

ACE 201: The Supernatural Scriptures: Week 1 Notes

Class Goals

1. To educate on the reality of the spiritual realm as demonstrated in the scriptures
2. To equip the saints for spiritual warfare
3. To elevate the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ

Read Psalm 82

- a. "God": Hebrew: *Elohim*
- b. *El/Eloah/Elohim*: Hebrew word for "Spiritual Being" (used elsewhere in the Bible to refer to Yahweh, Angels, Demons, dead human spirits, divine council members)
- c. Divine Council: place where God administers his rule with other spiritual beings (Gods/Sons of God/Elohim)

Job 1 & 2

- a. The Sons of God (spiritual beings) come and gather before God
- b. Scene reads like a court room

1 Kings 22:13-23

- a. The host of heaven are present (sons of God)
- b. God administers a judgement, receives input on carrying it out
- c. A *ruahk* (spirit) offers to carry it out

Genesis 1

Day 1 - Separates light from dark	Day 4 - fills the heavens with hosts (Spiritual Beings)
Day 2 - Separates water from water	Day 5 - fills the skies and seas with hosts
Day 3 - Separates land from sea	Day 6 - fills the land with hosts (Humans)

- a. Genesis 2:1: "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and **all the host** of them."
- b. Day 4
 - i. In the ancient Israelite imagination, the lights of the sky (sun, moon & stars) were spiritual beings (see passages where they are paralleled: Job 38:4-7, Psalm 148:1-3, Zephaniah 1:4-6, Matthew 24:29, Luke 2:9-13)
 - ii. These spiritual beings were told to **rule** the day and the night
- c. Day 6
 - i. Humans called God's images (they don't bear Gods image, they ARE Gods image)

- ii. Notice that humanity COLLECTIVELY image God: God's representatives on earth
- iii. What it means to image God
 - 1. Relationally (how we relate to one another - we image God collectively)
 - 2. Ontologically (our very nature - we are who God says we are, our identity)
 - 3. Functionally (what we do - we rule as his representatives/agents, and we bring order out of chaos)
- iv. God, in his good pleasure chooses to mediate his rule and will through elohim (heavenly realm) and humans (earthly realm)
- v. We are God's council here on earth!

Implications and the Good News

- a. You are God's image!
- b. There is a cosmic purpose to your existence and everything you do
- c. You cannot lose your status as an image of God, it is who you are!
- d. God chooses to co rule his creation with you!
- e. God doesn't need you, but he has an earthly council and a heavenly council that enacts his will in creation

Resources For Further Education

Supernatural: What the Bible teaches about the unseen world and why it matters By Dr. Michael Heiser

The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible By Dr. Michael Heiser

BibleProject Spiritual Beings Video Series www.bibleproject.com/videos/collections/spiritual-beings/

BibleProject Spiritual Beings Podcast Series <https://bibleproject.com/podcasts/series/god-series/>

Recommended Week 1 Resources

Being God's Image: Why Creation Still Matters By Carmen Joy Imes

BibleProject Image of God Video www.bibleproject.com/videos/image-of-god/

BibleProject Image of God Podcast Series www.bibleproject.com/podcasts/series/image-of-god-series/

BibleProject Intro to Spiritual Beings Video <https://bibleproject.com/videos/intro-spiritual-beings/>

BibleProject *Elohim* Podcast www.bibleproject.com/podcasts/theme-god-e1-god-or-gods/