



SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2019

GENESIS: SUPERNATURAL

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CALL TO WORSHIP

¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:1-7a (ESV)

SERMON

EVERY WORLD VIEW GIVES US FOUR THINGS:
ENVIRONMENT, ESSENCE, EVIL, ESCHATOLOGY

ENVIRONMENT: WHERE ARE WE?

ANCIENT BIBLICAL COSMOLOGY SAYS THAT WE EXIST IN AN ORDERED, INTENTIONAL, RELATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

TEMPLE NARRATIVE – SACRED SPACE
BIBLE PROJECT EDITED VIDEO – THE TEMPLE

¹ Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?
² All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD.

Isaiah 66:1-2a (ESV)

ALL OF CREATION BELONGS TO GOD AND IS DESIGNED FOR GOD!

CREATION IS BIGGER THAN THE EARTH. THE EARTH IS ONE REALM OF CREATION – THE HEAVENS ARE ANOTHER. THE DIFFERENCE IS NOT ONE OF GEOGRAPHY BUT OF TYPE.

THIS HEAVENLY REALM IS AN ORDERED, INTENTIONAL, RELATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let *US* make man in *OUR* image, after *OUR* likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in *HIS* own image, in the image of God *HE* created him; male and female *HE* created them.

Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV)

ELOHIM IS AN ENGLISH WORD THAT TRANSLATES THE HEBREW WORD ELOHIM.

¹ God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah ³ Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. ⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” ⁵ They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 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!

Psalms 82:1-8 (ESV)

Psalms 82: 1 is especially interesting since elohim occurs twice in that single verse. In Psalm 82: 1, the first elohim must be singular, since the Hebrew grammar has the word as the subject of a singular verbal form (“ stands”). The second elohim must be plural, since the preposition in front of it (“ in the midst of”) requires more than one. You can’t be “in the midst of” one. The preposition calls for a group— as does the earlier noun, assembly. The meaning of the verse is inescapable: The singular elohim of Israel presides over an assembly of elohim.

ELOHIM SIMPLY MEANS ONE WHO DWELLS IN THE REALM OF THE HEAVENS.

WE THINK “GOD” INDICATES A SPECIFIC SET OF ATTRIBUTES: SOVEREIGNTY, OMNISCIENCE, OMNIPOTENCE.

ELOHIM REFERS TO:

GOD OF ISRAEL PS. 82:1

DIVINE COUNCIL MEMBERS PS. 82:1,6

GODS OF THE NATIONS 1 KINGS 11:33

DISEMBODIED HUMAN DEAD 1 SAM 28:13

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Psalm 8:3-5 (ESV)

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! ⁶For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, ⁷a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?

Psalm 89:5-7 (ESV)

⁹“As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

Daniel 7:9-10 (ESV)

God alone created humankind to function as his administrators on earth. But he has also created the other elohim of the unseen realm. They are also like him. They carry out his will in that realm, acting as his representatives. They are his heavenly council in the unseen world. We are God’s council and administration in this realm. Consequently, the plurals inform us that both God’s families— the human and the nonhuman— share imaging status, though the realms are different. As in heaven, so on Earth.

WHAT ABOUT “NONE BESIDES ME” OR “NONE LIKE ME” PASSAGES?
STATEMENT OF INCOMPARABILITY NOT DENIALS OF EXISTENCE.

³⁵To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.

Deuteronomy 4:35 (ESV)

ELSEWHERE IN DEUTERONOMY THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER ELOHIM IS AFFIRMED. SEE DEUT. 4:19-20, 17:2-3; 29:24-26; 32:17.

THERE ARE A LOT OF ELOHIM. GOD IS ONE OF THEM. NONE OF THEM ARE LIKE HIM. SEE ISA 47:1, 8, 10 AND ZEPH 2:13, 15 WHERE BABYLON AND NINEVAH RESPECTIVELY SAY THERE IS NONE BESIDES ME.

**IT GIVES NO GLORY TO GOD TO SAY THAT HE IS GREATER THAN A
FICTIONAL CHARACTER.**