

Elijah's Moment: The Strategy of Prayer

Introduction:

- Definition: Prayer is communication with God
- Prayer is also about the protocol of authority
 - o **Psalm 115:16** – The heaven, *even* the heavens, *are* the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.
 - o **Genesis 1:26-28** - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - o **Genesis 2:5-9** - before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground; ⁶ but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. ⁷ And the Lord God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. ⁸ The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life *was* also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- This is why James says you have not because you ask not and because you ask amiss...

1. The Spirit Realm:

First its important to understand the Biblical term **Elohim** and its usage **Elohim**, singular **Eloah**, (Hebrew: God), the God of Israel in the Old Testament. A plural of majesty, the term Elohim—though sometimes used for other deities, such as the Moabite god Chemosh, the Sidonian goddess Astarte, and also for other majestic beings such as angels, kings, judges (the Old Testament *shofetim*), and the Messiah—is usually employed in the Old Testament for the one and only God of Israel, whose personal name was revealed to Moses as YHWH, or Yahweh (*q.v.*). When referring to Yahweh, *elohim* very often is accompanied by the article *ha-*, to mean, in combination, "the God," and sometimes with a further identification *Elohim hayyim*, meaning "the living God."

- Psalm 82:1 - God stands in the congregation of the mighty; He judges among the gods.
- God [*elohim*] stands in the divine assembly; he administers judgment in the midst of the gods [*elohim*].

The first use of the word in this verse worked fine. But since I know my Hebrew grammar, I saw immediately that the second instance needed to be translated as plural. There it was, plain as day: **The God of the Old Testament was part of an assembly—a pantheon—of other gods.**

- Psalm 82 states that the gods were being condemned as corrupt in their administration of the nations of the earth.
- These same “sons of God” are described as being in God’s council or assembly—located in the heavens, the spiritual realm of divine beings, not on earth—in Psalm 89:5-7: 5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord, 7 a God greatly to be feared in **the council of the holy ones**, and awesome above all who are around him?

2 Chronicles 18:18-22 - Then Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left. 19 And the Lord said, ‘Who will persuade Ahab king of Israel to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?’ So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. 20 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, and said, ‘I will persuade him.’ The Lord said to him, ‘In what way?’ 21 So he said, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And the Lord said, ‘You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so.’ 22 Therefore look! The Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these prophets of yours, and the Lord has declared disaster against you.” (Ahab wanted to know if he was going to win the battle at Ramoth Gilead...)

- The theological question is that a spirit God sent or allowed or Satan?
- The point that I want you to see is that in heaven to God’s right hand and left is a “divine council” made up of the “Sons of God”.

Job 1:6-7 - Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and **Satan also came among them**. ⁷ And the Lord said to [Ⓛ]Satan, “From where do you come?”

Revelation 12:10 (NKJV) - Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night**, has been cast down.”

It is important to understand that there is a system, a structure of authority in the heavens. God reigns as sovereign even though he is surrounded by other high-ranking beings that the Bible calls “Elohim” (gods little “g”). These being have divine council meetings where decrees and commands are carried out. Many of them impacting the Spirit realm and the Natural realm.

Transition: Now – lets go back to the beginning, the introduction, and see how this affects us and what it has to do with prayer strategy...

2. The Earth Realm

When it comes to the earth realm / dimension God has a creative order. A system and structure that He has put in place that is governed by laws and creative proclamations

- In the earth realm there are all kinds of created beings – creatures
- The highest ranking being in the earth realm is man, only created a little lower than the angels
- Created as a triune being: Spirit, Soul, and Body

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When man is born again by the Spirit look at how the Bible refers to us...

John 1:11-13 - He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power **to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Romans 8:19 - For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God**.

1 John 3:1-2 Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be **called the sons of God**: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we **the sons of God**, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

- Just as in the structure of the spirit-realm there highest-ranking beings outside of God is called "the sons of God", so also in the natural realm the highest-ranking spiritual beings are called "sons of God".

- Just as the spirit realm has divine council meetings to make decrees that impacts both realms, so also, we have divine council meetings that do the same – **THE CHURCH**
 - **Ekklesia** – (Wikipedia) The ekklesia of ancient Athens is particularly well-known. It was the popular assembly, open to all male citizens as soon as they qualified for citizenship. In 594 BC, Solon allowed all Athenian citizens to participate, regardless of class. The assembly was responsible for declaring war, military strategy and electing the strategoi and other officials. It was responsible for nominating and electing magistrates (árchontes), thus indirectly electing the members of the Areopagus. It had the final say on legislation and the right to call magistrates to account after their year of office. A typical meeting of the Assembly probably contained around 6000 people, out of a total citizen population of 30,000–60,000