

Deuteronomy 32 Worldview and the Divine Council

Deuteronomy 32:8-9 (ESV) When the Most High gave to the **nations** their inheritance, when he divided mankind, **he fixed the borders** of the peoples according to the **number of the sons of God**. ⁹ But the LORD'S portion is his people, **Jacob his allotted heritage**.

Deuteronomy 32:10-18 He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. ¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, ¹² the LORD alone guided him, **no foreign god was with him**. ¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the land, and he ate the produce of the field, and he suckled him with honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. ¹⁴ Curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs, rams of Bashan and goats, with the very finest of the wheat— and you drank foaming wine made from the blood of the grape. ¹⁵ "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation. ¹⁶ They stirred him to jealousy with **strange gods; with abominations** they provoked him to anger. ¹⁷ They **sacrificed to demons** that were not God, to **gods** they had never known, to **new gods** that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded. ¹⁸ You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you **forgot the God who gave you birth**.

Genesis 11 The Tower of Babel and the Division of Nations

1. In Genesis 11, mankind attempts to build a tower to reach into heaven. If you want to study that further, just research ziggurats. They were built to reach heaven. To honor and worship certain gods and goddesses. It was mankind's attempt to bargain with gods, appease them, curry their favor.

- a. Now notice again how three sin passages of Genesis contain things that God actually wants to happen. But in each case they are doing it in a sinful way.
- b. In other words, **God does want earth and heaven joined**. But it is meant to be done by the **grace**, the gift, the love of God. Heaven comes to earth! But in Genesis 11, it is the prideful

activity of mankind thinking they can reach heaven by their **works**! And then they get led astray into the worship of other gods and goddesses who deceive them. Who respond to their prideful acts and rewards them.

- c. So God, the Father steps in and says "No!" This is not the way heaven and earth are meant to be joined. So God confuses their language, separates them into nations (Gen. 10: Table of nations), and scatters them across the earth. That's the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.
 - i. Here we find the application of the **Deuteronomy 32 worldview**. Verses 8 and 9 show us God assigning members of the Divine Council to govern the nations, to serve the growth and maturity of civilization.
 - ii. But we know some of them rebel. That is the **Psalms 82** recording of God's judgment on his rebellious sons.

The Divine Council

Psalms 82 (ESV) ¹ *God has taken his place in the **divine council**; in the midst of the **gods** he holds judgment:*

² *"How long will you judge unjustly*

and show partiality to the wicked? Selah

³ *Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.*

⁴ *Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

⁵ *They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.*

⁶ *I said, "You are **gods**, **sons of the Most High**, all of you;*

⁷ nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince."

⁸ *Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!*