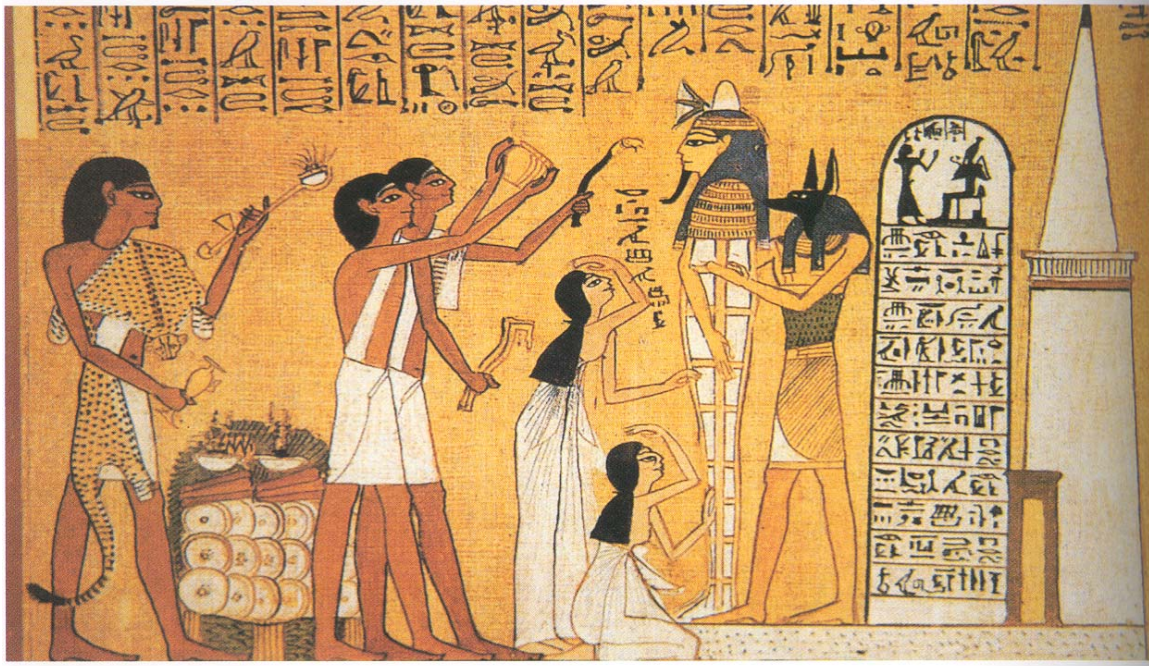


To Him That Has An Ear  
Hear That The Bible’s Gods Are Men

## YHWH God and the Other Gods



**Presented at the Fourth Annual  
One God Conference**

**by Wayne L. Atchison**

in Akron, Ohio  
June 24, 2005

## **No, We Are Not Idiots**

Contrary to the ridicule of nearly all of accepted Christianity, the belief that YHWH is the only Being that is the Eternal Creator God is fully supported by the original text of the Bible. Even so, the Trinitarians and One-God-Family supporters condemn as demonic-heretics anyone believing that there is only one God-Being, who is named YHWH. Such accusers often quote passages from the King James Bible, always with an authoritative tone to quiet the unbeliever. Rarely do they read Acts 3:13-26, which directly states that YHWH raised Jesus from the dead. Nor do they read I-Corinthians 8:4-6 which directly states that there are many gods, but for us there is only One God the Father and one Lord Jesus Christ. Instead they focus on the inferences and imaginations allowed by the ambiguities of the English language in order to argue that Jesus Christ was and is an Eternal God also. To most of accepted Christianity it seems that only an idiot would read the Bible and not understand that Jesus is the Christ that preexisted as God from the beginning of time.

But the King James Bible is not the authority? Our forefathers read and memorized the Bible in the original languages. They did not base the core doctrines of the Church of God upon Trinitarian-trained scholars commissioned by King James to create an English Trinitarian version for them to read and decide doctrine. The modern Trinitarian translations are biased. Pointing to the ambiguities and inferences imagined by reading these biased versions do not constitute valid argument. The real authority is the older manuscripts, mostly written in Greek. The questions about the Trinity, or the preexistence of Jesus, or the existence of a God-Family cannot be answered by reading Trinitarian translations. But these questions are fully answered by studying the original Greek text.

When the grammar of the Greek text is analyzed the scriptures turn against the accepted beliefs of popular Christianity. The grammatical study of the Greek text shows that the modern English translations are incorrectly rendered. Anyone can read the published footnotes of the modern translator's, which directly declare their own Trinitarian presumptions used in rendering the English text of the Bibles found on the bookshelves. Conversely, the Greek text identifies God The Father as being the God of Abraham, who is named YHWH; and that Jesus is the promised Seed of Abraham who is the only begotten Son of YHWH; and that this same Jesus is the living Messiah who was resurrected from the dead by YHWH.

**DEFINITIONS:**

For consistency in definitions of terms, this article shall use these words in the manner described below:

<b>Elohim</b>	<b>Strong’s 430, is the focus of this article, its meaning is not in dispute, it means “strength (from the point of view of majesty)” and is often translated into English as “God”, <u>but how this word was used in ancient times is the issue and the focus of this paper</u>, and this will be advanced as the article unfolds</b>
<b>Father</b>	<b>The Father – the Being of John 17: 16-17 “do not touch me for I have not yet ascended to my Father ... I ascend to the Father of me and Father of you and God of me and God of you.”</b>
<b>God</b>	<b>is too ambiguous – <u>this word is the debate</u>, so this word starts with no definition, the author would like to avoid using this word, but, it is impossible to write an article about “God” without using the word “God”, so, the word “God” is used in a very generic manner, retaining all of its inherent ambiguity, discovering its ancient meaning is the focus of this article, its meaning will be advanced as the article unfolds</b>
<b>god</b>	<b>same as “God” – upper-case ‘G’ lower-case ‘g’ is a modern typesetting invention, and does not exist in the ancient languages or their text</b>
<b>Yahoshua</b>	<b>Jesus - the Being who is the promised Seed of Abraham and Son of The Father, born of the virgin Mary, established the New Covenant, was resurrected by the Being of Acts 3:13-26, and is the living Messiah and our High Priest</b>
<b>Yahowah</b>	<b>YHWH - Strong’s 3068, the Being who talked to Moses, tells us that He is the one and only Creator of heaven and earth, and is the central figure of the entire Bible</b>

Two terms must be clarified and defined, “Jesus” (Yahoshua) and “Christ”. Many forget the fact that “Christ” is not the last name of “Jesus”. “Christ” is a concept, a promise, a title, whereas “Jesus” is a specific person, a man that had a birth, death, and resurrection. We are debating whether “Jesus” existed prior to his human birth, but no one is debating whether the promised Seed of Abraham the “Christ” existed prior to “Jesus” human birth. The two words “Christ” and “Jesus” are not interchangeable. Consider this table for clarification:

A. Did “Jesus” have independent thoughts as a unique entity?

- |                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Prior to His human birth? | Is Being Debated |
| 2. At His human birth?       | Of Course        |
| 3. After His resurrection?   | Yes, He Lives    |

The debate centers around whether or not “Jesus” had independent thoughts as a unique entity prior to His birth?

B. Did “Christ” exist as a concept?

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Prior to the human birth of Jesus? | Yes, as a promise                       |
| 2. At the human birth of Jesus?       | Yes, as a promise                       |
| 3. After Jesus’ resurrection?         | Yes, promise realized<br>in His triumph |

The debate is not whether or not “Christ” existed as a promised concept and title prior to Jesus’ birth?

C. Did “Christ” have independent thoughts as a unique entity?

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Prior to the human birth of Jesus? | No, was a promise                       |
| 2. At the human birth of Jesus?       | No, was a promise                       |
| 3. After Jesus’ resurrection?         | No, it was Jesus who<br>was resurrected |

D. Did “The Christ” have independent thoughts as a unique entity? The debate includes whether or not “The Christ” is an independent and unique thinking entity. The world’s Christianity teaches that “The Christ” preexisted as a (triune) God and came down to earth in the form of the man “Jesus”. In this concept it is “The Christ” who is the surviving resurrected entity, and not “Jesus”. In Revelation 1 we are told that it is “Jesus” that is the surviving resurrected entity. The concept of two entities existing together as both “Christ” and “Jesus” living together as fully man and fully divine is inherently Gnostic mysticism.

E. The word “Christ” must have a consistent definition within the same context, and, the usage of the word “Christ” as in “A.1” or “C” or as in “D” must be clearly delineated. Many times scholars confuse the reader by using the word “Christ” to refer to “Jesus” prior to birth (A.1) and by using the word “Christ” to also refer to “The Christ” as in “D”, all within the same context. This is a blatant confusion of terminology.

The reader may or may not agree with one or more of the above definitions, but for the purposes of this article that is not important. What is important is that the reader now knows exactly what this author intends as the article is read.

**OVERVIEW:**

When talking to others about the subject of “One God”, the primary problem is that no one is using the same set of word-definitions. This is most apparent when the word “God” is used, and it is used all the time. The word “God” is so ambiguous that its use should be avoided. Spelling of the word “God” versus “god” sometimes helps in an article, but when speaking the word “God” no one can hear the upper-case “G”. When debating “One God” the delineation between “God = The True God” versus “god = not the true god” is too arbitrary.

What does help is to realize that the words “God” and “god” in ancient times were the same word. They always wrote with (what we call) capital letters, so they had no lower-case “god”, they only had “God”. So, when an ancient writer used the word “God” it had a specific meaning to the ancient reader. Whatever that meaning was to them, that is what we must try to understand today.

When you the reader say the word “God”, you probably mean “The One True God”. Whoops, you used the same word in its own definition, try that again. When you say “God” you probably mean “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”. Getting better, but that is not what the ancient writers meant when they used the word “God”. How do we know this as a fact? By studying their own text to determine exactly how they used the word. This article will present a very small fraction of such ancient texts to advance what they meant when they used the word “God”.

**LANGUAGES:**

Nearly all linguistic scholars agree that the modern languages spoken today came from previous languages of more ancient cultures. All western, Arabic, and Hebraic languages are known to be derived from the very ancient language of “Sumer”. This is the language of the very ancient land of Ur where Abraham lived. Sumer is the very cradle of civilization, especially from the point of view of language. However, to be technically correct we should not say “Sumer”, we actually should be saying “Shumer”.

One of the greatest archeological finds ever made was the discovery of very ancient texts at the excavation site at the Library of Nineveh. Over 25,000 tablets were carried away by archeologists. Many of these tablets were copies of even more ancient Shumerian texts. Included among these tablets were Akkadian-Shumerian Lexicons and Dictionaries prepared in Assyria and Babylonia. From these Lexicons and Dictionaries we now know how to read the ancient Shumerian language. One such Shumerian tablet says this:

**“The God of scribes** has bestowed upon me the gift of the knowledge of his art. I have been initiated into the secrets of writing. I can even read the intricate tablets in Shumerian. I understand the enigmatic words in the stone carvings from the days before the flood.”

Okay, so what was the word for “God” in the most ancient of languages? No, no, no, wrong question. The question presumes an ancient equivalence for our word for “God”, that then would have a direct translation. And this presumption is the reason why there is so much confusion. The Shumerian word which is most often translated as the word “God” for us to read does not mean “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”. They used the word “God” in a very different way than we do today.

The Shumerian word which is most often translated as the word “God” for us to read is their word for “Brilliance (from the point of view of strength and majesty)”. The Egyptian counterpart word means “Watcher (from the point of view of divine protector and benefactor)”. All western, Arabic, and Hebraic languages also derive their counterpart word for “God” from these source words. In Hebrew the core root for “Elohim” (#430) is #410 “Strength (from the point of view of power and majesty)”. Thus the Hebrew word “Elohim” has the same usage as does the Shumerian word for “God”. This statement is not presumption, this is a fact based upon the science of linguistics. The word “Elohim” is used the same way as the Shumerian word for “God”.

So, in the above quote, saying: “The **God** of scribes” does not attempt to say that “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things” was the scribe that did something. The text only says that a man, a man of “Brilliance” (really smart), a man of “Protecting Watching” (over the scrolls) was a “super-scribe” that did the teaching. The word “God” only refers to a mortal man who has the lofty cultural classification of “being a God”.

We do the same thing today. Read any Hollywood magazine and learn about the latest “Sex God” or “God of Comedy”. Most understand that the magazine’s authors are not trying to say that “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things” is now a “Sex God”. We understand that they only mean that a person is now being given that cultural classification (for awhile).

Likewise, in the Bible when the Hebrew word “Elohim” is used it does not necessarily refer to “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”, but rather may refer to a man (or angel) of “Brilliance”, a man of “Protecting Watching”, a man of “Strength and Majesty”. For example Exodus 7:1 “And YHWH said unto Moses, See, I have made you an **Elohim to Pharaoh**: and Aaron thy brother shall be your prophet.” Moses was a man, and Moses became an “Elohim”. This is how the ancient word was used. A mortal man could be elevated to the cultural classification of “being a God”. Some men were born with the cultural status of “being a God”.

#### **HAMMURABI’S CODE OF LAWS (circa 1780 BC or perhaps circa 1900 BC):**

Hammurabi’s Code of Laws is written on a huge stone obelisk, and now resides in the British Museum. Everyone should read and become fully familiar with Hammurabi’s Code of Laws. These laws predated the Exodus, and were the basis of culture Moses was educated within. Here are just a few sentences taken from its text. As you read these realize that their ancient word for “God” is obviously referring to physically fleshly men:

“...the protecting king of the city, brother of the God Zamama; who firmly founded the farms of Kish...”

“...who rules by law; who gave back to the city of Ashur its protecting God; who let the name of Ishtar of Nineveh remain in E-mish-mish...”

“8. If any one steal cattle or sheep, or an ass, or a pig or a goat, if it belong to a God or to the court...”

“110. If a sister of a God open a tavern...”

“127. If any one point the finger (slander) at a sister of a God or the wife of any one, and can not prove it...”

“...When he reads the record, let him pray with full heart to Marduk (an ancient God), my lord, and Zarpanit, my lady; and then shall the protecting Deities and the Gods, who frequent E-Sagil,...”

“...may the great God (by context is Anu), the Father of the Gods, who has ordered my rule, withdraw from him the glory of royalty, break his scepter, curse his destiny...”

The primary point is that in the ancient cultures men were “Gods”. That is, men were “Elohim”. The word “God” was a social status given only to the elite class of men. Being called “a God” did not mean that you were “a spirit being”, everyone knew you were going to die. Thus, “God” was a title, and it meant that they had “deity-like status” in the community, and received regular offerings from the populace to maintain their wealth and lifestyles.

Consider these known facts about the ancient cultures:

1. Families had “protecting Gods”. No they were not all dead, usually they were still alive and the family directly relied upon them for protection (soldiers) and good-fortune (aid in emergencies).
2. Cities had their own “protecting Gods”. Originally “the Gods” were men who owned the cities. Originally these men decided who would be the city’s King, Captains, Sheriff, and Priests. Later their Priests “took over” these duties. We see this even to this day. A King, even the Kings of Europe, is always coroneted by a Priest. It is the Priesthood of a God that “okays” the King’s authority.
3. Armies had their own “protecting Gods”. The soldiers would march and battle in the name of their “Gods”. The Roman armies marched in the name of their “Ancestral Gods”. They purposefully left it vague to embrace soldiers from all foreign lands.
4. If a city was conquered by another “God”, then its population had to start worshipping “that victorious God”. That is, they had to start giving offerings to the conquering “God”. For example during the Crusades and often during the Middle Ages the Catholic

Church used this same concept to order armies to conquer villages, and then they would force everyone to be baptized into “The Church”. Tribute-money is just another form of “making an offering” to the conquering “God”. Thus, over time, there became almost no distinction between “The Conquering God” and “The Kingdom” doing the conquering.

5. Not all “Gods” were still alive. Priests of dead “Gods” still erected temples to the dead men so that they could still receive offerings so that they still had an income. With the income came power. For example: Baal was worshipped by Israel. Baal was a real person, a real king, a real “God”. But he was dead. But that did not matter, his Priests still gladly took the people’s offerings anyway. Offerings to the “Gods” was a big-business enterprise: erect temples, collect offerings, get rich, and wield political power.

**GOD AND THE OTHER GODS TO AN ANCIENT READER:**

How confusing it seems that the Bible tells us that “There is no other God” and yet it also tells us that “God stands in the middle of the Gods”. Well, it is not confusing if you were an ancient reader. Try reading it again, but using their understanding of their word for “God” (Elohim) instead:

Deut. 4:35 “So that you might know that Yahowah is the Being of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty, and there is no other.” The Bible consistently uses the word YHWH to distinguish one “God” from the list of all of the other “Gods”. **Yahowah is an Elohim, but none of the other Elohim are the one and only Yahowah Elohim.**

Ps. 82:1 “The Being of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty stands in the Assembly of (#410) Strength, in the middle of the men of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty He judges (them). The term “Assembly of Strength” is a reference to the Canaanite Assembly of Baal where all of their “Gods” congregated to conduct business. Yahowah is greater than all of them, and condemns them.

Ps. 82:1-8 “I have said you are men of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty, and the sons of the Most High are all of you, but you shall die like men . . . Standup you men of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty to judge the earth, for you shall inherit in all the nations.”

As long as you read the text and **remember that “Elohim” is both a concept and a title**, and remember that the word can refer to men or to Yahowah, then the text is not confusing. Try this on all of the “Elohim-texts” to confirm the consistency of its usage.

**ROMAN SENATE VOTED AGAINST JESUS BEING A GOD:**

Did you know that right after Yahoshua was crucified that Emperor Tiberius nominated Yahoshua to the Imperial Senate to be declared “a God”?

Quoting from Eusebius, Book 1, Section 2 (Eusebius is a very highly regarded source for early Christian history, because he often directly quotes earlier authors, and the authenticity of his quotes is rarely disputed):

“Our savior’s marvelous resurrection and ascension into heaven were by now everywhere famous, and it had long been customary for provincial governors to report to the holder of the imperial office any change in the local situation, so that he might be aware of all that was going on. The story of the resurrection from the dead of our savior Jesus, already the subject of general discussion all over Palestine, was accordingly communicated by Pilate to the Emperor Tiberius. For Pilate knew all about Christ’s supernatural deeds, and especially how after death He had risen from the dead and was now generally believed to be a God. It is said that Tiberius referred the report to the Senate, which rejected it. The apparent reason was that they had not gone into the matter before, for the old law still held good that no one could be regarded by the Romans as a God unless by vote and decree of the Senate; the real reason was that no human decision or commendation was required for the saving teaching of the divine message. In this way the Roman council rejected the report sent to it about our savior, but Tiberius made no change in his attitude and formed no evil designs against the teaching of Christ.”

From Eusebius, Book 1, Section 2, quoting from Tertullian an expert in Roman law:

“To go back to the origin of such laws, there was an old decree that no one should be consecrated a God by an emperor till he had been approved by the Senate. Marcus Aemilius followed this procedure in the case of a false God, Alburnus. This reinforces my argument that among you Godhead is conferred by human approval. If a God does not satisfy man, he does not become a God; so according to this it is for man to show favor to God. Tiberius then, in whose time the name of Christian came into the world, when a report of this doctrine reached him from Palestine where it originated, communicated it to the Senate, making it clear to them that he favored the doctrine. The Senate however, because they had not examined the doctrine for themselves, rejected it; but Tiberius stuck to his own view, and threatened to execute any who accused the Christians.”

Although these quotes have huge historical significance, for this article the primary point is that “a God” in the ancient world was a mortal man deemed worthy to be classified as “Deity”. These quotes demonstrate that the Roman Emperor was not asking the Senate to declare Yahoshua to be “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”. The Imperial Senate knew that when debating such an honor that they were only talking about a man, and pondering if that man should be elevated to have “God” status or not.

**WHAT DID IT MEAN TO HAVE GOD STATUS? in ROMAN TIMES?:**

The “Gods” were men (whether dead or still alive) that were officially decreed worthy enough to be elevated to the social class of being “a God”.

Did you know that not all Caesars were “Gods”? Only those that the Imperial Roman Senate voted upon and elected to be elevated to that status. Yes, Nero and a few others declared themselves to be “a God”, but when they died their “deity-status” was immediately taken away.

This is how it worked in ancient Roman times:

Any man in the empire could be nominated to become “a God”. The Senate would hear the case, hear how this man had this or that super-natural ability or powers. They would then vote. Winners would then have the social status of being “a God”. As a “God” they would be considered “Deity”, and being Deity they would have temples erected for their worship. No, not religion, but wealth. Sacrifices meant getting corn, oil, and wine. And those commodities were the same thing as getting cash money. People would make sacrifices to the “Gods” in their temples, and the loot was divided up to others by the temple’s Priests. Of course “God” got a large portion, given to the man or his children.

Understand why a Caesar would want to be declared by the Senate to be “a God”? He would then have a source of wealth and power for himself and his children. Understand now why the Caesars who had the “God” title would insist that all of the empire’s people would make sacrifices to them? Because they got rich! They and the temple priests, and the caravan merchants, and the public officials. It was a huge business, and the Senators enjoyed the kickbacks too.

The early Christians refused to make sacrifices to another “God”. It is interesting that seldom did anyone get really mad because people refused to sacrifice to Zeus or to Apollo, but, not sacrificing to Caesar meant that many operatives were not getting more wealth, and that made them mad. Christians were brought before the magistrates, and were accused of not making sacrifices to Caesar. But Christians would flatly refuse. They would rather be sold into slavery or be killed than to deny that only Yahoshua was their Lord and that sacrifices were only to be given to Yahowah-Elohim.

**THE BOOK OF JOB:**

Consider the book of Job, probably the most ancient book in the Bible, obviously a document written about a rich sacrificing Priest in the land of Uz. In this book the context of the text is constantly talking about “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”. But the text consistently uses the word “Elohim” to refer to Him. Why? Because **Yahowah is an Elohim**, but **only one Elohim is Yahowah**.

Job 1:20-21 “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there, Yahowah gave, and Yahowah has taken away, be the name of Yahowah blessed. In all this not did sin Job, **and not did give wrong to Elohim.**”

Here is a single passage which very clearly is talking about “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”, Yahowah, and also in the same sentence calls Him “Elohim”. Consider: The word “Yahowah” is being used as a specific name, but, the word “Elohim” is being used as a title. “Elohim” is not being used like a person’s or deity’s name. We know that the word “Elohim” is not even specific to Yahowah. Any man or angel may be called by this title, “Elohim”. So, regardless of what “Elohim” means literally, it is nonetheless a title, not a name, and Yahowah uses this very title to refer to Himself. So, can we today use “Elohim” to refer to Yahowah? Of course. Yahowah is an “Elohim”, Yahowah is the Being of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty to His people. **“Elohim” is both a concept and a title.**

### **WHO ARE THESE OTHER GODS?:**

This is where everything gets tied together. This is where you fully understand why the ancient readers understood that “a God” was only a man having Deity-like status. This is where you fully understand why the Hebrew word “Elohim” (#430) is the Hebrew equivalent of this ancient concept. This is where you fully understand why Yahowah refers to Himself by the title “Elohim”.

To make a very long story very short:

(Primary Sources are: “The Dead Sea Scrolls and the First Christians” by Robert Eisenman, published 2004; “James the Brother of Jesus”, by Robert Eisenman, published 1997, both available at Barnes & Noble; “The Two Babylons”, by Alexander Hislop; “The 12<sup>th</sup> Planet”, by Zecharia Sitchin; “Ancient Egyptian Myths and Legends”, by Lewis Spence; “Symbol & Magic In Egyptian Art”, by Richard Wilkinson)

After the flood Noah and his family landed and left the ark. Noah was already a High Priest of Yahowah. Later his son Shem was his successor, and was likewise a High Priest of Yahowah. Eventually this line of Priesthood became known as “The Melchizedek Priesthood”. Yahoshua was a high ranking Zaddik Priest of this same Priesthood-line. Since the Melchizedek Priesthood predated the Levites, Yahoshua did not have to be a bloodline-Levite to be a Melchizedek Priest. Later, the Second Temple Levite Priests actually granted Yahoshua’s brother James the authority to enter directly into the Temple’s Holy of Holies because James came from (quoting) “the more ancient priesthood”.

But Noah’s other children were a very different story. They called themselves “Gods”, and claimed the very attributes of Yahowah Himself. They created Priesthoods for themselves, and subjugated their own grandchildren. Read a few quotes to get an idea:

From a Shumerian clay tablet:

“Enlil, whose command is far reaching, whose word is lofty and holy, whose pronouncement is unchangeable, who decrees destinies unto the distant future, the **Gods of Earth** bow down willingly before him, humble themselves before him, the **Heavenly Gods** who are on Earth humble themselves before him, they stand by faithfully according to instructions.”

Still making a very long story very short: The children of Noah created Heaven and Earth. No, not the Heaven you are thinking about, and not the planet Earth that came into your mind. They separated the land into sections, one section was called Heaven and one was called Earth, and another was called the Underworld. The children of Noah became the Gods of Heaven and Earth, just like Yahowah, and received regular offerings so that they could live a leisurely lifestyle from their grandchildren’s children.

From a Shumerian clay tablet:

“The Gods had clasped hands together, Had cast lots and had divided. Anu then went up to Heaven; To Enlid the Earth was made subject. The Seas, enclosed as with a loop, they had given to Enki, the Prince of Earth.”

There is more that is important to understand. All Shumerian texts describe how these “Gods” created mankind. They describe how the first man, Adam, was created by them. Does this bother you? Do not let it. All they did was create a new social class, and called that lower-class “Man”.

One of many examples taken from the Shumerian clay tablets:

“No plant of the cleared field was yet on Earth, no herb that is planted had yet been grown, and Man was not yet there to work the soil.”

From another Shumerian clay tablet:

“I will produce a lowly primitive, ‘Man’, shall be his name, I will create a primitive worker, he will be charged with the service of the Gods, that they might have their ease.”

From another Shumerian clay tablet:

“While the birth Goddess is present, let the birth Goddess fashion offspring, while the Mother of Gods is present, let the birth Goddess fashion a Lulu, let the worker carry the toil of the Gods, let her create a Lulu Amelu, let him bear the yoke.”

So the children of Noah created a new class of citizenship called “Man”. This is why many mythologies talk about a “God” (like Zeus) having sex with a mortal woman (a daughter of Man) producing a “half-God” (like Hercules).

Why is this important? Because the Hebrew word “Elohim” is linguistically directly derived from the Shumerian word for one of these kind of “Gods”. The ancient readers understood that “a God” was only a man having Deity-like social status. These “Gods” got drunk, had sex, made war, and murdered each other. Dead “Gods” did not bother the ancient reader.

How many “Gods” were there? Well, there were hundreds of “Gods”. “Gods” in Heaven, “Gods” in Earth, “Gods” in the Underworld, city “Gods”, high ranking “Gods” and lower ranking “Gods”. This concept of humans as “Gods” permeated the ancient

culture, and this is how they lived. They had to bow low to the “Gods” as they passed by in the streets. The Hebrew writers used the word “Elohim” to refer to these “Gods”. They also used the same word to talk about Yahowah as being “their God” (in contrast to all of the other Gods). The word “Elohim” was not used to mean “God” as we use it today, it was used as a title to refer to someone of the “God” social class within their community and culture.

So, why would Yahowah use this word “Elohim” to refer to Himself? Well, who was Jerusalem’s “City God”? Who was Jacob’s “Family God”? Who was Israel’s “Protecting Watcher”? It was not Baal, it was not Enlil, it was not Marduk, but it was and still is Yahowah. Yahowah refers to Himself by the title “Elohim” because that is exactly the manner in which a “Family God” is talked about in their culture. “Elohim” is the precise word to use so that the ancient reader would understand. Yahowah is the “Elohim” (God) of the family Israel.

Ps. 84:3 “O Yahowah of Hosts, my King and my God (my Being of Brilliance, my Being of Protecting Watching, my Being of Strength and Majesty)”.

So then, who is our “God”? It is Yahowah the living Elohim of Israel.

### **IS JESUS GOD?:**

My hope is that at this point in the article you understand why the question: “Is Yahoshua God” cannot be answered. In English the word “God” is too ambiguous. If you mean to ask is He an “Elohim”, then I say the answer is “Yes”. If you mean to ask is He “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things” that spoke to Moses, then I say the answer is “No”.

So then, if the Imperial Senate of Rome had not rejected Tiberius’ petition, but instead had voted to make Yahoshua “a God”, would that have been “wrong”? The main point of this article is that from the point of view of ancient language and culture, making a man into “a God” was a permissible thing to do. Doing so did not make any claims about such a man now becoming “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”. A man declared to be “a God” was now in an elevated social class, and that meant money to himself and/or his family. In no way did making a man into “a God” challenge Yahowah or make him His equal.

So then, Thomas called Yahoshua “My Lord and my God”. If Thomas was speaking Hebrew then this verse should be understood as him saying: “My Lord and my “Elohim” (my man of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty)”. Thomas was not suddenly calling Yahoshua “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”, because that distinction is exclusively Yahowah’s.

So then, there are a few documents written by the Romans, and a few sentences in a few of the early Christian manuscripts which calls Yahoshua “a God”. The Romans wrote in Latin, and the Christian manuscripts are written in Greek. None of these sentences in question outright state that Yahoshua is “The One True Eternal Creator of all Things”, but, they do reverence Yahoshua as “a God”, and sing hymns to Yahoshua as if he were “a God”. Now, does that bother you? It should not. No one should have any problem in acknowledging Yahoshua as a man of super-natural abilities, and understand that He was like “a God” in their ancient culture and mind-set. No one should have any problem in proclaiming the Messiah Yahoshua as “My Lord and my man of Brilliance, of Protecting Watching, of Strength and Majesty”. If any man ever deserved to be voted the title of “Elohim”, it is certainly our living Lord and Messiah Yahoshua.