

## Biblical Paradoxes Series

### God and little gods

Emperors such as Julius Cesar, Augustus Cesar, Caligula, the Egyptian Pharoahs, Hindu gurus, such as Sai Baba, and many others throughout history had declared themselves to be gods. Then Jesus came and declared Himself to be the Son of God. Jesus opposed his Jewish antagonists' argument of Him blaspheming stating that they were called gods in the scriptures. What did He really mean by that?

Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.

Psalms 82:6-7 "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler."

John 10:34-38 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods"'? <sup>35</sup> If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside — <sup>36</sup> what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? <sup>37</sup> Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. <sup>38</sup> But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

#### 1) How many Gods are there?

- Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.
- Sometimes there is confusion as there's the mention of other gods
  - Moses
    - Exodus 15:11 Who among the gods is like you, LORD?
    - Exodus 20:3 You shall have no other gods before me.
    - Deuteronomy 4:28-29 There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.
  - Paul
    - 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.
- It is clear that there is only one true and living God and any other god is not a god at all.
  - Any other so-called god is a worthless figment of someone's imagination that cannot do anything for anyone
  - There is none other that the true and living God who can create out of nothing, can provide our needs, sustain our lives, care for us, know us and give us life.

#### 2) Are we little gods?

- Why is it then that Jesus told the Jews that we are little gods, quoting from Psalm 82: 6
  - Psalms 82:6 "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.'
- Does this mean that we, children of God, are little gods?
- No, absolutely not.

- So what did Jesus mean when He quoted from Psalm 82: 6 “‘I said, ‘You are “gods”; you are all sons of the Most High.’”?
- The Jews were accusing Him of blasphemy by calling Himself the Son of God. He responded by quoting Psalm 82 where the Psalmist called the judges of the land “gods” and no one opposed them. Why then, should Jesus be opposed for calling Himself the Son of God when it was the Father Himself who had sent Him. Even His works testified that He and the Father are one.
- Please notice that “god’s” is always in inverted commas, meaning that there is a play on the word “gods”. What is being referred to are the rulers, judges, and/or the magistrates of the Great Assembly where decisions were made.
  - In no way were they being referred to as little gods with divine power
  - They were workers doing the work of God under His authority
  - Being sons of the Most High means that they were the chosen people of God
- Psalm 82 was by no means a commendation on them in their work, but a rebuke as they were misusing their God given authority and powers
  - God rendered judgment among them (v.1)
  - They were unjust in their judgments (v.2)
  - They were without understanding of God’s ways and in darkness (v.5)
  - They would die like everyone else (v.7)
- In understanding the context of Psalm 82 we understand that Jesus was rebuking the Jews for their wrong understanding and unjust judgments of Him. He was in no way calling them little gods with the same divinity as Himself.
- In the same way, we, the children of God, are not little gods and, although we share His divine nature, are not equal to divinity and are limited in the power of what God has given us.
- Jesus as the unique Son of God was limited in His power when He took on human nature. How much more are we limited in our sinful selves
  - We are adopted children of God through Jesus raised up to be so by Jesus, the only unique Son of God who came from the Father.

### 3) Know your place before God

- It was the original sin of Satan where he wanted to elevate himself to be as God that got him cast out of heaven, and the same sin that he tempted Adam and Eve with
  - Isaiah 14:12-15 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!  
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!  
You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.  
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”  
But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.
  - Genesis 3:4-5 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- The conclusion of the matter is that we need to be humble enough to know our place before God
  - We should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought
  - Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.