

I. Introduction

A. Odin and Ymir-Norse story of Creation:

In the beginning of time, there was nothing: neither sand, nor sea, nor cool waves. Neither the heaven nor earth existed. Instead, long before the earth was made, Niflheim was made, and in it a spring gave rise to twelve rivers. To the south was Muspell, a region of heat and brightness guarded by Surt, a giant who carried a flaming sword. To the north was frigid Ginnungagap, where the rivers froze and all was ice. Where the sparks and warm winds of Muspell reached the south side of frigid Ginnungagap, the ice thawed and dripped, and from the drips thickened and formed the shape of a man. His name was Ymir, the first of and ancestor of the frost-giants.

As the ice dripped more, it formed a cow, and from her teats flowed four rivers of milk that fed Ymir. The cow fed on the salt of the rime ice, and as she licked a man's head began to emerge. By the end of the third day of her licking, the whole man had emerged, and his name was Buri. He had a son named Bor, who married Bestla, a daughter of one of the giants. Bor and Bestla had three sons, one of whom was Odin, the most powerful of the gods.

Ymir was a frost-giant, but not a god, and eventually he turned to evil. After a struggle between the giant and the young gods, Bor's three sons killed Ymir. So much blood flowed from his wounds that all the frost-giants were drowned but one, who survived only by building an ark for himself and his family. Bor's sons dragged Ymir's immense body to the center of Ginnungagap, and from him they made the earth. Ymir's blood became the sea, his bones became the rocks and crags, and his hair became the trees. Bor's sons took Ymir's skull and with it made the sky. In it they fixed sparks and molten slag from Muspell to make the stars, and other sparks they set to move in paths just below the sky. They threw Ymir's brains into the sky and made the clouds. The earth is a disk, and they set up Ymir's eyelashes to keep the giants at the edges of that disk.

On the sea shore, Bor's sons found two logs and made people out of them. One son gave them breath and life, the second son gave them consciousness and movement, and the third gave them faces, speech, hearing, and sight. From this man and woman came all humans thereafter, just as all the gods were descended from the sons of Bor.

Odin and his brothers had set up the sky and stars, but otherwise they left the heavens unlit. Long afterwards, one of the descendants of those first two people that the brothers created had two children. Those two children were so beautiful that their father named the son Moon and the daughter Sol. The gods were jealous already and, when they heard of the father's arrogance, they pulled the brother and sister up to the sky and set them to work. Sol drives the chariot that carries the sun across the skies, and she drives so fast across the skies of the northland because she is chased by a giant wolf each day. Moon likewise takes a course across the sky each night, but not so swiftly because he is not so harried.

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The gods did leave one pathway from earth to heaven. That is the bridge that appears in the sky as a rainbow, and its perfect arc and brilliant colors are a sign of its origin with the gods. It nonetheless will not last for ever, because it will break when the men of Muspell try to cross it into heaven.¹

B. The Cherokee Story of Creation:

The earth began as nothing but water and darkness, and all the animals were in Galúnlati, above the stone vault that makes up the sky. Eventually Galúnlati became so crowded that the animals needed more room, and they wanted to move down to earth. Not knowing what was below the water, they sent down the Water-beetle to explore. Water-beetle dove below the water and eventually came back with some mud from below. That mud grew and grew, and finally it became the island that we call earth. This island of earth is suspended at its four corners from ropes that hang down from the sky, and legend has it that some day the ropes will break and the earth will sink back into the water.

Because it grew from mud, the new earth was very soft. Many of the birds flew down to explore the new land, but it was too wet for them to stay. Finally Buzzard flew down, hoping it was dry, but the earth was still wet. Buzzard searched and searched, especially in the Cherokee country, and finally he became so tired that his wings flapped against the ground. His wings dug valleys where they hit the ground and turned up mountains where they pulled away, leaving the rugged country of the Cherokee.

Eventually the earth was dry and the animals moved down. There still was no light, however, and so the animals set the sun passing from east to west just over their heads. With the sun so close, many of the animals were burned, giving the red crawfish its crimson color. The animals raised the sun again and again, until it was high enough that all could survive.²

C. Chinese Story of Creation:

Long, long ago, when heaven and earth were still one, the entire universe was contained in an egg-shaped cloud. All the matter of the universe swirled chaotically in that egg. Deep within the swirling matter was Pan Gu, a huge giant who grew in the chaos. For 18,000 years he developed and slept in the egg. Finally one day he awoke and stretched, and the egg broke to release the matter of the universe. The lighter purer elements drifted upwards to make the sky and heavens, and the heavier impure elements settled downwards to make the earth.

In the midst of this new world, Pan Gu worried that heaven and earth might mix again; so he resolved to hold them apart, with the heavens on his head and the earth under his feet. As the two continued to separate, Pan Gu grew to hold them apart. For 18,000 years he continued to grow, until the heavens were 30,000 miles above the earth. For much longer he continued to hold the two apart,

¹ Snorri Sturluson 1987, Edda (trans. by Anthony Faulkes): London, J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd, 252 p. (PT 7312.E5 F380 1987). From <http://www.gly.uga.edu/railsback/CS/CSOdin&Ymir.html>> . Site Accessed 5/15/2016

² From <<http://www.gly.uga.edu/railsback/CS/CSCorn&Medicine.html>> Site accessed 5/15/2016

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fearing the return of the chaos of his youth. Finally he realized they were stable, and soon after that he died.

With the immense giant's death, the earth took on new character. His arms and legs became the four directions and the mountains. His blood became the rivers, and his sweat became the rain and dew. His voice became the thunder, and his breath became the winds. His hair became the grass, and his veins became the roads and paths. His teeth and bones became the minerals and rocks, and his flesh became the soil of the fields. Up above, his left eye became the sun, and his right eye became the moon. Thus in death, as in life, Pan Gu made the world as it is today.³

Evolutionists creation story: nothing created something that became everything, going nowhere forever for no reason.

D. Genesis 10:31-11:9

1. As a result of the dispersion on the planet, and the already innate desire of man to defy the living and true God, once they were scattered on the earth after being confounded in their language, they began to develop the gods of the earth. \

Romans 1:20–25

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

B. The world has created many "gods."

C. They devised varied and complex systems of appeasing, or approaching, their gods.

1. **Roman Catholicism** teaches that in order to appease this god, you will need to perform certain rituals (called "sacraments") and adhere to church dogma.

2. **Buddhism** teaches that in order to know their god, you will need to know yourself and enter into a state of solitude that very few ever enter.

³ From <<http://www.gly.uga.edu/railsback/CS/CSPG&NW.html>> Site accessed 5/15/2016.

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3. **Mormonism** teaches that in order to know this god, you will need to maintain regular church functions and follow the teaching of the elders and apostles.
- D. The construct of these religions is complex and varied.
1. However, the real problem is two-fold:
 - a) The god they espouse does not agree with the teaching concerning the God of the Bible.
 - b) The way to approach this God is hidden and unknown completely in these systems and therefore a person cannot know the true God through them.
 2. In fact, the gods of these religions are, by their nature, different gods and therefore not singularly God.
 3. 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

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,
Isaiah 46:9

E. Jeremiah 10:1-16

- F. But, the Bible has at its very core doctrine the singularity of God.
1. All the religions of the world:
 - a) Make god to be multiple gods.
 - b) Make god to be singular beyond the singularity of the Bible.
 2. None of them would recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God as the Bible teaches Him.

G. "Listen Israel; YHWH, our God, YHWH (is) one."

(1) Deuteronomy 6:4

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד: 4 (2)

Zechariah 14:9

וַיְהִי יְהוָה לְמֶלֶךְ עַל-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יְהוָה אֶחָד 9 (3)
וַשְׁמֹו אֶחָד:

2. Deuteronomy

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

Deuteronomy 4:35

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 4:39

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E. Why would Moses emphasize this?

1. Given the "other gods" of the people they left, namely the Egyptians (whose "god" was named 'Ra' and was the chief god who created other gods who, in turn, created other gods all being representative of the various parts of creation-sun, moon, earth, sea, animals, etc.), this would make sense.
2. The people were introduced to the gods of Egypt, and the world via cosmopolitan Egypt, in every way.
3. Therefore, it must be a primary work of God to explain Himself.
 - a) This is especially in light of the distance from creation they were.
 - b) Abraham, Melchizedek, Noah, etc... all had been fairly close to creation, and thus oral tradition about God.
 - c) However, given the presence in Egypt for over 400 years, the time for written revelation is now and therefore, God reveals Himself by means of the prophet Moses and this revelation is enscriptured.

B. What does this mean?

1. Notice Moses beginning with the word, "listen."
 - a) Listening is crucial in Scripture.
 - b) Here, it must mean to "listen up."
 - c) It means to quiet down and pay close attention.
2. The introduction of the God of Moses to His people was crucial to the nation's existence.

a) In reality, this singularity of YHWH in Israel made Israel stand apart from all the other nations.

 - b) The other nations cannot fathom a singular God who has created and sustains all creation.
3. Moses, then, is telling the people that God, YHWH, the God of their father Abraham, is singular, individual, and one.
 - a) He does not separate Himself into other manifestations according to aspects of creation.
 - b) He does participate in the world as man does (and the gods of man).
 - c) He is absolutely "holy" (completely outside all of creation).
4. Thus, the nature of this God is singular-He does not have manifold aspects to His nature-He is truly one.

C. Now, historically, that has been the God of Israel.

1. However, although that is the God of Israel, Israel has often worshipped the "gods" of the nations.

Deuteronomy 6:13-15

13 "You shall fear *only* the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

14 "You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you,

15 for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

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- D. 2 Kings 17
1. Vv. 6-23 = the reason for the destruction of Israel.
 2. Vv. 24-41 = the syncrotization of the gods with the God of Israel.
 - a) V. 33
 3. "...as it is to this day.." = vv. 34, 41, cp. V. 23.

A fairly distinct authorial portrait emerges from these discussions. The author is an anonymous individual who carefully collected source data and shaped this material into a great history that, despite the objections of Keil, Driver, and others, spans Joshua-Kings. This author wrote about 550 B.C. and was influenced by covenant theology such as that found in Deuteronomy and the prophets. The historian's main idea was the loss of the promised land, a theme that includes God's ongoing concern for Israel. It is not necessary to accept source-critical viewpoints about the authorship of Deuteronomy to accept the single-author theory. As was stated earlier, this individual must have possessed outstanding literary, historical, and spiritual depth.⁴

- E. Once Israel returned to the land after their captivity in Babylon (seventy years - Jeremiah 25), they resolved, by the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, to follow the singular God of the Bible.
1. Nehemiah 9:1-6
 2. Nehemiah 9:38; 10:28-30
- F. It was only a few decades later that Israel, again, fell into idolatry.
- G. Therefore, it was into this mixture of the worship of idols and the worship of the true God that Jesus entered.
1. However, instead of actually worshipping the true God the way He instructed, they had added teaching upon teaching to the instruction of YHWH.
 2. And, the result was that the "God" they said they worshipped actually, although pronouncing that they worship the singular God of Israel, the Jews had actually created more chaos than worshipping multiple gods-they redefined the One, True God in an all new way:
 - a) Matthew 15:1-11
 - b) Thus, in their redefining of God, they continued to create multiple gods - Matthew 23:1-10.

H. John 10:30

1. **Now, you can see how charged this interaction is.**
2. It is almost as if these religious leaders were blind:

Matthew 11:25-27

- 25** At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.
- 26** "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

(i) ⁴ Paul R. House, 1, 2 Kings, vol. 8, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 36.

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27 “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.”

- I. In all their religion, they could not see the Father.
 1. Jesus has said:
 - a) The Father is working, I am working - John 5:16-18
 - b) Before Abraham was, I AM - John 8:58
 - c) I and the Father are one - John 10:30
 2. Jesus has been testifying that He is equal to the Father in every way.
 - a) This is to the point of deity,
 - b) Therefore, Jesus is deity.
 3. Why did the Jews have a problem with this in light of all the miracles He performed?
 - a) They never denied His miracles.
 - b) They denied His teaching.
 - c) They simply disagreed with it.
 - d) Why would they hate Him so much if all that He said and did was accurate and true?
- J. In this local context, what made this particularly enraging to the Jews?
 1. V.. 33 = 33 "You make yourself out to be a God!"
 - (1) καὶ ὅτι σὺ ἄνθρωπος ὢν ποιεῖς σεαυτὸν θεόν
 - (2) "even because you, being a man, make yourself a God."

- K. This was the issue.
- L. Jesus was equating Himself with the true and living God of Israel, YHWH.
- M. That is, Jesus indicated that He is on the same level as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God who said there is no other God but Him.

1. What did these leaders think about this?
 - a) **Only God is Creator-Genesis 1-2; Job 38-40; Psalm 104; multiple passages from the Psalms and Prophets.**
 - b) **Only God is holy - Exodus 19; Isaiah 6:1ff.**
 - c) **Only God is wrathful - Psalm 5, 7, 11; the Prophets**
 - d) **Only God is to be worshipped - Exodus 19; Deuteronomy 6**
 - e) **Only God will bring the kingdom - Genesis 3:15; 49:10; Psalm 110:1ff.; Zechariah 14.**
- N. So, they understood that that means that if Jesus is saying that He is God, then these things are true of Him too.
 1. That is beyond demonic and insanity - 10:19-20;
 2. This is complete blasphemy!
 - a) That God would be a man.
 - b) That a man would be a God.

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O. What is being said is that Jesus, a Man from Nazareth whose mother and father they know(John 6:42

(1) 42 They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”), is One, a name and designation fit only for YHWH.

P. "I and the Father" = one together.

Q. "I and the Father" = I am One God like the Father is One God.

II. Conclusion

1. Next week we will examine the apostolic teaching on this assertion by Christ.
2. Did they teach that Jesus is the One True God?