

In Mormonism we find the idea "As man is God once was, as God is man may become". Can man become God? How many Gods are there? Are there other Gods in the Bible? They will quote many gods and many lords out of context. Yet God said there are no other gods. All others are a false god or an idol.

The Lord told us you shall have no gods before me. In response Mormonism will try to say there are lots of gods, but only one God for us. Will this argument hold up in scripture? This Bible study will show that it does not!

NO OTHER GODS

Mormons try to use the Bible to support the belief in more than one God, as well as the idea that man can become a God.

Genesis 3:5

"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The speaker here is Satan; this is what he said to Eve, when he was tempting her to eat what God had already expressly forbidden. The following verse shows what Jesus said about Satan, and should explain why I do not consider Satan's words a credible source upon which to build a doctrine.

John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."

1 Corinthians 8:1-6

"1) Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies. 2) If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; 3) but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him. 4) Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. 5) For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 6) yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him."

Most Mormons I have talked to start reading this text right in the middle of verse 5. The context of this entire chapter concerns eating food that has been sacrificed to idols, as you can see in verse 1 here. In verse 4, Paul said there is no God but one. Then he goes on to talk about the idols, and calls them “so-called gods”, in verse 5, because the people considered these idols gods. When Paul said there are many gods and many lords, he is still talking about the idols. There indeed were many idols that people considered a “god”, or a “lord”. But they were only idols, which amounts to nothing. There are many false gods today; “false” being the operative word. Paul says for us, there is but one God, the Father, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, because the Christian is not supposed to have anything to do with idols.

Satan is also called “god of this world” in 2 Corinthians 4:4, but he is no real God at all. He does not have any of God’s attributes. He cannot create, nor does he possess the knowledge or power that God does. Satan’s title in this respect shows his authority or rule over this planet. He is even worshipped as God by some, but he is a false god who will end in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

DOES JOHN 10 SHOW THAT THERE ARE OTHER GODS?

John 10:29-39

“29) ‘My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30) I and the Father are one.’ 31) The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32) Jesus answered them, ‘I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?’ 33) The Jews answered Him, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.’ 34) Jesus answered them. ‘Has it not been written in your Law, “I said, you are gods”? 35) If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), 36) do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, “You are blaspheming”, because I said, “I am the Son of God”? 37) If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38) but if I do them, 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.’ 39) Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.”

This text shows that Jesus claimed to be God in verse 30 by saying, “I and the Father are one”. Verse 33 shows that this is how his enemies also interpreted His statement. Jesus then used Psalm 82:6 for his own defense. Let’s look at that passage.

Psalm 82:1-8 (NAS)

“1) God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers. 2) How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? Selah. 3) Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. 4) Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked. 5) They do not know nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6) I said, ‘You are the gods, and all of you are the sons of the Most High. 7) Nevertheless you will die like men, and fall like any one of the princes.’ 8) Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is Thou who dost possess all the nations.”

In the text that Jesus quoted from, we see that these men who were given the title of “gods” were, in fact, unjust judges. The title of “gods” was referring to their positions of authority as judges. See that in verse 1, God judges in the midst of the rulers. Who are these rulers? They are the ones who are judging unjustly (verse 2). They are then exhorted to act, as they should in their positions of authority (verses 3-5). These judges are reminded that they are called “gods”. Also they are sons of the Most High. We see in verse 7 that in spite of this position, they will die like men. Does this text sound like it is speaking of actual Gods, or judges?

Not only does the context speak of actual judges, but also the Hebrew word that is translated as “gods” here is also translated as “judges” in Exodus 21:6 and 22:8-9.

The word “judges” below is the same Hebrew word translated as “gods” in Psalm 82:6. You can verify this using the back of the Strong’s Concordance.

Exodus 22:8

"If the thief is not caught, then the owner of the house shall appear before the **judges**, to determine whether he laid his hands on his neighbor's property."

Following are two different definitions of this Hebrew word.

Strong’s

“430 'elohiym (el-o-heem');

plural of 433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative:

KJV-- angels, X exceeding, God (gods)- dess, -ly), X (very) great, judges, X mighty.”

Brown-Driver-Briggs’

“430 'elohiym-

(plural) (a) rulers, judges (b) divine ones (c) angels (d) gods

(plural intensive -singular meaning) (a) God, a god, a goddess (b) god-like one

(c) works or special possessions of God (d) the one true God (e) God”

Thus, the context of the 82nd Psalm is not only speaking of unjust judges, but the Hebrew word is sometimes translated as “judges”. These are merely men, not literal Gods.

Now back to our original text in John 10. Jesus claimed to be God by saying, “I and the Father are one” in verse 30. Even His enemies understood what He meant (verse 33). The Jews said they were going to stone Jesus because He, being a man made Himself out to be God. Jesus then used the 82nd Psalm in His own defense. Jesus using this passage reminded His opponents that even mere men who were judges have been called gods in Scripture. Certainly, then He who really was God had a right to the title. Jesus said they did not believe that He and the Father were one (i.e. God) by His own words. So, He challenged them to consider the works that He did, in order that they might know that “the Father is in me and I in the Father”. The Jews understood this again as a claim to be God; that is why they tried to seize Him (verse 39).

While the Book of Mormon is not the word of God, still I find it interesting that according to it, there are no other Gods.

Alma 11:21-29

“ 21) And this Zeezrom began to question Amulek, saying: Will ye answer me a few questions which I shall ask you? Now Zeezrom was a man who was expert in the devices of the devil, that he might destroy that which was good; therefore, he said unto Amulek: Will ye answer the questions which I shall put unto you? 22) And Amulek said unto him: Yea, if it be according to the Spirit of the Lord, which is in me’ for I shall say nothing which is contrary to the Spirit of the Lord. And Zeezrom said unto him: Behold, here are six onties of silver, and all these I will give thee if thou wilt deny the existence of a Supreme Being. 23) Now Amulek said: O thou child of hell, why tempt ye me? Knowest thou that the righteous yieldeth to no such temptations? 24) Believest thou that there is no God? I say unto you, Nay, thou knowest that there is a God, but thou lovest that lucre more than him. 25) And now thou has lied before God unto me. Thou sadist unto me – Behold these six onties, which are of great worth, I will give unto thee – when thou hadst it in thy heart to retain them from me; and it was only thy desire that I should deny the true and living God, that thou mightiest have cause to destroy me. And now behold, for this great evil thou shalt have thy reward. 26) And Zeezrom said unto him: Thou sayest there is a true and living God? 27) And Amulek said: Yea, there is a true and living God. 28) Now Zeezrom said: Is there more than one God? 29) And he answered, No.”

HOW IS IT THAT GOD IS NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER GODS, IF IN FACT THEY EXIST?

Isaiah 44:8

“Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.”

How can one become a "God", as the L.D.S. church teaches, if there was no God formed before Him and there will never be a God formed after Him?

Isaiah 43:10

"‘You are My witnesses’," declares the LORD, ‘And My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am He. Before me there was no God formed, and there will be none after me.’"

Deuteronomy 4:35

"To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him."

Deuteronomy 4:39

"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other."

Deuteronomy 32:39

"See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal; and there is no one who can deliver from My hand."

1 Samuel 2:2

"There is no one holy like the LORD, indeed, there is no one besides Thee, nor is there any rock like our God."

2 Samuel 22:32

"For who is God, besides the LORD? And who is a rock, besides our God?"

Isaiah 44:6

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: `I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides me.'"

Isaiah 45:5-6

"I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known me; That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other..."

Isaiah 45:14

"Thus says the LORD, ‘The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush And the Sabeans, men of stature, will come over to you and will be yours; they will walk behind you, they will come over in chains and will bow down to you; they will make supplication to you: Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, no other God.'"

Isaiah 45:21

"Declare and set forth your case; indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except me."

Isaiah 46:9

"Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me,"

Psalms 18:31

"For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,"

Nehemiah 9:6

"Thou alone art the LORD. Thou hast made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. Thou dost give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before Thee."

James 2:19

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." (KJV)

Psalms 96:5

"For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens."

The Mormon idea, "As man is God once was and as God is man may become" falls apart if there are no other Gods!

Reference Notation: "As man now is, God once was: "As God now is, man may be.

In Eliza R. Snow Smith, Biography and Family Record of Lorenzo Snow (1884), 46;

See also "The Grand Destiny of Man," Deseret Evening News, July 20, 1901, 22.

The Mormon "First Article of Faith" (believing that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three separate Gods) falls apart if there is only one God!

Mormon leaders become false witnesses when they say that there are "many other Gods but only one for us", if in fact there are no other Gods!