

Behold Your God!
Genesis 1:1-2

I. Introduction

- A. The gods of contemporary culture and world religions:
- B. The gods of the Ancient Near East:

II. Proposition

- A. Unlike the gods of the ANE, contemporary culture and world religions, the Lord our God is the only true God and is the sovereign Lord over all things and is deserving of our worship.

III. Exposition

- A. **The Lord our God is the one true covenant-making/covenant-keeping God.**
 - 1. Contra: atheism, henotheism, polytheism
 - 2. *Elohim* (Gen 1:1) is identified as *Yahweh* (Gen. 2:4 – *Lord*; cf. Exodus 3:14).
 - 3. Humanity is tempted to worship the creation instead of the creator:
 - a. Isaiah 40:18-20, 25-26; 41:21-24; 44:9-17
 - b. Idols are made by man, but the Lord our God created all things.
 - 4. However, there is no other God (Isaiah 44:6-8; 45:5-7).
 - 5. Why, then, would anyone choose to worship worthless idols who are no gods at all?
- B. **The Lord our God is the eternal God.**
 - 1. Contra: dualism, pantheism, Mormonism, Jehova's Witnesses
 - 2. As the eternal God, He is distinct from His creation, for His creation had a beginning, but He does not.
 - a. He is eternally triune – Genesis 1:26; John 1:1
 - 3. As the eternal God, He does not grow weary or faint (Isaiah 40:28-31).
- C. **The Lord our God is a gracious God.**
 - 1. Contra: panentheism
 - 2. God freely chose to create; He was not bound to create.
 - a. He was not lonely or dependent upon the creation in any way.
 - 3. God provided for all of Adam's needs.
 - 4. God freely chose to redeem rebellious humanity.
- D. **The Lord our God is a living, personal God.**
 - 1. Contra: Deism, Islam
 - 2. As the living God, He imparts life (2:7).
 - 3. As the personal God, He interacts and intervenes in His creation.
 - a. God speaks, sees, hears, rests, breathes. . . (1, 2, 3, 17, 18).
 - b. He has existed eternally in relationship.
 - 4. As the living, personal God He dwells with His people.
- E. **The Lord our God is the sovereign ruler over His creation.**
 - 1. Contra: secularism and naturalistic evolutionary philosophies
 - a. God is the sovereign ruler because He is the sovereign creator (Isaiah 40:21-26).
 - 1). See also Job 38-42
 - 2. As the sovereign ruler, He establishes a place for His people (Gen 2:8-9).
 - a. This theme of place or land will be on-going throughout Genesis and the Bible.
 - 3. As the sovereign ruler, He establishes His law and demands submission from His subjects (Gen 2:17).
 - a. Isaiah 45:22-23
 - 4. These ideas of land/place, people/subjects, and ruler/king point to the pattern of the kingdom of God established in Eden.

IV. Conclusion

- A. What God do you worship?
 - 1. Do you worship the gods of world religions? Contemporary culture? One you've created?

2. If you do not worship the one, true, living, holy, sovereign Lord over creation, then you worship a false, non-god.
- B. You must worship the only true God through His Son Jesus Christ.
1. Isaiah 43:5-13, God promises salvation through His servant (Israel).
 2. Isaiah 52:13; 53:4-12, the servant will suffer in the place of God's people.
 3. John 4:23-24, Jesus is the suffering servant and true worship is based upon the truth of who He is for us and the overflow of the Holy Spirit in us.
 - a. Jesus is the great I AM, covenant-making, covenant-keeping God:
 - 1). John 8:58 (ESV) Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."
 - b. Jesus is the eternal God – Revelation 22:8-9, 12-14
 - 1). Rev. 22:8-9 (ESV) I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." Rev. 22:12-14 (ESV) "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.
 - c. Jesus is the gracious God:
 - 1). John 1:16-17 (ESV) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
 - d. Jesus is the living, personal God:
 - 1). Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- C. Do you worship this God, the creator God, the saving God, whose name is Jesus?

© 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church and Pastor Juan Sanchez - 12030 Dessau Rd, Austin Texas 78754

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do *not* alter the wording in any way, you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, and you do not make more than 1,000 physical copies. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be explicitly approved by High Pointe Baptist Church.

Please include the following statement on any distributed copy: By Juan Sanchez. © 2007 High Pointe Baptist Church. Website: <http://www.hpbcglobal.org> Email: info@hpbcglobal.org. Phone: 512.837.7725.