

THE DIVINE COUNCIL PART TWO —

THE GODS OF THE NATIONS

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Although we may think of God ruling the universe all on His own ... the Bible shows that God works with a Divine Council — other spirit beings that help and advise.

Just like a king in the ancient world would employ counsellors ... officials and possibly a large group to help administer his rule. The king's sons are senior executives and are called princes. It is the same in Heaven.

In Biblical terminology ... many of these counsellors are called “gods” or “sons of God”.

Psalms 82:1

1 God (Elohim) stands in the congregation of the mighty;
He judges among the gods (Elohim).

ESV/RSV: “God has taken His place in the Divine Council ...”

THE GOD will judge (and punish) gods (small “g”)

Psalms 82:2-5

2 How long will you judge unjustly,
And show partiality to the wicked?

3 Defend the poor and fatherless;
Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

4 Deliver the poor and needy;
Free them from the hand of the wicked.

5 They do not know, nor do they understand;
They walk about in darkness;
All the foundations of the earth are unstable. *(The principles they should be applying are falling apart)*

These gods have subjects — but they have failed to govern faithfully.

Psalms 82:6-7

6 I said, "**You are gods.**
And all of you are children of the Most High.
7 **But you shall die like men,**
And fall like one of the princes."

God confirms they are gods and Sons of God ... but will be punished with death. (Even though they are spirit beings)

Today we will be looking at what responsibilities these "gods" had ... and how they failed.

Many scriptures show that there are "other gods".

Psalms 95:1-3

1 Oh come, **let us sing to the LORD!** (*Jehovah*)
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
3 **For the LORD is the great God,**
And the great King above all gods.

THE GOD IS GREATER THAN ALL GODS. GOD IS EXCEPTIONAL — which doesn't mean that He's greater than lumps of stone or a wooden carving. **THE GREAT GOD!!**

Psalms 135:3-5

3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;
Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.
4 For **the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself,**
Israel for His special treasure. (*Other nations — no!*)
5 For I know that **the LORD is great,**
And **our Lord is above all gods.**

GOD IS ABOVE ALL OTHER GODS.

There are a couple of places where God says “there is no other God besides me”. **But this can be explained as God announcing that He is unique and incomparable.**

Last week we looked at a couple of passages where Babylon and Nineveh claim there is no city beside them. Of course they know there were many other cities — but none “like them”. Incomparable! So far superior!

That’s God’s claim too!! **There are other gods — but not on a par with Him (Eternal ... Most High ... Creator of all — incomparable!!).**

We saw last week a description of **God’s Throne Room** in the Book of Revelation. It mentions **24 elders who sat on thrones and wear crowns of gold. I assume that they are members of the Divine Council — God’s Heavenly Administration? They have authority — they are ruling.**

We can find references throughout the Bible once we know what to look for.

The Sons of God are also called “The Watchers”.

In Daniel Chapter 4 ... we have the Dream of Nebuchadnezzar — he sees a great tree being cut down ... with only a stump remaining. Daniel is summoned ... and explains it’s a prophecy about Nebuchadnezzar — he will lose his kingdom and go mad for 7 years.

Daniel 4:10

10 “These were the visions of my head while on my bed:

I was looking, and behold,

A tree in the midst of the earth,

And its height was great.

The tree early on.

Daniel 4:13

13 “**I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed**, and **there was a watcher, a holy one**, coming down from heaven.

A Watcher — a Holy One — a spirit being — who comes from Heaven. (A Son of God — part of the Divine Council)

Daniel 4:17

17 ‘**This decision is by the decree of the watchers,**
And the sentence/punishment by the word of the holy ones,

In order that the living may know

That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men,

Gives it to whomever He will,

And sets over it the lowest of men.’

It’s a decree of the Watchers! Their decision? To teach mankind about The Most High God! The Divine Council have decreed what will take place.

Daniel 4:23-25

23 “And **inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying**, ‘**Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven**, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him’; (*seven times — seven years*)

24 this is the interpretation, O king, and **this is the decree of the Most High**, which has come upon my lord the king:

25 They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and **seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.**

It’s also a decree of THE MOST HIGH? But the Watchers participated fully ... they made the decision working in conjunction with

the Most High God. **He has delegated great authority to members of the Divine Council.**

Many of the “other gods” are undoubtedly righteous — but **Psalm 82 shows that some are corrupt and will be judged.**

Daniel 10:1-3

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia **a message was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar.** The message was true, but the appointed time was long; and he understood the message, and had understanding of the vision.

2 **In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.**

3 I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.

Daniel fasts.

Daniel 10:4-6

4 **Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month,** as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris,

5 **I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen,** whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!

6 **His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in colour, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.**

Visited by an angel — probably Gabriel.

Daniel 10:12-14

12 Then he said to me, “**Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard;** and I have come because of your words.

13 **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me (opposed me) twenty-one days;** and **behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me,** for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for **the vision refers to many days yet to come.**"

God's messenger angel was opposed — prevented for 21 days ... by a "prince of Persia". Clearly a very powerful spirit being. The Greek version uses the term "**ARCHON**" — which we'll see in the New Testament. This Archon appears to be associated with Persia (Iran). Perhaps its spiritual ruler or "god"?

Daniel 10:20

20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And **now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia**; and when I have gone forth, **indeed the prince of Greece will come.**

Spiritual warfare will continue ... but now we have a prince ... a ruler ... an Archon of Greece (Hebrew: Javan — Asia Minor including Turkey).

This implies that the nations may have powerful spirit beings over them?

We have Persia and Greece specifically mentioned ... but it is **reasonable to assume spirit rulers ... Archons ... gods — over most (or all) other nations. Assyria ... Babylon ... Egypt... Arabia?**

It might explain **the 10 plagues that God sent on Egypt at the time of the Exodus**. Why 10 plagues? These were not random acts of destruction ... but **deliberately aimed at Egypt's gods**.

Exodus 12:12

12 'For **I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.**

God executes judgment against ALL THE GODS OF EGYPT!

God won't get much honour from defeating the mental delusions of the Egyptians? **But if the gods are real — then GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS SUPERIORITY AND POWER OF DEFEATING THEM — publicly — in many ways humiliating them. Revealing them to be powerless.**

Turning the Nile to blood insults HAPI and OSIRIS — gods of the Nile. The frog plague — an insult to HEQET — the frog-headed fertility goddess. The plague of darkness — a challenge to RA — the sun god. Etc!

(See the graphics/charts at the end of the notes)

JHVH God won't get much honour from defeating people's imaginary delusions?

But if JHVH is seen to defeat real “gods” — princes ... rulers — much more impressive!

But if there different gods over the nations — when might that have come about?

When did God separate the nations into their individual territories?

Genesis 11:1-4

1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

People are rejecting God's command to Noah to spread over the earth (Genesis 9:1). The tower is likely to be a Ziggurat with a temple ... to summon a god (?) to come to them?

Genesis 11:5-9

5 But **the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.**

6 And the LORD said, “**Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.**

7 **Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.**” (“US” — *the Divine Council?*)

8 **So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth,** and they ceased building the city.

9 **Therefore its name is called Babel,** because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; **and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.**

God confounded the languages. So they scattered around the earth ... with separate nations being formed of those with the same language.

This is the origin of the world’s nations. Genesis Chapter 10 outlines all 70 of them in what’s called the “Table of the Nations”.

Genesis 10:1-2

1 Now **this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.** And sons were born to them after the flood.

2 The sons of **Japheth** were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

JAPHETH NATIONS.

Genesis 10:6

6 **The sons of Ham** were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

HAMITE NATIONS.

Genesis 10:21

21 And children were born also to **Shem**, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder.

SHEM-ITE NATIONS.

Genesis 10:32

32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, **in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.**

ALL NATIONS ON EARTH DESCENDED FROM THESE. And it was the Tower of Babel event that ignited the division of all of the nations.

(See the graphic at the end of the notes)

It seems that God chooses to disinherit the nations after Babel. They've rejected His clear instructions to move out and fill the earth ... so He now forces them to scatter ... He disinherits them in the process. **They've rejected Him ... so He'll reject them and no longer be their God.**

He's going to allocate other god beings to govern them (in theory) ... since they don't want Him!

Deuteronomy 32:7-8

7 "Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of many generations.
**Ask your father, and he will show you;
Your elders, and they will tell you:**

8 **When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations,**
When He separated the sons of Adam, *(at the Tower of Babel)*
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the children of Israel.

Discussing the separation of the nations and their territories at Babel. They were shared out in accordance with the number of the “Sons of God”. (Many translations):

ESV/RSV: “When the Most High ... divided mankind, He fixed the borders of the people according to the numbers of **the Sons of God**”.

NET: “ ... He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of **the Heavenly Assembly**”.

MESSAGE: “When the High God gave the nations their stake, gave them their place on earth, He put each of the peoples within boundaries under the care of **Divine Guardians**”.

God appointed a Prince ... a Son of God ... ARCHON ... Watcher — to every nation. To lead it ... govern it. But Psalm 82 shows they failed.

But notice Jehovah’s choice ... His inheritance.

Deuteronomy 32:9

**9 For the LORD’s portion is His people;
Jacob is the place of His inheritance.**

The Most High God will continue His Covenant with the descendants of His friend Abraham — but only them. HIS SPECIAL NATION.

All other nations will have other gods ruling them. And doing a poor job!

When we look around the nations of the world — their troubles ... evils — we need to realise to what extent the god who is over them is orchestrating events.



RA



HAPI



HEQET



- 1  **BLOOD** (7:14-24)
The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- 2  **FROGS** (7:25 - 8:15)
Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- 3  **GNATS** (8:16-19)
The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- 4  **FLIES** (8:20-32)
Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- 5  **LIVESTOCK** (9:1-7)
All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- 6  **BOILS** (9:8-12)
Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
- 7  **HAIL** (9:13-35)
Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- 8  **LOCUSTS** (10:1-20)
Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go.
- 9  **DARKNESS** (10:21-29)
Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
- 10  **FIRSTBORN** (11:1-10; 12:29-32)
Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea.

HAPI - GOD OF THE NILE

HEQET - FROG HEADED GOD

GEB - GOD OF EARTH AND DUST

SHU - GOD OF THE AIR

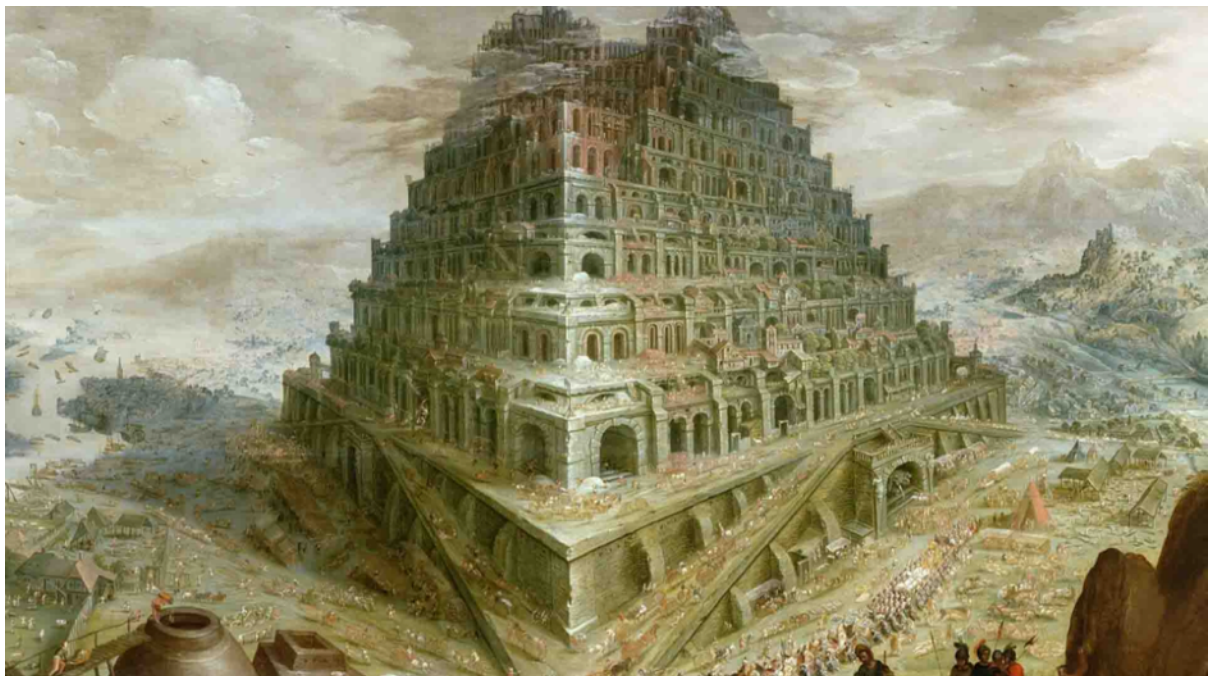
HATHOR - COW GOD, GODDESS OF FERTILITY

ISIS & SEKHMET - GODDESSES OF HEALING & DOCTORS

NUT & SETH - GODS OF THE SKY AND STORMS

BASTET - PROTECTOR OF CROPS & OSIRIS - AGRICULTURE

RA - SUN GOD, AND KING



“ THE TABLE OF NATIONS ”

THE LIST OF THE FOUNDERS OF 70 NATIONS
DESCENDED FROM NOAH'S
THREE SONS SHEM, HAM, AND JAPHETH

