

Supernatural by Michael Heiser

REVIEW of WEEK TWO:

In the Jewish and Ancient Near East conception of the divine there are always tiers, levels (PowerPoint slides notes: Triangle with the following at different levels)

3 Tiers

top - YHWH / Godhead – where Trinitarian thinking comes from

middle - sons of God – doesn't tell you what a thing is, but what a thing DOES - ontological

bottom - angels (messengers) -

Vocabulary issues: (we moderns struggle with vocabulary when thinking about supernatural world)

Some terms tell you what a thing is and other terms what they do, function

– here "angels" tells us about ranking in supernatural realm rather than identity

The writers use the kingdom court metaphor

level 2 – family members with most important roles

level 3 – "angel" describes the TASK, lower members of court, essentially a job description

"sons of God" and "holy ones" in NT are Christ followers where in OT used almost exclusively of elohim

1 Corinthians – we outrank angels, we will rule over them in eternity

It is important to understand how God looks at His Heavenly Family – it's about family and partnership, identity and mission

supernatural realm is a template for our realm, but we typically avoid angelology or say wacky stuff

INCOMPARABILITY, NOT EXCLUSIVITY

Scriptures that state "none besides me" or "none like me" are statements of comparison with other supernatural beings, not a denial that there are other elohim.

The reality of other elohim is affirmed – "there's a lot of elohim... Yahweh is among them... but there is not another like Him"

Why does God need a council? (What would they do that he can't?)

God doesn't need a council, it's that He likes to do things this way

God doesn't NEED ANYTHING. Could make all decisions Himself. But He likes the family business – wants children who are part of the family business – unseen realm and physical realm.

HERB: this helps us identify and understand God's purpose from the Garden of Eden, all the way through the Bible all the way to the description of eternal Kingdom.

What about Jesus? How can he be the son of God if other divine sons of God are real?

John 3:16 - new understanding of Greek words – "only begotten" is actually "unique" – one of a kind

Hebrews 11:17 - Abraham – Isaac wasn't his only son, but unique as Sarah's son miraculously born – son of the promise. That's how Jesus is unique

It also explains why Jesus quotes Ps. 82 – First, that other sons of god who are supernatural so this category as son of God exists.

Second, I am HIM – THE unique Son of God, Messiah – to stick it to the Jewish leaders