

# GOD'S HEAVENLY FAMILY

## An Introduction To The “sons of God”

### PSALM 82:1-8 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: <sup>2</sup>“How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? <sup>3</sup>Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. <sup>4</sup>Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” <sup>5</sup>They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. <sup>6</sup>I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; <sup>7</sup>nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince. <sup>8</sup>Arise O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

### Preparation for

#### Video Session

- ♦ Pray seeking wisdom and understanding.
- ♦ Read chapters: 3-4 Unseen Realm
- ♦ Review session outline and discussion questions

### Viewer Guide

#### Review of Psalm 82 language

- ♦ **Ps 82:1** **God** (*Elohim* - singular) has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the \_\_\_\_\_ (*elohim* - plural) He holds judgment.
- ♦ **Ps 82:6** I said, you are gods, (*elohim* – plural) sons of the Most High, all of you.

#### The word “*elohim*” can’t be referring to Trinity because:

- ♦ v2: God accuses the gods of being \_\_\_\_\_.
- ♦ v7: “like men you shall \_\_\_\_\_ and fall like any prince.”

Our traditional filters associates **G-O-D** with a unique set attributes, possessed only by one being. Unique attributes such as:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

While those do describe Yahweh, the God of Israel, that is not how the ancient near eastern (ANE) writers thought about the word ***elohim***.



#### POINT TO PONDER

Just as Yahweh is an *elohim*, and no other *elohim* is Yahweh, so too, Jesus is the son of God and no other sons are like him.

2,300 examples of *elohim* in concordance refer to entities other than the God of Israel.

- ♦ Ps 82:6 "I said you are \_\_\_\_\_, sons of the Most High
- ♦ I Kings 11:33 "...they have worshiped... Chemosh the \_\_\_\_\_ of Moab and Milcom the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Ammonites..."
- ♦ 1 Sam 28:13 – The witch of Endor conjures up and describes Samuel "I see a \_\_\_\_\_ coming up out of the earth."

### Who are the *elohim*?

- ♦ Disembodied members who inhabit the spiritual world, Hebrew term ***ruachote***, spiritual beings, \_\_\_\_\_ human dead.
- ♦ Council is located in the \_\_\_\_\_ or heavens. Words used to describe where God is, and we are not.
- ♦ Prophet Micaiah, when consulted by king Jehoshaphat – sees "all the host of heaven" standing around throne

Are the sons of God angels?

- ♦ Yes, but "angel" is more specific to a \_\_\_\_\_ description.
- ♦ Hebrew *Malak* and Greek *Angelos*, means \_\_\_\_\_.

### What about Jesus being the "only begotten" (Greek *monogenēs*) son of God? (John 3:16)

- ♦ Term "**Monogenēs**" was formerly thought to combine ***monos*** ("one of - only") and ***gennao*** = "to beget"
- ♦ Subsequent paleographic discoveries indicate it means ***monos*** ("one of – only") and ***genos*** = "\_\_\_\_\_".
  - ♦ = unique, one-of-a-kind Son of God.

### What makes Jesus unique? He is God incarnate.

- ♦ Ex. Heb 11, Isaac is "monogenēs" of Abraham – unique son, born of promise - not "only-begotten" (i.e. Ishmael).

### Did ancient Israelites think sons of God were stars?

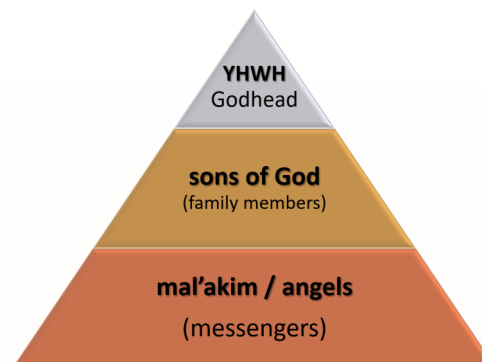
Language of \_\_\_\_\_ – celestial objects reside in heavens where God lives - conceived as supernatural beings. But did not necessarily conflate this with Genesis account where "God created the sun, moon and stars."

- ♦ Similar example – Gen 18-19 God and two angels appear as "men" because they \_\_\_\_\_ like men.
- ♦ Host of Heaven - God is the LORD of Hosts, in command of the heavens, armies, entourage, army, \_\_\_\_\_.

- ◆ Uses something in the natural world (stars) to give them the vocabulary to talk about God's entourage.

The "sons of God" refers to both family and rank.

Language is modelled after ANE royal court of kings	Heavenly Host / Divine Council
King	God
Sons	Sons of God
Court / armies	Angels



- ◆ Heb 2:7 for a little while He [Jesus] was made lower than the angels.
- ◆ Glorified believers will have a higher rank than angels in the heavenly bureaucracy – we are created to be part of God's family, part of a \_\_\_\_\_ with God where we serve Him and do the things He wants to accomplish.
- ◆ Cor 6:3 Paul writes "Don't you know that you will \_\_\_\_\_ angels?" We outrank the rest of the heavenly host.

### Other commentary explanations for elohim?

In John 10:34 Jesus cites Ps 82:6 – Jesus confronting pharisees, states "I and the Father are One" then quotes Ps 82:6 "I said you are gods." Many commentators would say Jesus is equating himself with other \_\_\_\_\_ who are God's children in order to avoid appearance of polytheism.

But equating Himself with other Israelites cannot correlate with "I and the Father are one." (v 30)  
Or later, "the Father is in me, and I am in the Father." (v 38)

Other commentators relate elohim terminology to Ex 18, where Jethro appoints elders/ judges, who are Israelites. But Exodus does not call these judges elohim – and the Exodus passage is not quoted by Jesus. Instead Ps 82 is quoted. Jesus does not back off \_\_\_\_\_ assertion, instead affirms it by two points:

There are other supernatural beings who are called sons of God (I am more than a man)  
I'm not just more than a man, I am the God of the council, the one \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting, charging other gods with corruption.

- ◆ "Again they sought to arrest him" – is not consistent with Jesus backing down from His assertion of deity!

## Summary of how ancient Israelites thought of Ps 82, consistent with biblical teaching of God and Jesus

God presides over meetings where other heavenly host, *elohim* / spiritual beings are in trouble/ under judgment.

The term *elohim* is used for all members of spiritual realm. However, only one *elohim* has certain attributes.

The LORD, Yahweh is incomparable. "There are lots of *elohim* in supernatural world view, but only one of those *elohim* is Yahweh.... Yahweh is an *elohim*, but no other *elohim* is Yahweh."

Similarly, the rest of the *elohim* are sons of God, but there is one unique son of God, who is God Himself.

Jesus is the unique Son of God because He is God in human flesh.

### What Stood Out to You?

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## Questions For Deeper Understanding

Reading the Bible and seeing the word god (*elohim*) can create confusion and a perception of pantheism. Consequently, it is important to have a clear understanding of the meanings of *elohim* that inhabit the spiritual world.

Re-read Ps. 82:1. Look up this verse in the following translations and list the different names each version uses for the Divine council — ESV, NIV, NKJV, NIRV, and NET

Do these different terms change the meaning of the verse? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe what it means that the gods were being unjust?

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How is the word "angel" different than the other sons of God?

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What is the big take away from John 3:16 and Jesus being called his “only begotten” son? How does the metaphoric language of the natural world used in the Old Testament help the people of that day talk about God’s entourage?

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Why are we in the New Testament called sons and daughters of God? What is the deeper meaning?

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Jesus is making two points when he quotes Ps. 82:6 in John 10:30-38. What might they be?

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### Prayer Requests

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*“And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”*  
*James 15:15-17 (ESV)*

### **Other Resources for Consideration:**

[www.nakedbiblepodcast.com](http://www.nakedbiblepodcast.com) (Start Here Video)  
[www.drms.com](http://www.drms.com)  
[www.moreunseenrealm.com](http://www.moreunseenrealm.com)  
The Divine Council Worldview Facebook Group

*Lesson guides developed by Missy Chapman, Deborah Elmquist, and Duretta Anderson*