psalm 82:1–2; 6–8 NLT)

13 "Don't be afraid!" the king told her. "What do you see?"

“I see a god (Elohim) coming up out of the earth,” she said. (1 Samuel 28:13 NLT)

The Hebrew word “Elohim” means those who are of the spirit world.

Do we see the divine council elsewhere in the Bible?

19 Then Micaiah continued, “Listen to what the Lord says! I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the armies of heaven around him, on his right and on his left. 20 And the Lord said, ‘Who can entice Ahab to go into battle against Ramoth-gilead so he can be killed?’ “There were many suggestions, 21 and finally a spirit approached the Lord and said, ‘I can do it!’ 22 “ ‘How will you do this?’ the Lord asked. “And the spirit replied, ‘I will go out and inspire all of Ahab’s prophets to speak lies.’ “ ‘You will succeed,’ said the Lord. ‘Go ahead and do it.’ 23 “So you see, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all your

prophets. For the Lord has pronounced your doom.” (1 Kings 22:19–23 NLT)

The divine council helps God carry out God’s will.

The Divine War

12 Then he said, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. 13 But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. (Daniel 10:12–13 NLT)

20 He replied, “Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and after that the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece will come. 21 Meanwhile, I will tell you what is written in the Book

of Truth. (No one helps me against these spirit princes except Michael, your spirit prince. 11:1 I have been standing beside Michael to support and strengthen him since the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede.) (Daniel 10:20–11:1 NLT)

Michael, an archangel, has been fighting a son of god who has rebelled against God.

How Can You Obey?

16 They stirred up his jealousy by worshiping foreign gods; they provoked his fury with detestable deeds. 17 They offered sacrifices to demons, which are not God, to gods they had not known before, to new gods only recently arrived, to gods their ancestors had never feared. 18 You neglected the Rock who had fathered you; you forgot the God who had given you birth.

(Deuteronomy 32:16–18 NLT)

Israel believed there was only one unique God that created everything.

Did God need a divine Council?

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at <https://courses.crosswavesu.com/courses/cross-waves-host-training>. Cross Waves has produce short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

This series comes from the book, What Does God Want?

Michael S. Heiser and Blind Spot Press, 2018.

Explore:

This week's Tough Questions was influenced by McLaughlin, R.

(2019). Confronting Christianity: 12 Hard Questions For The

World's Largest Religion. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Explore:

Jesus is the Unique Son of God

The term “only begotten” is a confusing translation of the Greek word *monogenēs*. Not only does the translation “only begotten” seem to contradict the obvious statements in the Old Testament about other sons of God, it sounds as though there was a time when the Son—the second person of the Trinity—did not exist. Many critics of the Trinity actually use this translation to argue against Trinitarianism and, therefore, against the full deity of Jesus, that he was the God of the Bible in human flesh.

Since “only begotten” is a poor translation of the Greek word *monogenēs*, using that translation to deny these doctrines is a deeply flawed strategy. As I wrote in the Lexham Bible

Dictionary:

The word *monogenēs* doesn't actually mean “only begotten.” It presents a problem neither with respect to Jesus having a

beginning, nor with respect to divine “sons of God” who are called gods (’elohim) in the Old Testament. The confusion extends from a misunderstanding of the root of the Greek word. For many years, monogenēs was thought to have derived from two Greek terms, monos (“only”) and gennaō (“to beget, bear”). Scholars of Greek eventually discovered, though, that the second part of the word monogenēs does not come from the Greek verb gennaō, but rather the noun genos (“class, kind”). The term literally means “one of a kind” or “unique” with no connotation to time, origin or solitary existence. The validity of this understanding is shown by the New Testament itself. In Hebrews 11:17, Isaac is called Abraham’s monogenēs—but Isaac was not the only son Abraham fathered, since he fathered Ishmael prior to Isaac. The term must mean that Isaac was Abraham’s unique son—the son of the covenant promises and the line through which the messiah would come. Just as Yahweh is an ’elohim

and no other 'elohim is like Yahweh, so Jesus is the unique son, and no other sons of God are like Him.

Michael Heiser: <https://www.miqlat.org/what-the-bible-teaches-about-a-divine-council-3.htm>

Explore:

The Cosmic War

So as we've touched on earlier, there is Yahweh and his council members and then there are divine beings who apostatized and became hostile to Yahweh. These are the hostile gods the foreign nations are under control of. There is this cosmic war going on between Yahweh and his angels against the forces of darkness.

Evidence of this is found in the book of Daniel chapter 10:

Dan 10:13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,...

and Dan 10:20 Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince of Persia; and when I go out, behold, the prince of Greece will come.

Here we see an unidentified divine being talking to Daniel relaying to him why he was delayed. The reason being that he had to fight against hostile ‘princes’ of other nations. These princes of other nations are the same fallen divine beings who God placed over these nations and who’ve we’ve been talking about. They turned their back on God and seek to oppose him now. It is God’s mission to reclaim the lost nations of the earth, and today that is achieved by the spreading of the gospel message throughout the world. That way a continually growing bastion is established in an individual country and the nation is slowly being reclaimed for the kingdom of God.

<https://glintrueblog.wordpress.com/2018/12/18/divine-council-heresy-or-biblical/>

Question 1 of 5

Globally, is the world becoming more or less religious?

Question 2 of 5

Why do some people think it is okay to attack Christians and their viewpoints, but are not tolerant when their views are attacked?

Question 3 of 5

Explain how Jesus is different than the other sons of God.

Question 4 of 5

What does the Hebrew word, “elohim” mean?

Question 5 of 5

What does God’s divine council do?