

OPENING STORY: Not too long ago we had some Jehovah's Witnesses visit the house. They were anxious to talk about one of my favorite subjects... Jesus.

However, when the subject of the Holy Spirit came up, His indwelling, and His role in instruction, things dramatically shifted tone. When the concept of Jesus Christ being the only begotten Son of God came up, you can imagine how uncomfortable things began to be.

An older JW stepped up to inform me that I was quite mistaken with viewing Jesus as the Only Begotten Son of God, and that God had many sons, including lucifer(*satan*), and that we could be sons of God, as well, just as Jesus did.

But she did not mean in the sense that 'To them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.' But rather in the sense that we could become gods as well.

When I pointed out that Jesus was the Only Begotten of the Father, and the Jesus said, "I and my Father are one", she pointed to **Colossians 1**, and said that Jesus was only the 'image' of God, and, like Adam (*created in the image and likeness of God*) so was Jesus.

But she neglected to finish out the passage... because **Colossians** goes on to say:

Colossians 1

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For **by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible**, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

17 And **he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

When I mentioned that John opens up his book by saying that Jesus was the Word, was God, and was responsible for Creation, I thought that they would stop and say... (uh...)

But, she pointed to **John 10**, and insisted that Jesus, Himself, said that there were many gods... not a Trinity of One God in Three Parts, as Baptists believe.

Let's look at **John 10**.

TEXT: JOHN 10 & PSALM 82

INTRO: In **John 10**, it would almost seem in passing that Jesus was *back-peddling* like a politician to get out of trouble. To avoid being stoned prematurely.

... But I have to beg the question, WHY would Jesus be intimidated by the Jews? Why would He compromise or underplay truth to cater to the unworthy self-righteous?

... or IS this what He is doing at all?

TS: In **John 10**, the Jews approach Jesus and demand to know where He stands on the issue of His deity!

LESSON:

When we encounter this passage (*I say encounter because it forces us to come to a conclusion about Jesus*) we find that it is in **John 10** that Jesus says:

- “I am the door”
- “I am the good shepherd”
- “Only my sheep hear my voice”
- “My sheep know me”

In fact, the Jews are forced into a decision, and in v.19, we can see how the “social media verdict” was passed in the ‘comments’ below.

... But there's more. (v.24) “... *How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly:*”

My question is this:

Q: What could Jesus possibly have said that caused the Jews to doubt?

I don't believe it was ANYTHING Jesus said that made them doubt. I feel that Jesus was PRETTY CLEAR on being open about His claim to deity, and in particular, His unique relationship with God the Father.

Could it be that the Jews just couldn't see what was in front of them? They seem to really be struggling with this concept and at an impasse as what to do with Jesus.

Q: What did Jesus mean, ‘Ye are gods’??

Q: In light of **PSALM 82**, which Jesus was quoting, whom did David reference as ‘gods’?

A: David mentions that God standeth in the congregation of the MIGHTY (gods). God judges among the gods. The gods of **Psalm 82** are found judging unjustly, making exceptions of wicked persons. These gods are neglecting the poor and needy. David reminds them that they are gods (*MIGHTY JUDGES*) and that they are children/sons of the Most High, and their time is limited. David pleads with God to judge the earth.

In light of **PSALM 82**, it would seem that Jesus is not back-peddling one bit. In fact, look at what He is saying:

In the LAW, (**Psalm 82**) they are called gods to whom the word of God came.

... Jesus was sanctified... sent into the world. The miracles He performed were the proof of endorsement or credentials. His works were the works of the Father.

If THIS is true, than how much MORE is THIS true?

If “word of God” + “men” = “gods/rulers”
Then “Word of God” + “Sent of God” = “Son of God”

Jesus isn't back-peddling to save His skin. He is admonishing them further in perfect accordance to the truth. God cannot lie! Jesus is not misdirecting, distracting, avoiding questions, or dodging

answers. HE IS TESTIFYING TO THEIR VERY QUESTION AS THEY STATED IT. (*Tell us or no*)

If they are having trouble with this concept, then simply believe for the sake of the works. A decision is to be made about Jesus Christ... and look at v.39-41... At Jordan, many cross.

BONUS:

Q: “Are there other ‘sons’ of God?”

Gen 6:2

That the **sons of God** saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

Like the “sons of the desert”, “sons of liberty”, and “sons of thunder”, yes, there can be ‘sons of God’.

These were the pious descendants of Seth. (*Cain’s younger brother*) These were those exposed with knowledge to the word of the Lord. Sadly, in the days preceding the Flood Decision, even the sons of God were fallen to the daughters of men. Out of the entire population of the planet, there were just (8) people God could look down upon in favor.

God refers to the *Children of Israel* as His ‘son’.

Exo 4:22, And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: ,

Exo 4:23, And I say unto thee, Let my son go , that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go , behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

In fact, this ‘mindset’ is STILL deeply entrenched in the Jews Jesus is speaking to in **John 8**

Joh 8:41, Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Joh 8:42, Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Jesus brings to light a new ‘sense’ of the term ‘Sons of God’ in the New Testament in that describing the ‘adoption’ of us into the family of God. When Jesus says in John 9, ‘Other sheep I have that are not of this fold’, I cannot help but smile, as I am one of those sheep. :-)

BUT WHAT ABOUT JOB 1:6?

Job 1

6 Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

This leaves the last remaining foothold for misinterpretation of Scripture. It doesn't seem to fit with everything else. I can readily see a JW church pointing at Job and saying, "*See! If we wear our glasses of pre-interpretation and look at Job, THEN the rest of the passages HAVE to mean something else.*"

But it could be that we are asking the wrong question. The question isn't:

Q: "If satan is a son of God, then God must have created them, right?"

Instead, let's ask the OBVIOUS question:

Q: "What was satan doing among the sons of God?" This is a question of INFILTRATION or CONGREGATION.

Is he SUPPOSED to be here? If satan was SUPPOSED to be a part of this congregation, would it not have read, "And the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and satan asked..."

No, satan is mentioned totally separately. In fact, look at Job 2:1

Job 2

1 Again there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

Job 1

6 Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.