

The Divine Council



The Divine Council

Old Testament

The Divine Council

יהוה

Yaweh

אל

EI

עליון

Elyon

אלהים

Elohim

The Divine Council

Then God (Elohim) said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God (Elohim) created human beings in his own image. In the image of God (Elohim) he created them; male and female he created them.
[Genesis 1:26-27 NLT]

The Divine Council

Then the Lord God (Yaweh Elohim) said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” [Genesis 3:22 NLT]

The Divine Council

But the Lord (Yaweh) came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building.

“Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them!

Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other.” [Genesis 11:5-7]

The Divine Council

ובני עליון

Bene Elyon / Sons of Most High God

בני האלהים

Bene Elohim / Sons of God

The Divine Council

One day the members of the heavenly court (bene elohim / sons of God) came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan (ha-satan), came with them. [Job 1:6 NLT]*

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone as the morning stars sang together and all the angels (bene elohim / sons of God) shouted for joy? [Job 38:4-7 NLT]

The Divine Council

רְבֵה קְדוֹשִׁים בְּקֹהֶל קְדוֹשִׁים

Sod Qedoshim /
Council of Holy Ones

Qahal Qedoshim /
Assembly of Holy Ones

בְּעֵדַת אֵל

El Adah /
Congregation of El

The Divine Council

All heaven will praise your great wonders, Lord (Yaweh); myriads of angels (qahal qedoshim / assembly of holy ones i.e. "divine council") will praise you for your faithfulness. For who in all of heaven can compare with the Lord? What mightiest angel (bene elohim / sons of God) is anything like the Lord? The highest angelic powers (sod qedoshim / council of holy ones i.e. "divine council") stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround his throne. O Lord God (Yaweh Elohim) of Heaven's Armies! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O Lord (Yah)? You are entirely faithful. [Psalm 89:5-8 NLT]

The Divine Council

*For Solomon has abandoned me and worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess (*elohim*) of the Sidonians; Chemosh, the god (*elohim*) of Moab; and Molech, the god (*elohim*) of the Ammonites. He has not followed my ways and done what is pleasing in my sight. He has not obeyed my decrees and regulations as David his father did. [1 Kings 11:33 NLT]*

The Divine Council

*“But Israel soon became fat and unruly; the people grew heavy, plump, and stuffed! Then they abandoned the God who had made them; they made light of the Rock of their salvation. They stirred up his jealousy by worshiping foreign gods; they provoked his fury with detestable deeds. They offered sacrifices to demons (*shedim*), which are not God (*Eloah*), to gods (*elohim*) they had not known before, to new gods only recently arrived, to gods their ancestors had never feared. [Deut 32:15-17 NLT]*

The Divine Council

But Saul took an oath in the name of the Lord and promised, "As surely as the Lord lives, nothing bad will happen to you for doing this." Finally, the woman said, "Well, whose spirit do you want me to call up?" "Call up Samuel," Saul replied. When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, "You've deceived me! You are Saul!" "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. "What does he look like?" Saul asked. "He is an old man wrapped in a robe," she replied. Saul realized it was Samuel, and he fell to the ground before him. [1 Samuel 28:10-14 NLT]

The Divine Council

So What is an 'Elohim'?

- Yaweh (God)
- Divine Council members
- Angels
- Foreign gods
- Demons
- Human spirits

What is the
common
factor
here?

The Divine Council

So What is an 'Elohim'?

- Yaweh (God)
- Divine Council members
- Angels
- Foreign gods
- Demons
- Human spirits

Spirit Beings
or
Spiritual
Realm
Dwellers

The Divine Council

The Puzzle

The Divine Council

Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures that God said [to certain leaders of the people], 'I say, you are gods!' And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those [people*] who received God's message were called 'gods,' why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. [John 10:34-36 NLT]*

The Divine Council

God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the [rulers]. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked. They do not know nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, "You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High. "Nevertheless you will die like men and fall like any one of the princes." Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is You who possesses all the nations.*

[Psalms 82 NASB]

The Divine Council

...let's try this again...

The Divine Council

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods (theos)”’”? If he called them ‘gods’ (theos) to whom the word of God came — and the scripture cannot be broken — do you say about he whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? [John 10:34-36 LEB]

The Divine Council

God (Elohim) stands in the divine assembly (El adah / congregation of El i.e. "divine council"); he administers judgment in the midst of the gods (elohim). "How long will you judge unjustly and show favoritism to the wicked?..."

I have said, "You are gods (elohim), and sons of the Most High (bene Elyon), all of you. However, you will die like men, and you will fall like one of the princes." [Psalm 82:1-2,6-7 LEB]

The Divine Council

New Testament

The Divine Council

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers (*archos*) and authorities (*exousia*) of the unseen world, against mighty powers (*kosmokrator*) in this dark world, and against evil spirits (*pneumatikon poneria*) in the heavenly places (*epourania*). [Ephesians 6:12 NLT]*

The Divine Council

*...for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms (**ouranos**) and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones (**thronos**), kingdoms (**kyriotes**), rulers (**arche**), and authorities (**exousia**) in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. [Colossians 1:16 NLT]*

The Divine Council

In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers (arche) and authorities (exousia). He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. [Colossians 2:15 NLT]

The Divine Council

*And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels (*aggelos*) nor demons* (*arche*), neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers [of hell*] (*dynamis*) can separate us from God's love.
[Romans 8:38-39 NLT]*

The Divine Council

*You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil (*archon*) — the commander of the powers (*exousia*) in the unseen world (*aer*). He is the spirit (*pneuma*) at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.*

[Ephesians 2:2 NLT]

The Divine Council

*God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers (*arche*) and authorities (*exousia*) in the heavenly places (*epourania*). [Ephesians 3:10 NLT]*

The Divine Council

*“Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers (*dynamis*) in the heavens (*ouranos*) will be shaken. [Matthew 24:29 NLT]*

*...the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers (*dynamis*) in the heavens (*ouranos*) will be shaken. [Mark 13:25 NLT]*

*People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers (*dynamis*) in the heavens (*ouranos*) will be shaken. [Luke 21:26 NLT]*

The Divine Council

- *The Devil (archon) the commander of the powers (exousia) in the unseen world (aer)*
- *Evil / spiritual / unseen rulers (archos) and evil spirits (pneumatikon poneria) in the heavenly places (epourania)*
- *Powers (dynamis) in the heavens (ouranos)*
- *Mighty powers (kosmokrator) in this dark world*
- *Angels (aggelos)*
- *Authorities (exousia)*
- *Thrones (thronos)*
- *Kingdoms (kyriotes)*

The Divine Council

ἄρχων

Archon / Ruler

ἀρχή

Arche / Rulers

ἐξουσία

Exousia /
Authorities

δύναμις

Dynamis / Powers

κοσμοκράτωρ

Kosmokrator / World Power

The Divine Council

Πνεῦμα πνευματικόν πονηρία

Pneuma / Spirit

Pneumatikon Poneria /
Evil Spirits

ἄγγελος θρόνος κυριότης

Aggelos / Angels

Thronos /
Thrones

Kuriotes /
Kingdoms

The Divine Council

Satan, Belial, Beelzeboul

The Serpent, the Shining One, the Star of the Morning, the Accuser, the Adversary, the Slanderer, the Prince of Demons, the Father of Lies, the God of this World, the Commander of the Powers of the Air, the Evil One, the Tempter, the Power of Darkness, the Ancient Serpent, the Great Dragon

Sons of God / Fallen angels

Evil / Spiritual / Unseen Rulers in Heavenly Places, Powers in the Heavens, Authorities, Mighty Powers, Thrones (?), Kingdoms (?)

Demons

Unclean Spirits, Evil Spirits, Deceiving Spirits

The Divine Council

X-Files

The Divine Council

“When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel (*bene Yisrael*).*

“For the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. [Deut 32:8-9 NASB]

The Divine Council

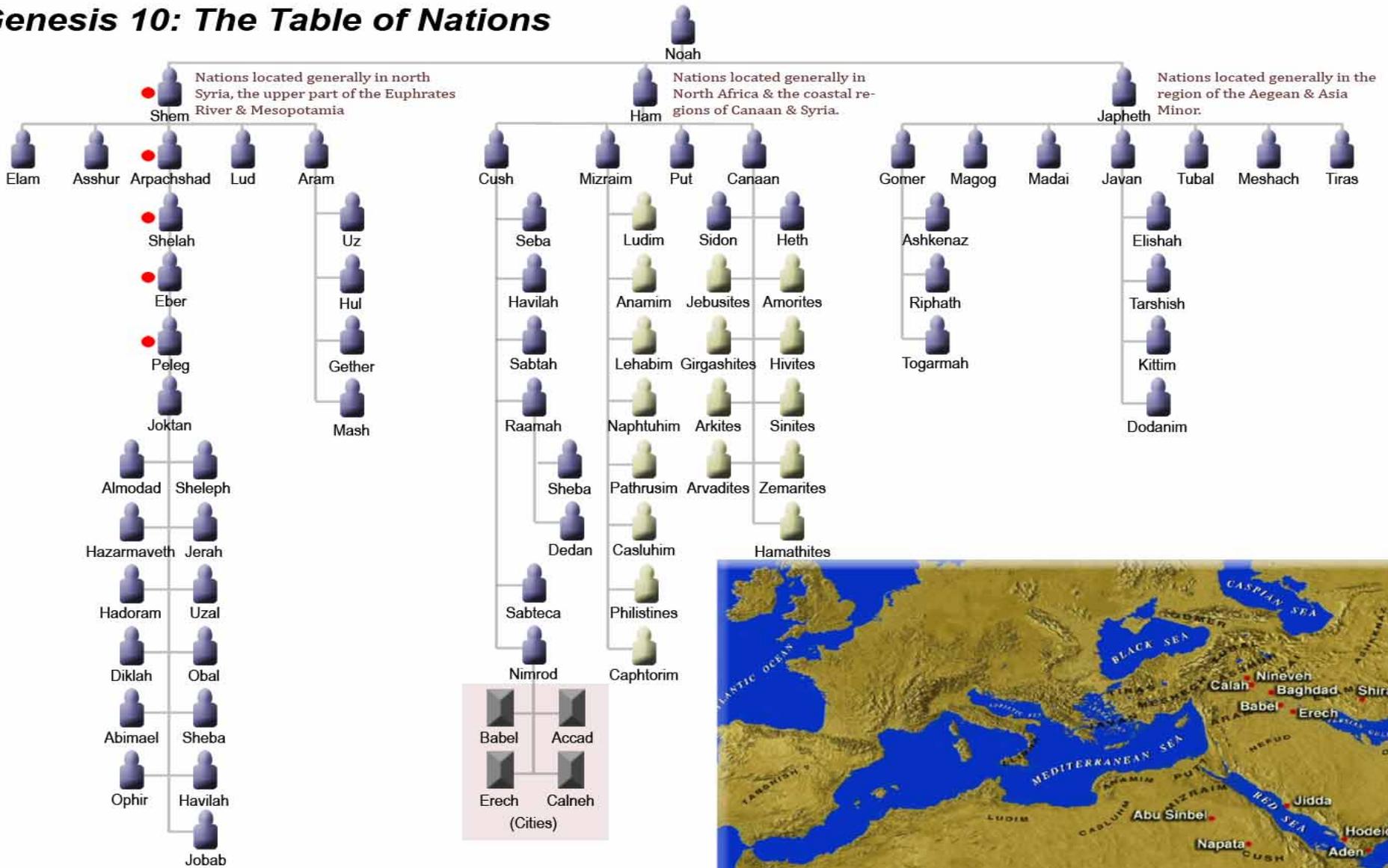
When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court (bene elohim / sons of God). “For the people of Israel belong to the Lord; Jacob is his special possession. [Deut 32:8-9 NLT]

The Divine Council

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. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince (sar / ruler) of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels (hasarim rishon / chief rulers), came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come." [Daniel 10:12-14 NLT]

The Divine Council

Genesis 10: The Table of Nations



● = The Messianic Seed Line

The Divine Council

*Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. The sons of God (**bene Elohim**) saw the beautiful women and took any they wanted as their wives. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years."*

*In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God (**bene Elohim**) had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times. [Genesis 6:1-4 NLT]*

The Divine Council

*For God did not spare even the angels (**aggelos**) who sinned. He threw them into hell (**Tartarus**), in gloomy pits of darkness (**zophos**), where they are being held until the day of judgment. [2 Peter 2:4 NLT]*

The Divine Council

*And I remind you of the angels (**aggelos**) who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness (**zophos**), waiting for the great day of judgment. [Jude 1:6 NLT]*

The Divine Council

And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born to them beautiful and fair daughters. And the angels, the sons of heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and have children with them.' ... And they were in all two hundred who descended in the days of Jared in the summit of Mount Hermon, ... And all of them together went and took wives for themselves, each choosing one for himself, and they began to go in to them and to defile themselves with sex with them, ... And the women became pregnant, and they bare large giants... [1 Enoch 6:1-3,6 7:1,3-4]

The Divine Council

And the Lord said to Michael: 'Go, bind Semjaza and his team who have associated with women and have defiled themselves in all their uncleanness. When their sons have slain one another, and they have seen the destruction of their beloved ones, bind them fast for seventy generations under the hills of the earth, until the day of the consummation of their judgment and until the eternal judgment is accomplished. In those days they shall be led off to the abyss of fire and to the torment and the prison in which they shall be confined for ever.' [1 Enoch 10:11-13]

The Divine Council

And now, the giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits on the earth, and shall live on the earth. Evil spirits have come out from their bodies because they are born from men and from the holy Watchers, their beginning is of primal origin; They shall be evil spirits on earth, and evil spirits shall they be called spirits of the evil ones. [1 Enoch 15:8-10]

The Divine Council

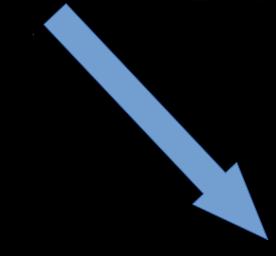
(Fallen) Sons of God

+

Daughters of Men



Nephilites / Giants



Demons (?)

The Divine Council

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. [Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT]

The Divine Council

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. [Ephesians 1:19-22 NLT]

The Divine Council

Thanks to Michael Heiser:

<http://www.thedivinecouncil.com/>

The Divine Council



That's all Folks!

The Divine Council

Bonus

The Divine Council

Gods in the Old Testament

- *Baal ('Lord') = God of Canaan / Phoenicia*
- *Baal-zebub ('Lord of Flies') = God of Phillistines*
- *Molech ('King') = God of Ammonites*
- *Asherah (Ashtoreth) = Goddess of Sidonians, "Queen of Heaven"*
- *Chemosh = God of Moab*
- *Marduk (Baal / Bel) = God of Babylon*
- *Tammuz = God of Babylon*
- *Nebu = God of Babylon*
- *Dagon = God of Phillistines*
- *Azazel*

The Divine Council

*He is to cast sacred lots to determine which goat will be reserved as an offering to the Lord and which will carry the sins of the people to the wilderness of **Azazel**. Aaron will then present as a sin offering the goat chosen by lot for the Lord. The other goat, the scapegoat chosen by lot to be sent away, will be kept alive, standing before the Lord. When it is sent away to **Azazel** in the wilderness, the people will be purified and made right with the Lord...The man chosen to drive the scapegoat into the wilderness of **Azazel** must wash his clothes and bathe himself in water. Then he may return to the camp. [Lev 16:8-10,26]*

The Divine Council

Gods in the NT

- *Hermes/Mercury (messenger of the Gods) = Paul?*
- *Zeus/Jupiter (father of the Gods) = Barnabas?*
- *Artemus/Diana (Goddess of fertility) = Ephesus*
- *Abaddon/Apollyon (Destroyer) = Revelation Abyss*

The Divine Council

*Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen to earth from the sky, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. When he opened it, smoke poured out as though from a huge furnace, and the sunlight and air turned dark from the smoke. Then locusts came from the smoke and descended on the earth, and they were given power to sting like scorpions.... Their king is the **angel from the bottomless pit**; his name in Hebrew is **Abaddon**, and in Greek, **Apollyon**—the Destroyer.*

[Revelation 9:1-3,11]

The Divine Council

Israelite Religious Development

Polytheism

(Many gods /
Pick any)

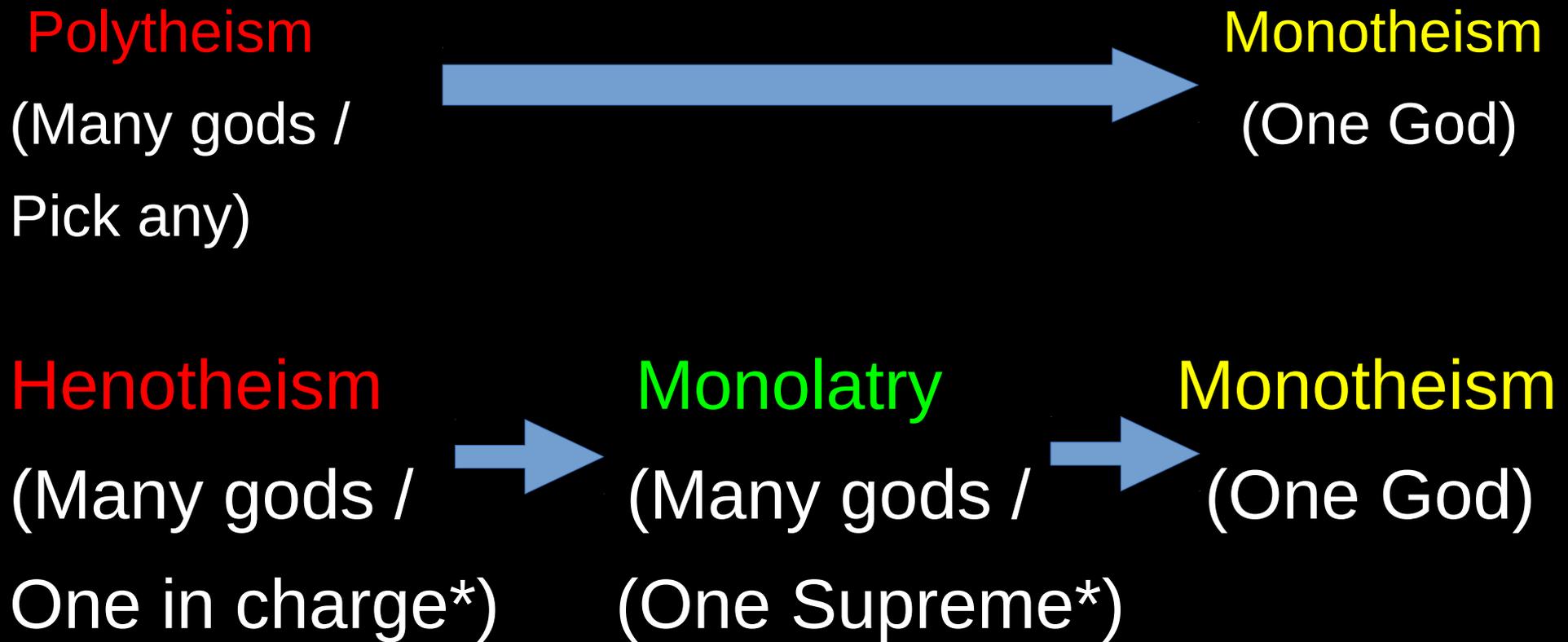


Monotheism

(One God)

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Israelite Religious Development



The Divine Council



But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. [1 John 4:4 NLT]

The Divine Council

The Divine Council

The Divine Council

As Jacob started on his way again, angels of God (malakim elohim) came to meet him. When Jacob saw them, he exclaimed, "This is God's (elohim) camp!" So he named the place Mahanaim.*

[Genesis 32:1-2 NLT]

Jacob built an altar there and named the place El-bethel (which means "God (El) of Bethel"), because God (elohim) had appeared to him there when he was fleeing from his brother, Esau. [Genesis 35:7 NLT]*

The Divine Council

“For the Lord (Yaweh) is a great God (El), a great King above all gods (elohim)...for he is our God (Elohim). We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today! [Psalms 95:3,7 NLT]

I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; I will sing your praises before the gods (elohim). [Psalms 138:1 NLT]

The Divine Council

God (Elohim) presides over heaven's court (Eladah / congregation of El i.e. "divine council"); he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings (elohim): "How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked?"

I say, 'You are gods (elohim); you are all children of the Most High (bene Elyon / sons of God). But you will die like mere mortals and fall like every other ruler.'" [Psalms 82:1-2,6-7 NLT]

The Divine Council

“Yahweh, God (El) of gods (elohim)! Yahweh, God (El) of gods (elohim) knows. And let Israel itself know, if it was in rebellion or treachery against Yahweh, do not spare us this day for building for ourselves an altar to turn away from Yahweh, or if it was to offer burnt offerings, grain offerings, or fellowship offerings on it, may Yahweh himself take vengeance. [Joshua 22:22-23 LEB]

The Divine Council

When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. [1 Corinthians 6:1-3 NLT]

The Divine Council

Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods (theos)!' And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people who received God's message were called 'gods (theos),' why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God (huios theos)'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father." [John 10:34-38 NLT]

The Divine Council

God presides over heaven's court; he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings: "How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked? Interlude

"Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. But these oppressors know nothing; they are so ignorant! They wander about in darkness, while the whole world is shaken to the core. I say,

'You are gods; you are all children of the Most High. But you will die like mere mortals and fall like every other ruler.'"

Rise up, O God, and judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you. [Psalm 82 NLT]

The Divine Council

But the Lord (Yaweh) came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

In that way, the Lord (Yaweh) scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world. [Genesis 11:5-9]

The Divine Council

*I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.
[Daniel 7:9-10 NLT]*

The Divine Council

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. And the Lord said, 'Who can entice Ahab to go into battle against Ramoth-gilead so he can be killed?' "There were many suggestions, and finally a spirit approached the Lord and said, 'I can do it!' "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." "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

Then said the Most High, the Great and Holy One, "Uriel, go to the son of Lamech. Say to him: 'Go to Noah and tell him in my name "Hide yourself!" and reveal to him the end that is approaching: that the whole earth will be destroyed, and a flood is about to come on the whole earth, and will destroy everything on it.' 'And now instruct him as to what he must do to escape that his offspring may be preserved for all the generations of the world.' [1 Enoch 10:1-3]

The Divine Council

Jesus answered them, “Is it not 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 about he whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I do not do the deeds of my Father, do not believe me. But if I am doing them, even if you do not believe me, believe the deeds, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” [John 10:34-38 LEB]

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The Divine Council

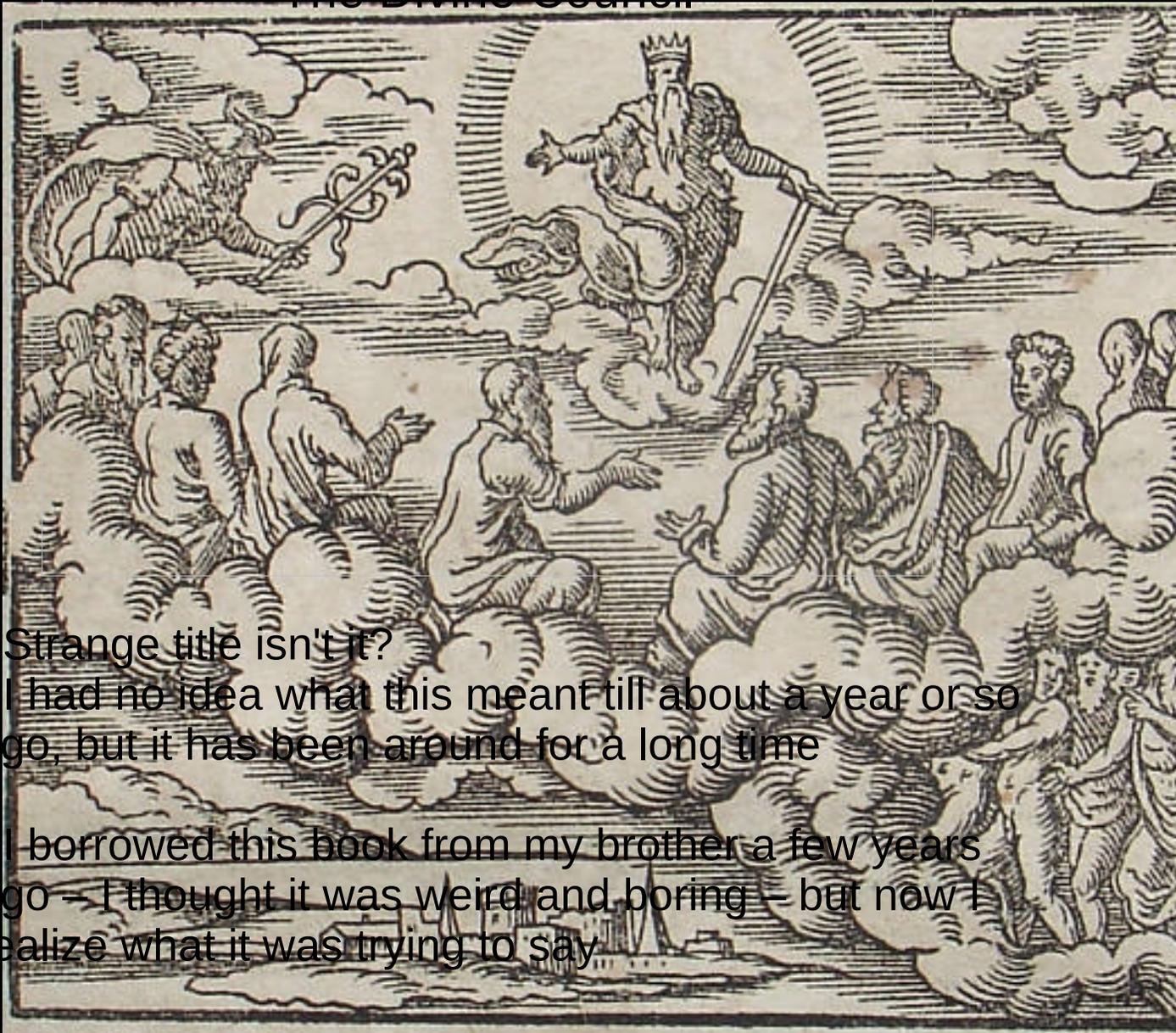
God stands in the divine assembly; he administers judgment in the midst of the gods. “How long will you judge unjustly and show favoritism to the wicked? Judge on behalf of the helpless and the orphan; provide justice to the afflicted and the poor. Rescue the helpless and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” They do not know or consider. They go about in the darkness, so that all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I have said, “You are gods, and sons of the Most High, all of you. However, you will die like men, and you will fall like one of the princes.” Rise up, O God, judge the earth, because you shall inherit all the nations. [Psalm 82 LEB]



- Welcome to our class today!
- Last week was partially a foundation for this topic
- If last week was a 1st year Bible college course, then this is a 2nd or 3rd year one
- There is a bit of overlap with Irv's OT character series and some of Annemarie's video classes

- What you end up thinking about this class has absolutely nothing to do with your salvation!
- If you are surprised, that is OK
- If you are offended, confused, or fearful, please don't leave without talking to me, OK?
- My objective is to point out something interesting in the Bible – not to tick you off!

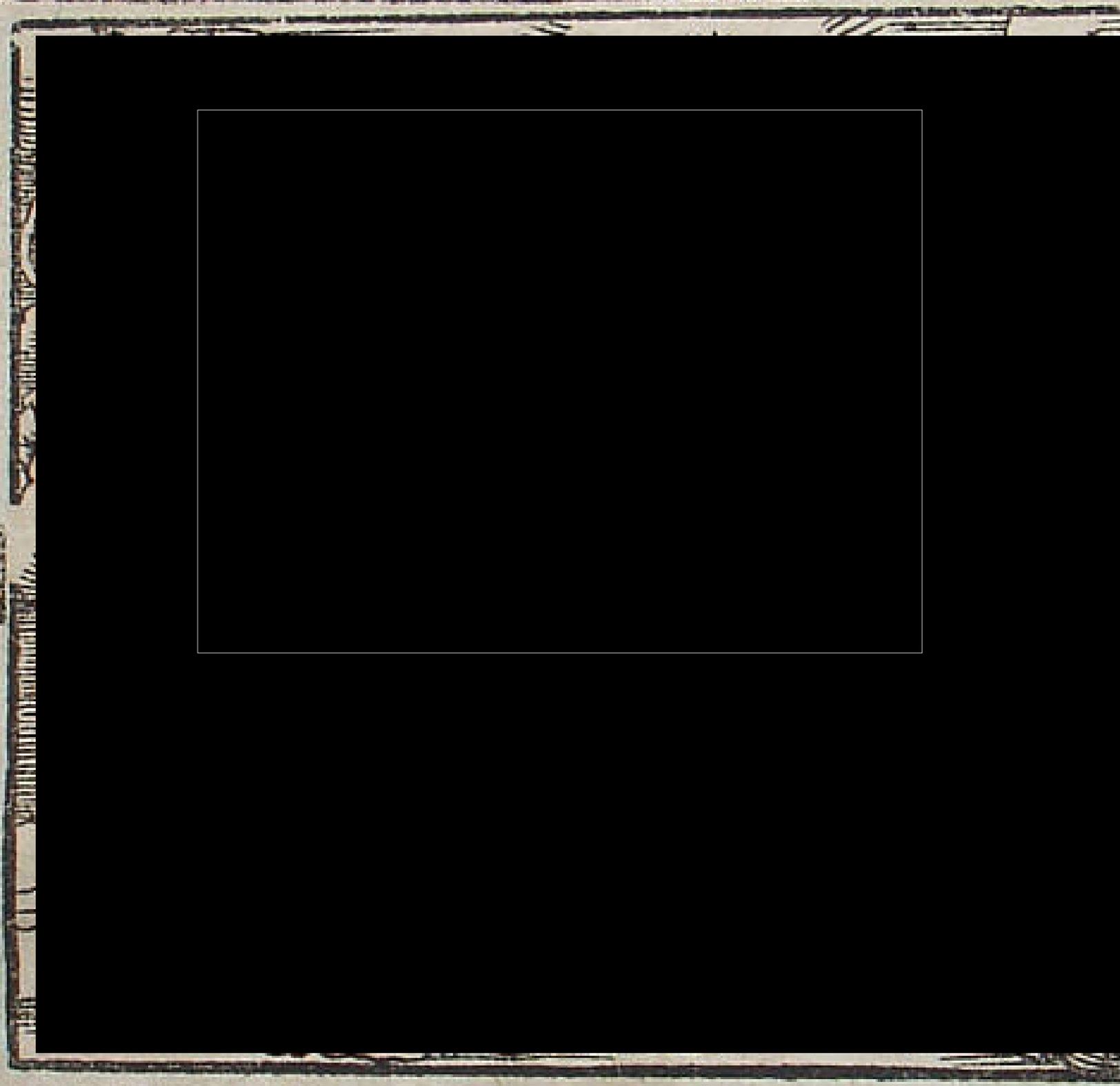
The Divine Council



Strange title isn't it?

I had no idea what this meant till about a year or so ago, but it has been around for a long time

I borrowed this book from my brother a few years ago – I thought it was weird and boring – but now I realize what it was trying to say



אל

יהוה

אלהים

עליון

Then God (Elohim) said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” So God (Elohim) created human beings in his own image. In the image of God (Elohim) he created them; male and female he created them. [Genesis 1:26-27 NLT]

Then the Lord God (Yaweh Elohim) said, "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" [Genesis 3:22 NLT]

But the Lord (Yaweh) came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other." [Genesis 11:5-7]

ובני עליהן

בני האלהים

- Remember 'ben Hur'? 'Ben' means 'son of'
- So this is easy to translate and understand
DO NOT MENTION ANGELS HERE!
- Let's see some examples of where this is used

One day the members of the heavenly court (bene elohim / sons of God) came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan (ha-satan), came with them. [Job 1:6 NLT]*

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone as the morning stars sang together and all the angels (bene elohim / sons of God) shouted for joy? [Job 38:4-7 NLT]

בקהל קדושים רבה קדושים

בעדת אל

[read]

- Those look like pretty fancy titles to me
- Any idea where there are used in the OT?
- These next verses use all of these terms in the same context:

All heaven will praise your great wonders, Lord (Yaweh); myriads of angels (qahal qedoshim / assembly of holy ones i.e. "divine council") will praise you for your faithfulness. For who in all of heaven can compare with the Lord? What mightiest angel (bene elohim / sons of God) is anything like the Lord? The highest angelic powers (sod qedoshim / council of holy ones i.e. "divine council") stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround his throne. O Lord God (Yaweh Elohim) of Heaven's Armies! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O Lord (Yah)? You are entirely faithful. [Psalm 89:5-8 NLT]

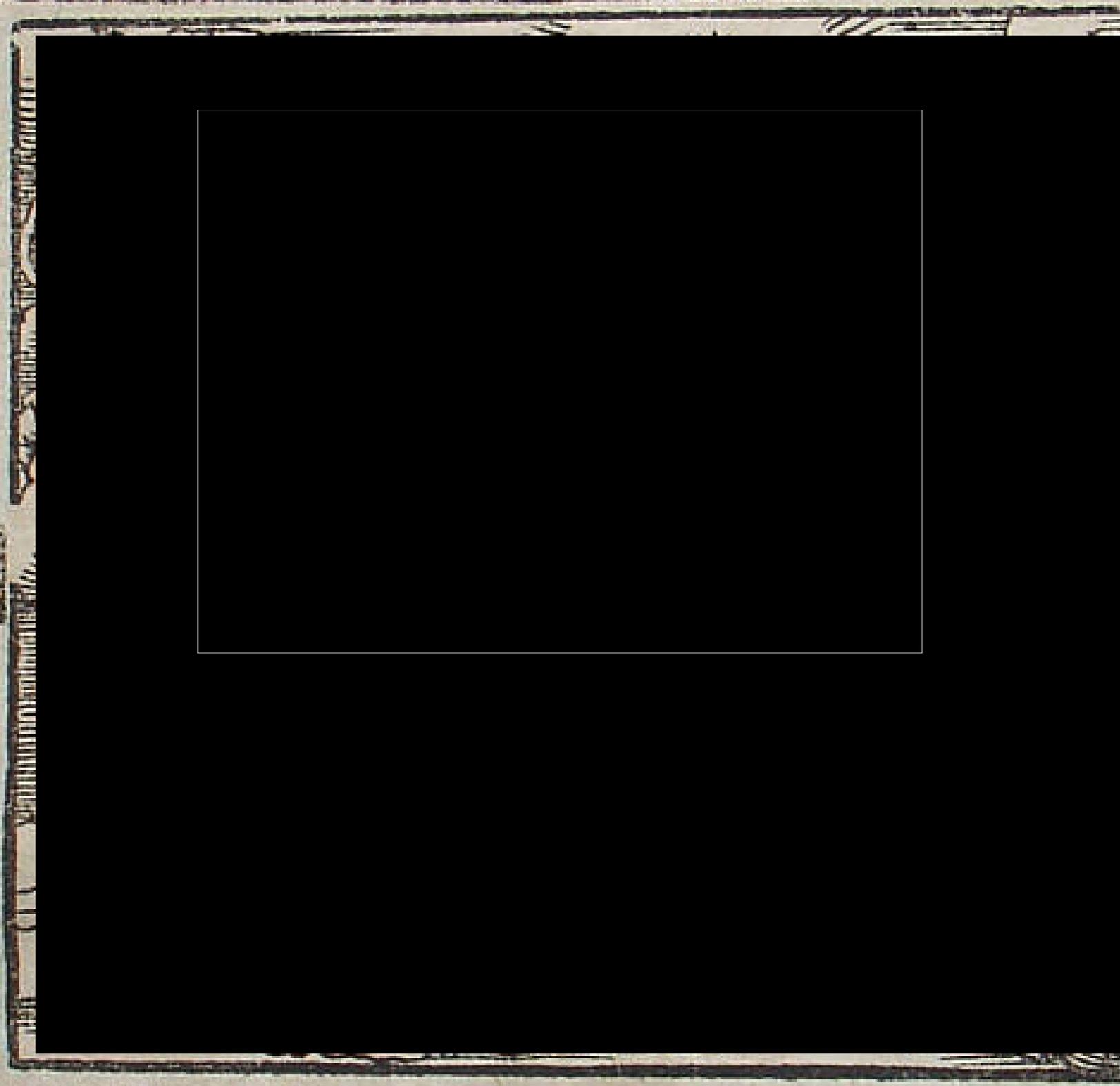
For Solomon has abandoned me and worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess (elohim) of the Sidonians; Chemosh, the god (elohim) of Moab; and Molech, the god (elohim) of the Ammonites. He has not followed my ways and done what is pleasing in my sight. He has not obeyed my decrees and regulations as David his father did. [1 Kings 11:33 NLT]

“But Israel soon became fat and unruly; the people grew heavy, plump, and stuffed! Then they abandoned the God who had made them; they made light of the Rock of their salvation. They stirred up his jealousy by worshiping foreign gods; they provoked his fury with detestable deeds. They offered sacrifices to demons (shedim), which are not God (Eloah), to gods (elohim) they had not known before, to new gods only recently arrived, to gods their ancestors had never feared. [Deut 32:15-17 NLT]

But Saul took an oath in the name of the Lord and promised, "As surely as the Lord lives, nothing bad will happen to you for doing this." Finally, the woman said, "Well, whose spirit do you want me to call up?" "Call up Samuel," Saul replied. When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, "You've deceived me! You are Saul!" "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. "What does he look like?" Saul asked. "He is an old man wrapped in a robe," she replied. Saul realized it was Samuel, and he fell to the ground before him. [1 Samuel 28:10-14 NLT]

What is the
common
factor
here?

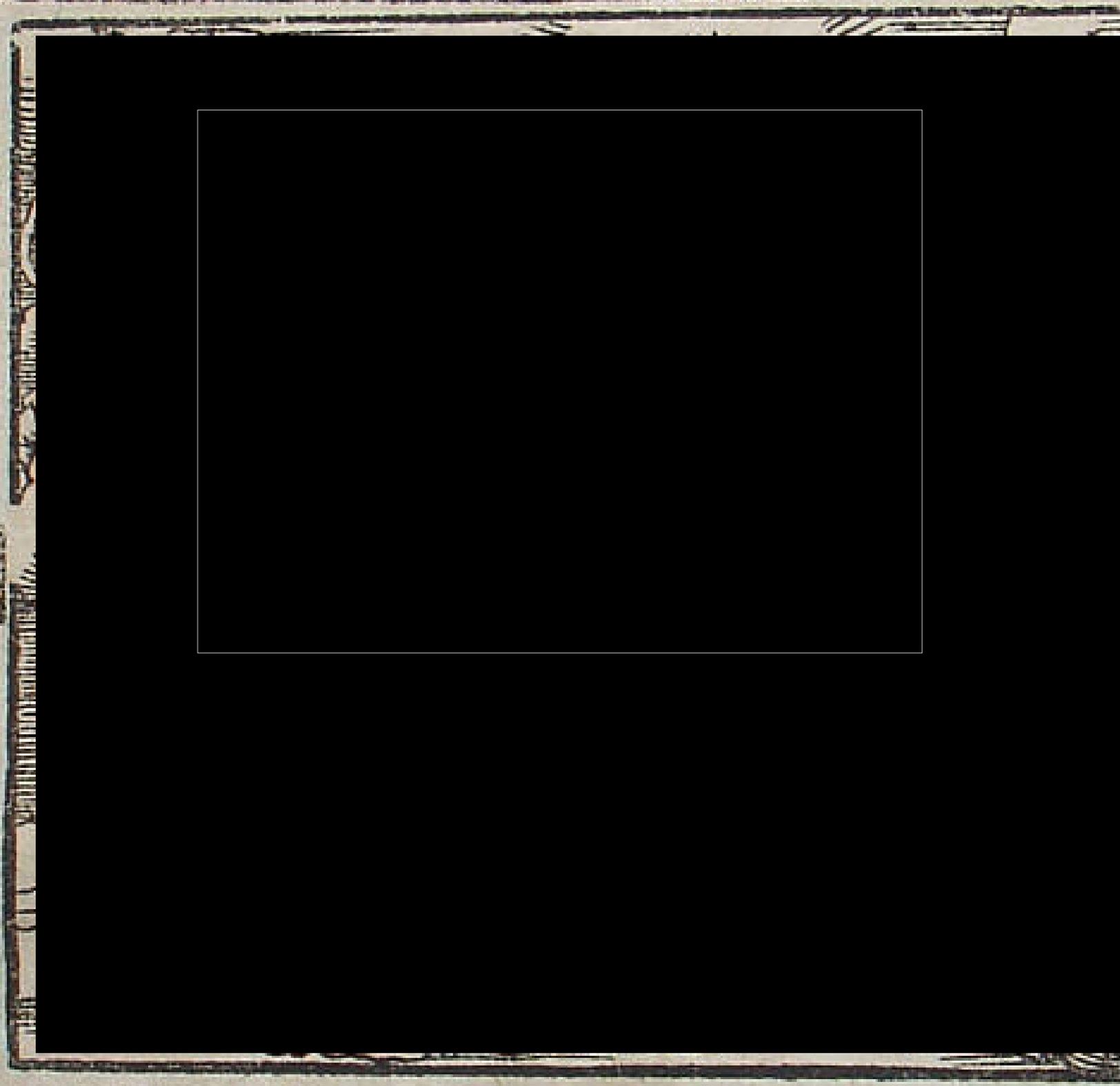
Spirit Beings
or
Spiritual
Realm
Dwellers



Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures that God said [to certain leaders of the people], 'I say, you are gods!' And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those [people*] who received God's message were called 'gods,' why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. [John 10:34-36 NLT]*

- Let me suggest to you that this might not be the best way to translate or understand those verses

God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the [rulers]. How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked. They do not know nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, "You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High. "Nevertheless you will die like men and fall like any one of the princes." Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is You who possesses all the nations.*
[Psalms 82 NASB]



Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods (theos)”’? If he called them ‘gods’ (theos) to whom the word of God came — and the scripture cannot be broken — do you say about he whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? [John 10:34-36 LEB]

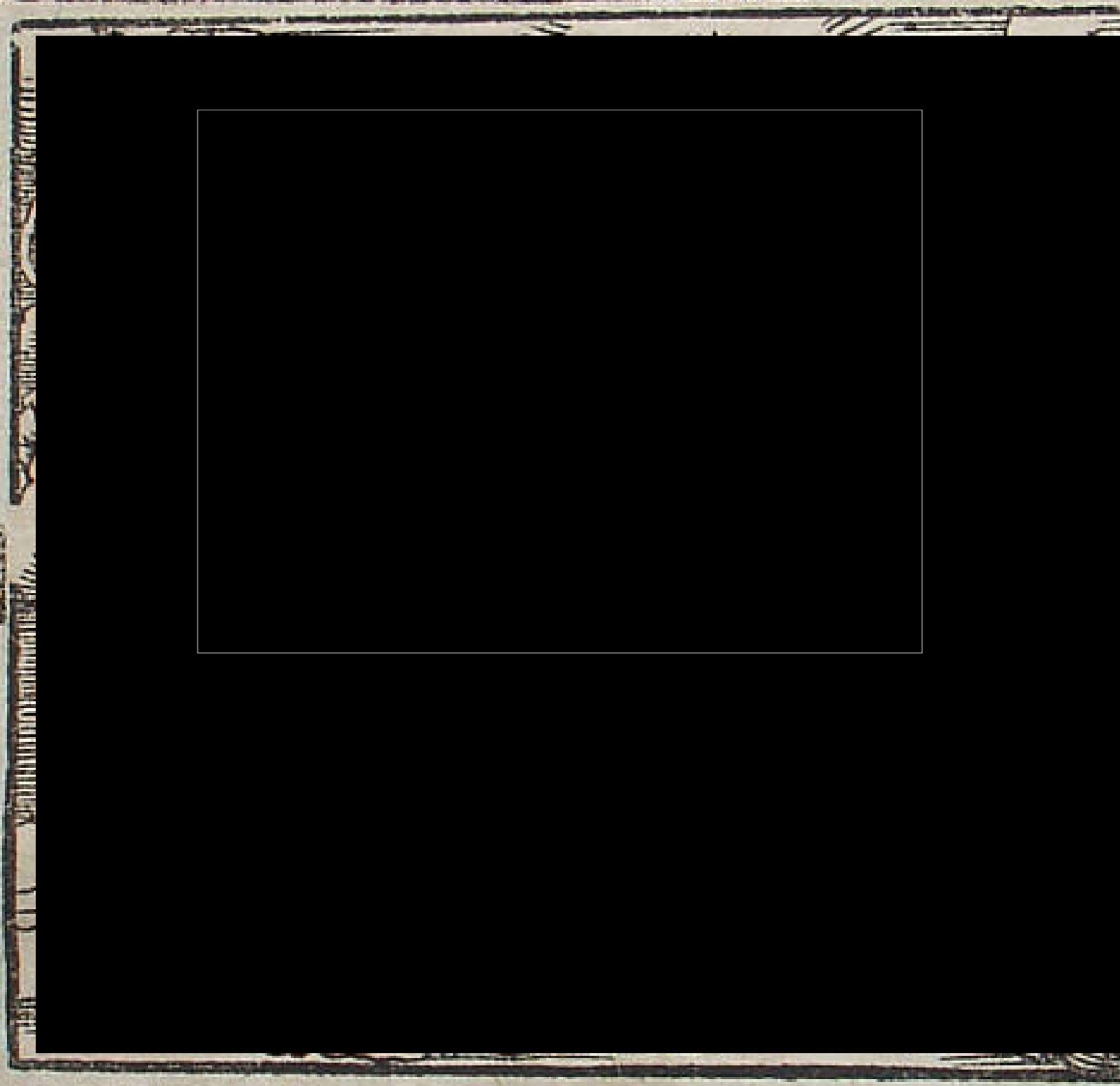
God (Elohim) stands in the divine assembly (Eladah / congregation of El i.e. "divine council"); he administers judgment in the midst of the gods (elohim). "How long will you judge unjustly and show favoritism to the wicked?..."

I have said, "You are gods (elohim), and sons of the Most High (bene Elyon), all of you. However, you will die like men, and you will fall like one of the princes." [Psalm 82:1-2,6-7 LEB]

as God's name and also to those in the council?

- Notice that the Hebrew does NOT seem to be talking about human leaders here

- We could spend an entire class just talking about Psalms 82, but let's keep moving...



For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers (archos) and authorities (exousia) of the unseen world, against mighty powers (kosmokrator) in this dark world, and against evil spirits (pneumatikon ponia) in the heavenly places (epourania). [Ephesians 6:12 NLT]

...for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms (ouranos) and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones (thronos), kingdoms (kyriotes), rulers (arche), and authorities (exousia) in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. [Colossians 1:16 NLT]

In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers (arche) and authorities (exousia). He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. [Colossians 2:15 NLT]

*And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels (*aggelos*) nor demons* (*arche*), neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers [of hell*] (*dynamis*) can separate us from God's love.
[Romans 8:38-39 NLT]*

- Also notice that the NLT adds 'of hell' even though it is not in the Greek text, which is OK in this case

You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil (archon) — the commander of the powers (exousia) in the unseen world (aer). He is the spirit (pneuma) at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

[Ephesians 2:2 NLT]

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers (arche) and authorities (exousia) in the heavenly places (epourania). [Ephesians 3:10 NLT]

*“Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers (**dynamis**) in the heavens (**ouranos**) will be shaken. [Matthew 24:29 NLT]*

*...the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers (**dynamis**) in the heavens (**ouranos**) will be shaken. [Mark 13:25 NLT]*

*People will be terrified at what they see coming upon the earth, for the powers (**dynamis**) in the heavens (**ouranos**) will be shaken. [Luke 21:26 NLT]*

The Devil (*archon*) the commander of the
powers (*exousia*) in the unseen world (*aer*)
Evil / spiritual / unseen rulers (*archos*) and evil
spirits (*pneumatikon poneria*) in the heavenly
places (*epourania*)
Powers (*dynamis*) in the heavens (*ouranos*)
Mighty powers (*kosmokrator*) in this dark world
Angels (*aggelos*)
Authorities (*exousia*)
Thrones (*thronos*)
Kingdoms (*kyriotes*)

ἀρχων ἀρχή ἐξουσία

δύναμις κοσμοκράτωρ

πνεῦμα πνευματικόν πονηρία

ἄγγελος θρόνος κυριότης

Satan, Belial, Beelzeboul

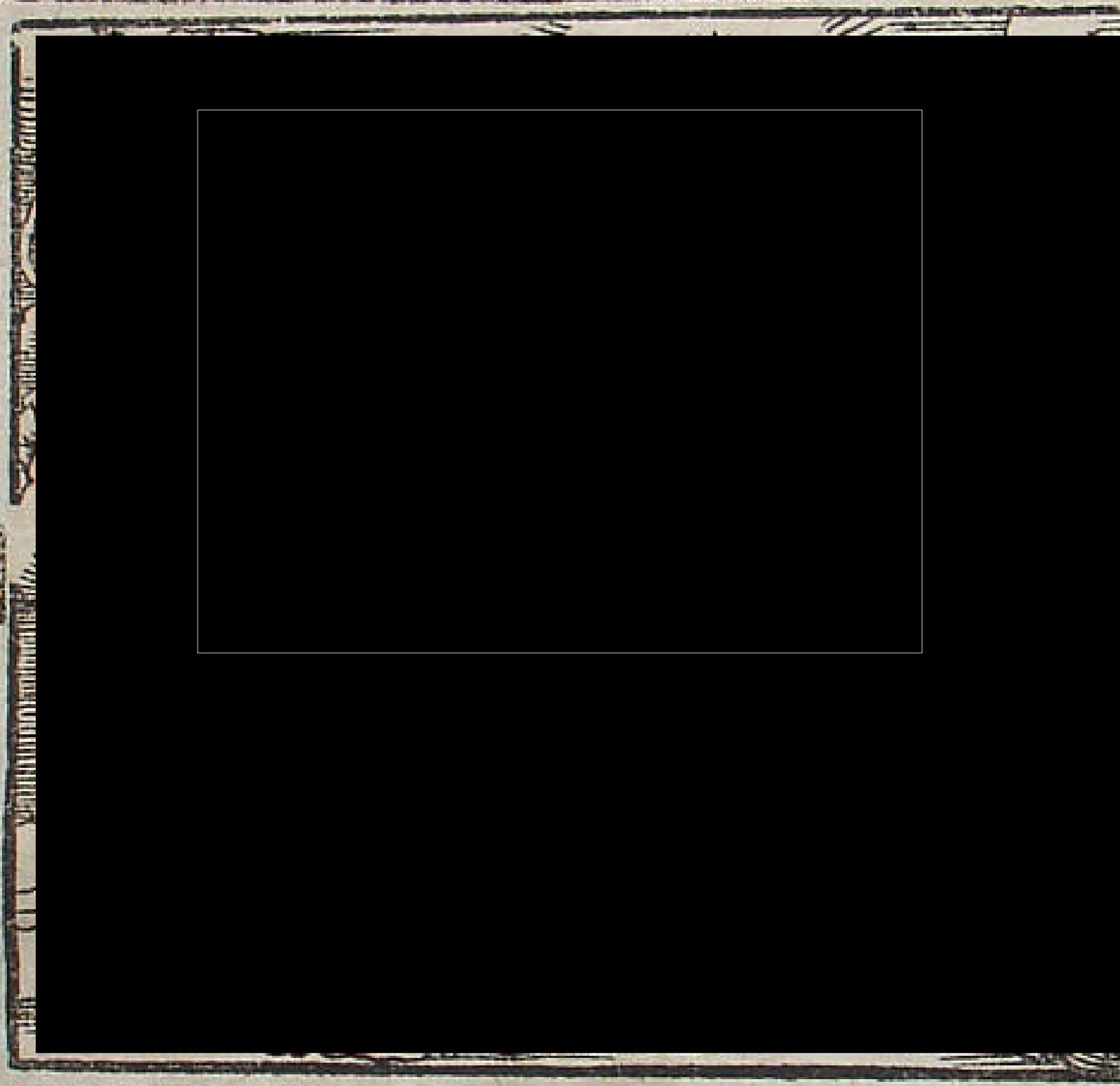
The Serpent, the Shining One, the Star of the Morning, the Accuser, the Adversary, the Slanderer, the Prince of Demons, the Father of Lies, the God of this World, the Commander of the Powers of the Air, the Evil One, the Tempter, the Power of Darkness, the Ancient Serpent, the Great Dragon

Sons of God / Fallen angels

Evil / Spiritual / Unseen Rulers in Heavenly Places, Powers in the Heavens, Authorities, Mighty Powers, Thrones (?), Kingdoms (?)

Demons

Unclean Spirits, Evil Spirits, Deceiving Spirits



“When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel (*bene Yisrael*).
“For the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. [Deut 32:8-9 NASB]*

When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court (bene elohim / sons of God). “For the people of Israel belong to the Lord; Jacob is his special possession. [Deut 32:8-9 NLT]

his own

- This verse probably made the Jewish theologians nervous
- Can you think of any other OT bible verses that hint of invisible powers ruling different people and places in the world?

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. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince (sar / ruler) of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels (hasarim rishon / chief rulers), came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come." [Daniel 10:12-14 NLT]

Genesis 10: The Table of Nations



- Genesis 10 lists what has been called the 'Table of Nations'

- Some say that these are the original people groups that were put under angelic rule (72)

- OK, I am sure that many of you have read the following very strange verses, at least once in your lives:

*Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. The sons of God (**bene Elohim**) saw the beautiful women and took any they wanted as their wives. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years."*

*In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God (**bene Elohim**) had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times. [Genesis 6:1-4 NLT]*

the 'sons of God' were angels

- "It was in the 5th century AD that the "angel" interpretation of Genesis 6 was increasingly viewed as an embarrassment when attacked by critics."
- "Why not the "sons of Cain" and the "daughters of Seth?"
- Does the NT mention these angels?

For God did not spare even the angels (aggelos) who sinned. He threw them into hell (Tartarus), in gloomy pits of darkness (zophos), where they are being held until the day of judgment. [2 Peter 2:4 NLT]

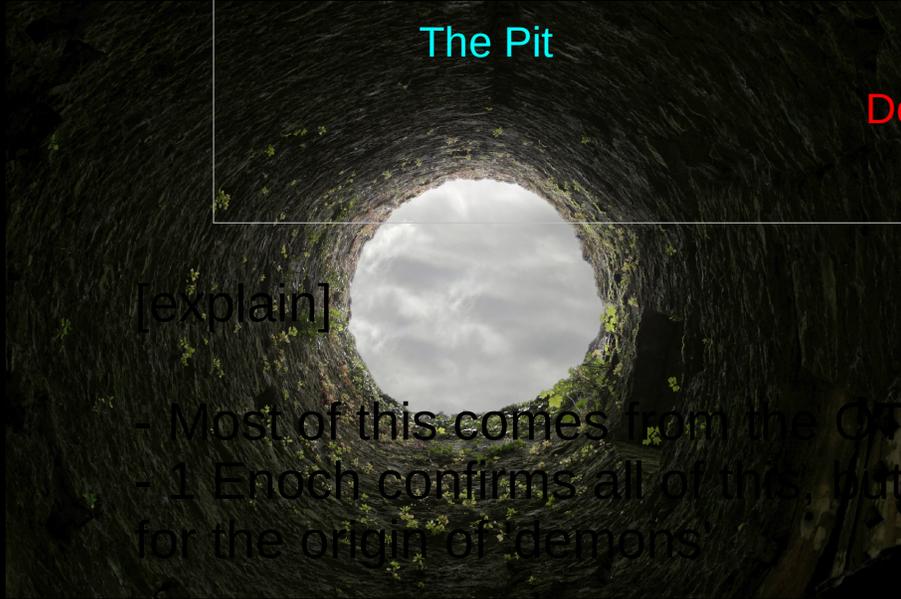
*And I remind you of the angels (**aggelos**) who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness (**zophos**), waiting for the great day of judgment. [Jude 1:6 NLT]*

- Is this book canonical? Was it considered inspired? Nope, it was considered for a long time but did not make it into our Bibles – it is NOT gnostic!
- Is it true? Yes, well, at least the parts that match what the Bible says – it expands on what the Bible says, without contradicting it
- My advise? Consider it with a 'grain of salt'

And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born to them beautiful and fair daughters. And the angels, the sons of heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and have children with them.' ... And they were in all two hundred who descended in the days of Jared in the summit of Mount Hermon, ... And all of them together went and took wives for themselves, each choosing one for himself, and they began to go in to them and to defile themselves with sex with them, ... And the women became pregnant, and they bare large giants... [1 Enoch 6:1-3,6 7:1,3-4]

And the Lord said to Michael: 'Go, bind Semjaza and his team who have associated with women and have defiled themselves in all their uncleanness. When their sons have slain one another, and they have seen the destruction of their beloved ones, bind them fast for seventy generations under the hills of the earth, until the day of the consummation of their judgment and until the eternal judgment is accomplished. In those days they shall be led off to the abyss of fire and to the torment and the prison in which they shall be confined for ever.' [1 Enoch 10:11-13]

And now, the giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits on the earth, and shall live on the earth. Evil spirits have come out from their bodies because they are born from men and from the holy Watchers, their beginning is of primal origin; They shall be evil spirits on earth, and evil spirits shall they be called spirits of the evil ones. [1 Enoch 15:8-10]



[explain]

- Most of this comes from the OT
- 1 Enoch confirms all of this, but for the origin of demons

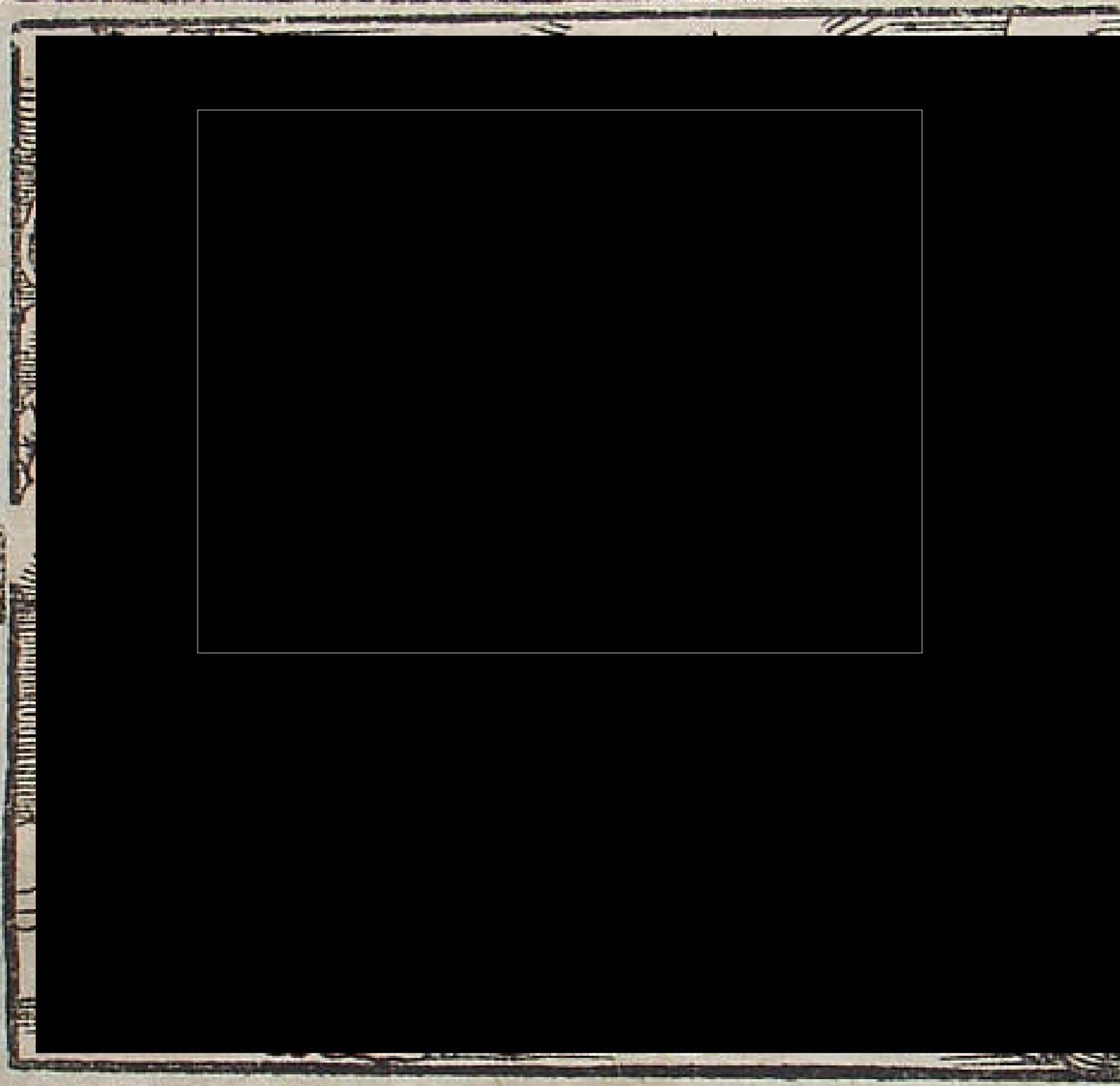
A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. [Ephesians 6:10-12 NLT]

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. [Ephesians 1:19-22 NLT]

<http://www.thedivinecouncil.com/>



That's all Folks!



Gods in the Old Testament

*He is to cast sacred lots to determine which goat will be reserved as an offering to the Lord and which will carry the sins of the people to the wilderness of **Azazel**. Aaron will then present as a sin offering the goat chosen by lot for the Lord. The other goat, the scapegoat chosen by lot to be sent away, will be kept alive, standing before the Lord. When it is sent away to **Azazel** in the wilderness, the people will be purified and made right with the Lord...The man chosen to drive the scapegoat into the wilderness of **Azazel** must wash his clothes and bathe himself in water. Then he may return to the camp. [Lev 16:8-10,26]*

Gods in the NT

Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen to earth from the sky, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. When he opened it, smoke poured out as though from a huge furnace, and the sunlight and air turned dark from the smoke. Then locusts came from the smoke and descended on the earth, and they were given power to sting like scorpions.... Their king is the angel from the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon—the Destroyer.
[Revelation 9:1-3,11]

Israelite Religious Development

Polytheism



Monotheism

Israelite Religious Development

Polytheism



Monotheism

Henotheism



Monolatry



Monotheism

- When Christians use the term 'gods', we have a very clear and powerful understanding of what this means:

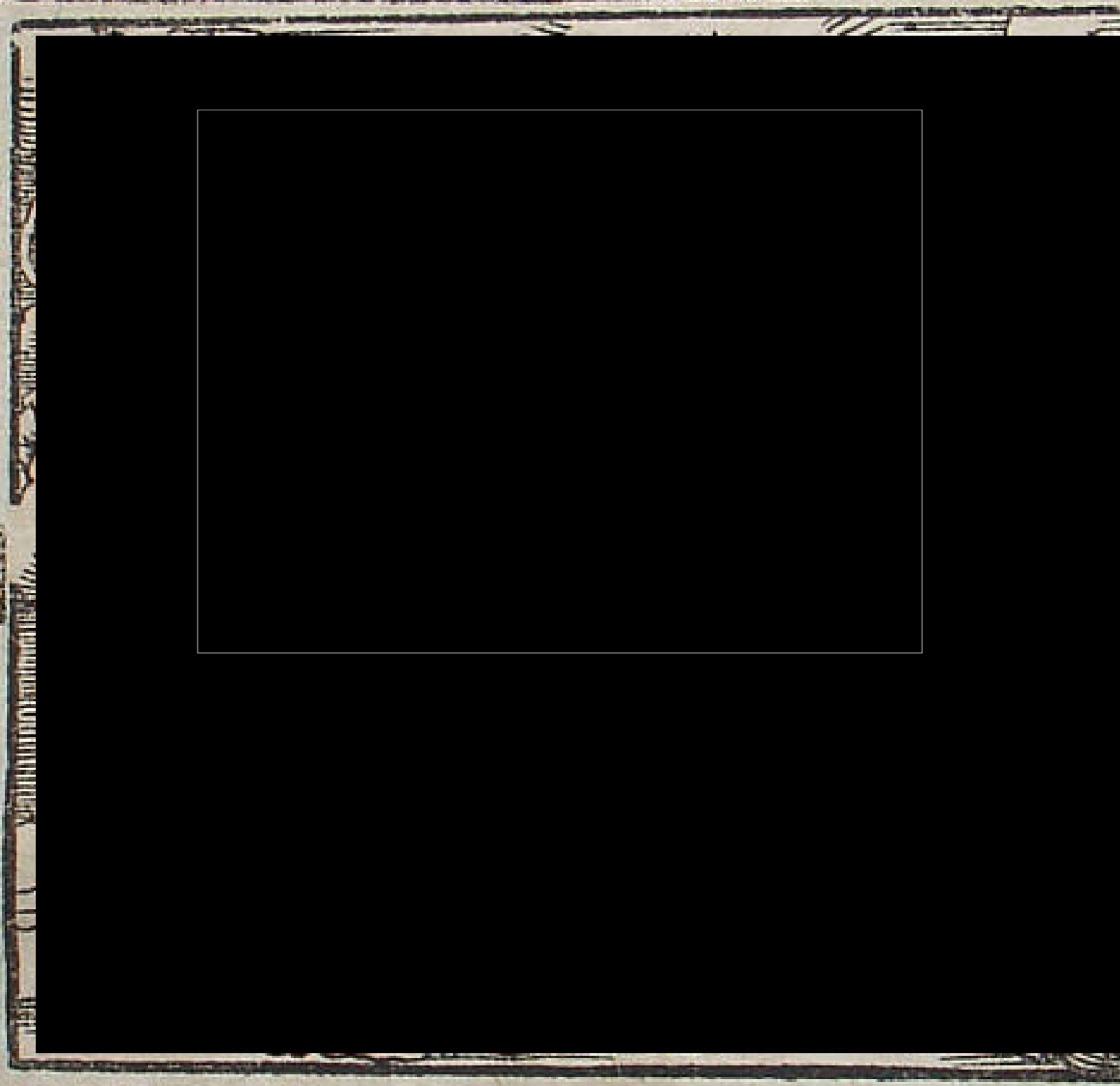
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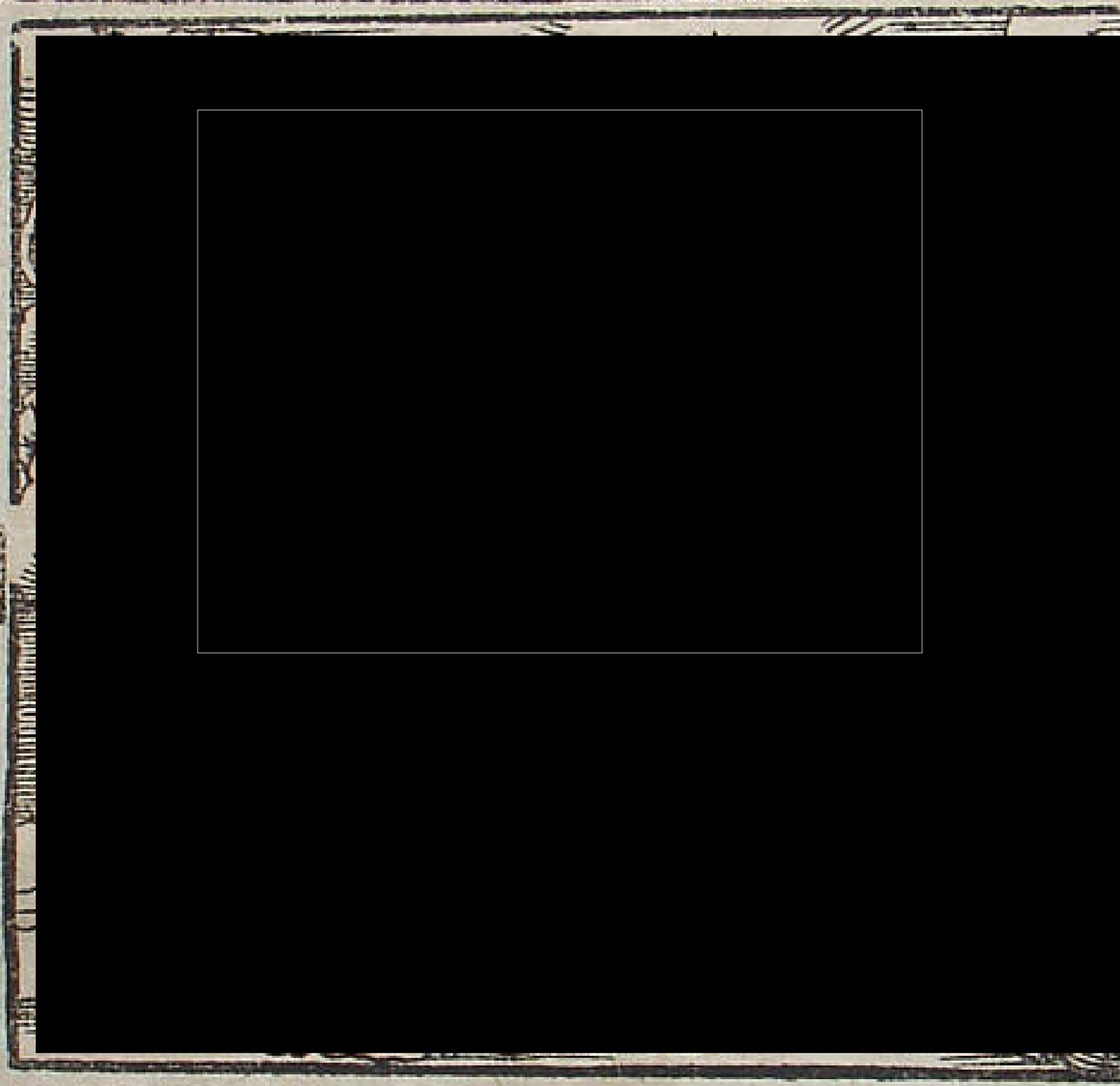


GREATER THAN

1 JOHN 4:4

JESUS WILL FOLLOW YOU THROUGH





As Jacob started on his way again, angels of God (malakim elohim) came to meet him. When Jacob saw them, he exclaimed, "This is God's (elohim) camp!" So he named the place Mahanaim.*

[Genesis 32:1-2 NLT]

Jacob built an altar there and named the place El-bethel (which means "God (El) of Bethel"), because God (elohim) had appeared to him there when he was fleeing from his brother, Esau. [Genesis 35:7 NLT]*

“For the Lord (Yaweh) is a great God (El), a great King above all gods (elohim)...for he is our God (Elohim). We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today! [Psalms 95:3,7 NLT]

I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; I will sing your praises before the gods (elohim). [Psalms 138:1 NLT]

God (Elohim) presides over heaven's court (El adah / congregation of El i.e. "divine council"); he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings (elohim): "How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked?"

I say, 'You are gods (elohim); you are all children of the Most High (bene Elyon / sons of God). But you will die like mere mortals and fall like every other ruler.'" [Psalms 82:1-2,6-7 NLT]

- We could spend an entire class just talking about Psalms 82, but let's keep moving...

“Yahweh, God (El) of gods (elohim)! Yahweh, God (El) of gods (elohim) knows. And let Israel itself know, if it was in rebellion or treachery against Yahweh, do not spare us this day for building for ourselves an altar to turn away from Yahweh, or if it was to offer burnt offerings, grain offerings, or fellowship offerings on it, may Yahweh himself take vengeance. [Joshua 22:22-23 LEB]

When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers! Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. [1 Corinthians 6:1-3 NLT]

Jesus replied, "It is written in your own Scriptures that God said to certain leaders of the people, 'I say, you are gods (theos)!' And you know that the Scriptures cannot be altered. So if those people who received God's message were called 'gods (theos),' why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God (huios theos)'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father." [John 10:34-38 NLT]

God presides over heaven's court; he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings: "How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked? Interlude

"Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. But these oppressors know nothing; they are so ignorant! They wander about in darkness, while the whole world is shaken to the core. I say,

'You are gods; you are all children of the Most High. But you will die like mere mortals and fall like every other ruler.'

Rise up, O God, and judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you. [Psalm 82 NLT]

But the Lord (Yaweh) came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

In that way, the Lord (Yaweh) scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world. [Genesis 11:5-9]

*I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.
[Daniel 7:9-10 NLT]*

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. And the Lord said, 'Who can entice Ahab to go into battle against Ramoth-gilead so he can be killed?' "There were many suggestions, and finally a spirit approached the Lord and said, 'I can do it!' "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." "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]

*Then said the Most High, the Great and Holy One,
"Uriel, go to the son of Lamech. Say to him: 'Go to
Noah and tell him in my name "Hide yourself!"
and reveal to him the end that is approaching: that
the whole earth will be destroyed, and a flood is
about to come on the whole earth, and will
destroy everything on it.' 'And now instruct him as
to what he must do to escape that his offspring
may be preserved for all the generations of the
world.' [1 Enoch 10:1-3]*

Jesus answered them, "Is it not 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 about he whom the Father set apart and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I do not do the deeds of my Father, do not believe me. But if I am doing them, even if you do not believe me, believe the deeds, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." [John 10:34-38 LEB]

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God stands in the divine assembly; he administers judgment in the midst of the gods. "How long will you judge unjustly and show favoritism to the wicked? Judge on behalf of the helpless and the orphan; provide justice to the afflicted and the poor. Rescue the helpless and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." They do not know or consider. They go about in the darkness, so that all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I have said, "You are gods, and sons of the Most High, all of you. However, you will die like men, and you will fall like one of the princes." Rise up, O God, judge the earth, because you shall inherit all the nations. [Psalm 82 LEB]