

An open book, likely a Bible, is shown from a high angle. The pages are filled with small, dense text, possibly in two columns. A warm, golden light source, positioned to the left, casts a strong glow across the right page and the gutter of the book, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows on the left page and the surrounding background. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- Believers know there is only one Lord God, but sometimes the Bible appears to reference other gods and lords.
 - Deut. 10:17 - “The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome.”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- At the same time, Moses commands that God alone is to be worshiped.
 - Deut. 10:20-21 - “You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name. 21 He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen.”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- Isaiah makes it clear that there are no other gods besides the Lord God
 - Isa. 45:5 - “I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me...”
 - Isa. 43:10-11 - “You are My witnesses,’ says the LORD, ‘And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior.”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- Idols and all of the gods conceived in the minds of humankind have no life or power
 - 1Chron. 16:25-26 - “For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- Yet at the same time, the Psalmist tells not just idolaters to worship God, he commands their gods to worship God
 - Psalm 97:7 - “Let all be put to shame who serve carved images, Who boast of idols. Worship Him, all you gods.”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- Believers know there is one Lord, but often the Bible uses the phrase “LORD of Lords,”
 - Psalm 136:3 - “Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever”
 - 1Tim. 6:15 - “...He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords”
 - Rev. 19:16 - “And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- How do we resolve the apparent conflict potentially generated by these texts?
 - Are there other gods and lords besides the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
 - Do these gods and lords have life, and can they influence this world?
 - Or are these passages speaking of other gods and lords, simply acknowledging that the pagans believe in them, but whatever they believe about them is eclipsed when contrasted with the One, True, and Living God?

“GOD of Gods” Is His Scriptural Name

- Hebrew words for God of gods is 'El 'elim and 'Elohei ha'elohim, literally translated as “God of gods.”
- It is used in five Old Testament books (Deuteronomy, Joshua, Psalms, Isaiah, Daniel) and three New Testament books (1Corinthians, 1Timothy, Revelation).
 - Mark 15:34 - “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which is translated, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’”
- In every case of its use, there is a context and purpose

“GOD of Gods” Is His Scriptural Name

- God will see and punish those who worship idols; He is superior to all other gods devised by men.
 - Joshua 22:22 - “The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know-if it is in rebellion, or if in treachery against the LORD, do not save us this day.”
- God judges those who pervert the judgment of others, attempting to justify it by their own false gods. This proves He is the final word in all exchanges.
 - Psalms 82:1 - “God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.”

“GOD of Gods” Is His Scriptural Name

- God’s works are greater than the believed works of idols
 - Psalms 86:8 - “Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works.”
- God’s dominion is greater than the gods of men
 - Psalms 95:3 - “For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.”

“GOD of Gods” Is His Scriptural Name

- God is to be feared more than the gods of men
 - Psalms 96:4 - “For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.”
- God’s mercy is eternal; the gods of men are fickle
 - Psalms 136:2 - “Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.”

“GOD of Gods” Is His Scriptural Name

- The gods of the Babylonian emperor could not interpret his dream, but Jehovah did.
 - Daniel 2:47 - “The king answered Daniel, and said, Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”
- God is the only One who can save.
 - Isa. 45:22 - “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”

“GOD of Gods” Is His Scriptural Name

- The conflict is generated by a misunderstanding on our part. It comes down to how people use the word “god.”
- Today people use the word god to refer to a personal being that exists. Christians use it to mean God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- But in the Old Testament, the word elohim appears to refer to the mode of existence, a member of the non-physical, spiritual realm.
- Over time, speech developed to the point that Bible writers were given terms that distinguish among spiritual, non-physical beings: angels, spirits, demons, etc.
- As people began to abandon worship of God and create representative images to worship, the Bible distinguished between God and idols.

There Are No Other Gods

- God is alone
 - Isa. 44:6, 24 - “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God’” ... 24 Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself’”
 - Rev. 1:8 - “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”
- Only three Beings occupy this order of existence: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - Other orders of existence: angels and humans - Heb. 2:9

There Are No Other Gods

- The gods of men have no substance or existence
 - Gal. 4:8 - “But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.”
- The gods of men have no power or mobility
 - Isa. 46:5-7 - “To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? 6 They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. 7 They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble.”

There Are No Other Gods

- The gods of men exist only in the imagination
 - Psalm 115:2-8 - “Why should the Gentiles say, ‘So where is their God?’ 3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. 5 They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; 6 They have ears, but they do not hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; 7 They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat. 8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.”

There Are No Other Gods

- The gods of men are carried and protected by humankind
 - Gen. 31:19, 30 - "...Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father's... 30 And now you have surely gone because you greatly long for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"
- Humans were created as an afterthought to supply the gods with food, drink, shelter, wealth. Humans were required to offer worship and sacrifices, or the gods would weaken and die
 - Acts 17:24-25 - "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."

There Are No Other Gods

- The gods of men are foolish and often evil
 - Hab. 1:13 - “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness...”
 - James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
 - Isa. 6:3 - “And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’”
 - Heb. 4:15 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
 - Lam. 3:33 - “He does not afflict willingly, Nor grieve the children of men.”

There Are No Other Gods

- God is eternal and ever existing; the gods of men are created
 - John 1:1-3 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

There Are No Other Gods

- John 10:17-18 - “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again...”
- Isa. 9:6-7 - “For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- Why do humans make gods?
- They want to see God
 - Ex. 33:18-20 - “And he said, ‘Please, show me Your glory.’ 19 Then He said, ‘I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.’ 20 But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.’”
- They want to be God
 - (Emil Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, 1912)

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- God has shown us in His word how to see Him, how to be like Him, and how to be with Him.
- How to see God
 - John 14:8-9 - “Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ 9 Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, Show us the Father?’”

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

- How to be like God
 - 2Cor. 3:18 - “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
- How to be with God
 - 1John 3:1-3 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”