

“GOD is GOD of Gods”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources for the Brooksville church of Christ
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Introduction:

- A. Believers know there is only one Lord God, but sometimes the Bible appears to reference other gods and lords.
 - 1. Deut. 10:17 - “The LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome.”
 - 2. At the same time, Moses commands that God alone is to be worshiped.
 - a. Deut. 10:20-21
 - 3. Isaiah makes it clear that there are no other gods besides the Lord God
 - a. Isa. 45:5, 43:10-11
 - 4. Idols and all of the gods conceived in the minds of humankind have no life or power - 1Chron. 16:25-26
 - 5. Yet at the same time, the Psalmist tells not just idolaters to worship God, he commands their gods to worship God - Psalm 97:7
- B. Believers know there is one Lord, but often the Bible uses the phrase “LORD of Lords.”
 - 1. Psalm 136:3; 1Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16
 - 2. While the Old Testament uses this to refer to God the Father, the New Testament uses it to acknowledge God the Son.
- C. How do we resolve the apparent conflict potentially generated by these texts?
 - 1. Are there other gods and lords besides the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
 - 2. Do these gods and lords have life, and can they influence this world?
 - 3. 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?

I. “GOD OF GODS” IS HIS SCRIPTURAL NAME

- A. It is up to us to accept the name and understand its meaning.
 - 1. Hebrew words for God of gods is 'El 'elim and 'Elohei ha'elohim, literally translated as “God of gods.”
 - 2. It is used in five Old Testament books (Deuteronomy, Joshua, Psalms, Isaiah, Daniel) and three New Testament books (1Corinthians, 1Timothy, Revelation)
 - 3. This ancient name for God contains the idea of God's creative power as well as His authority and sovereignty.
 - 4. Jesus used a form of the name in His agonized prayer from the cross
 - a. Mark 15:34
- B. In every case of its use, there is a context and purpose
 - 1. Joshua 22:22 - God will see and punish those who worship idols; He is superior to all other gods devised by men.
 - a. The point is, God is answering the common belief among the ancients; that is, when one aggressor succeeds in overwhelming

his victim, the victory implied that his gods were stronger than the gods of his victims. That was the message God sent via plagues to pharaoh about the gods of Egypt. So, when God punished idol worshipers, He was teaching them that He is more powerful than their gods. Consider Elijah vs Baal on Mt Carmel.

2. Psalms 82:1 - 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.
 3. Psalms 86:8 - God's works are greater than the believed works of idols
 4. Psalms 95:3 - God's dominion is greater than the gods of men
 5. Psalms 96:4 - God is to be feared more than the gods of men
 6. Psalms 136:2 - God's mercy is eternal; the gods of men are fickle
 7. Daniel 2:47 - The gods of the Babylonian emperor could not interpret his dream, but Jehovah did.
 8. Isa. 45:22 - God is the only One who can save.
- C. The conflict is generated by a misunderstanding on our part.
1. 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.
 2. But in the Old Testament, the word elohim appears to refer to the mode of existence, a member of the non-physical, spiritual realm.
 3. Over time, speech developed to the point that Bible writers were given terms that distinguish among spiritual, non-physical beings: angels, spirits, demons, etc.
 4. As people began to abandon worship of God and create representative images to worship, the Bible distinguished between God and idols.

II. THERE ARE NO OTHER GODS

- A. God is alone - Isa. 44:6, 24; Rev. 1:8
1. Only three Beings occupy this order of existence: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 2. Other orders of existence: angels and humans - Heb. 2:9
- B. The gods of men have no substance or existence - Gal. 4:8
- C. The gods of men have no power or mobility - Isa. 46:5-7
- D. The gods of men exist only in the imagination - Psalm 115:2-8
- E. The gods of men are carried and protected by humankind - Gen. 31:19, 30
1. 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
- F. The gods of men are foolish and often evil
1. Hab. 1:13; James 1:17; Isa. 6:3; Heb. 4:15; Lam. 3:33
- G. God is eternal and ever existing; the gods of men are created - John 1:1-3
1. Atum, Egyptian god who made the earth was created by Nun the god of all water, and a cosmic egg came from the water to give birth to Ra, and Ptah was born from the water to create land and the rest of the gods

2. Chaos, the Greek god of the void created Gaia the earth goddess; she produced Chronos (time), Ouranos (sky), Prometheus who made man, and Zeus who made woman.
3. Babylonian gods created themselves and gave birth to humans and other gods
4. Mayan gods were created by the sky and the earth, and then they created human beings from corn.
5. Norse mythology states that a foggy void produced a primeval cow and the Frost Giant Ymir, who became the earth. Mankind was created later by three gods; Odin, Vili, and Ve.
6. The gods of men are not eternal, not all powerful, not wise, and not everywhere. They are created from matter and can die
 - a. John 10:17-18; Isa. 9:6-7

Conclusion:

A. Why do humans make gods?

1. They want to see God - Ex. 33:18-20 - "Please show me Your Glory."
2. They want to be God (Emil Durkheim, The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life)

B. God has shown us in His word how to see Him, how to be like Him, and how to be with Him.

1. How to see God - John 14:8-9
2. How to be like God - 2Cor. 3:18
3. How to be with God - 1John 3:1-3