

Scripture Reading

Psalm 89:5-8 (NIV)

⁵ The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? ⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him. ⁸ O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

1) More on the elohim

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Deuteronomy 32:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, which are not God-- gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear.

Psalm 29:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Psalm 89:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? ⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.

2) What is the council of the holy ones?

Psalm 82:1 (NIV)

¹ God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the "gods":

1 Kings 22:19-23 (NIV)

¹⁹ Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. ²⁰ And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?' "One suggested this, and another that. ²¹ Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, 'I will

entice him.' ²² " 'By what means?' the LORD asked. " 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,' he said. " 'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the LORD. 'Go and do it.' ²³ "So now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you."

3) Why is there evil in the world?

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NRSV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.