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Men's Biblical Table Talk

We claim to be mono-theistic (monotheism)

1) *Monotheism* is defined as the belief in the existence of only one god that created the world, is all-powerful and intervenes in the world. As such, it is distinguished from polytheism, the belief in the existence of many gods, and from atheism, the belief that there is no god.

2) Early Hebrews were not monotheist: Yahveh was Abraham's God

Exodus 3:6 *And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."*

3) Early tribal and monarchial Israel saw Elohim as national: The God of Israel

Judges 6:8 *Yahveh sent a prophet to the people of Israel; and he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel:*

4) Later Israelis saw God as the greatest: Most High God

Daniel 5:18 *O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty;*

5) By the time of Christ - Jews were divided:

i. Sadducees saw one God – no spirits evil or good

ii. Pharisees saw angels and demons – spirits

iii. Paul seems to say both: see I Cor. 8

6) Always God was expressed in multiple ways;

2) Psalm 91:4 *he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge*

3) Isaiah 40:11 *He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.*

1) After Babylon the understanding of God was as the only God

2) The Shema became the creed; Deut. 6:4

3) In Jesus the ONE God becomes revealed: John 17:3 *Now this is eternal life– that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent..*