

# **Challenge**

***The Biblical Story is About the  
Restoration of Family Business***

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Michael Heiser writes from an ancient linguist's perspective:

Yahweh created humankind as his imager, as he had created his divine family (the *elohim*), so that they could participate in administering his affairs. In this case, that meant spreading his influence and the wonder of Eden throughout the rest of the Earth. Humanity would multiply God's image through procreation to steward the vast planet and its life.

## Challenge

The original human imagers failed. Yahweh and his council next appear in the disastrous event at Babel. Yahweh comes down to observe the disobedience of his human imagers. He had spared a remnant after the great flood and repeated the instructions he'd given Adam and Eve. But instead of over-spreading the Earth, humanity had congregated at Babel (Babylon). Instead of taking Yahweh's influence and knowledge into the world, they sought to bring Yahweh to themselves.

## Challenge

In response, Yahweh said to his council, “Let us go down and confuse their language there”, and then did so. He also decided that he was done working with humanity. Once people dispersed, Yahweh disinherited them, putting them under the authority of lesser *elohim*. He would now create his own **people** from a man and his wife too old to bear children, Abraham and Sarah. Israel would be Yahweh’s portion on the planet. Through Abraham’s descendants, the rest of the **nations** would be blessed.

## Challenge

At various times in the history of Israel's short-lived monarchy, the council is seen in fleeting glimpses. They are there when prophets are commissioned to urge loyalty to Yahweh and warn of punishment for rebellion. The prophet Micaiah pulls back the curtain of heaven, where we see Yahweh and his assembly of divine beings deciding the fate of Ahab. Israel ultimately fails once more. Yahweh sends them, of all places, to Babylon as punishment.

## Challenge

While in exile, the prophet Daniel has a vision of a divine council scene (Daniel 7)...A second Yahweh figure emerges, coming upon the clouds. God gives this divine “son of man” everlasting dominion over all “peoples... **nations**, and languages”. The appointed king shares his dominion with the “holy ones of the Most High” and “the **nation** of the holy ones of the Most High”.

## Challenge

Though set in the place of the people's exile—in Babylon—the vision communicates an ultimate victory of God and the reclamation of all **nations** through this son of man.

## Challenge

With the coming of Jesus the restoration of the kingdom is inaugurated. It was formalized at Jesus' baptism, the beginning of his public ministry, and made irreversible at the crucifixion and resurrection. The divine son and servant succeeded—and will succeed—where Israel, God's human and corporate son and servant, failed.



## Challenge

Yahweh's rule on earth is progressing and advancing against unseen powers of darkness and humanity enslaved to those powers. The kingdom has a clear goal: the reclamation of the **nations** and restoration of Eden on a global scale. The result of accomplishing that goal will be the fulfillment of God's original intention of having a family-council of divine and human imagers. Humanity will become divine and displace the lesser elohim over the **nations** under the authority of the unique divine son, the resurrected Jesus.

## Challenge

Revelation 4-6 sets the stage for the final confrontation between Yahweh and his people on the one hand and the powers of darkness and those under their dominion on the other. As we'll see in the next two chapters, the engagement is not only for the souls of humanity and the **nations** of the earth, but for mastery of the unseen realm itself.

## Challenge



**So, it's your challenge to get to grips with this information**

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