



## **Other Gods: What the Bible Thinks About Other Nations' Deities**

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Dr. Sommer's most recent book, *Revelation and Authority: Sinai in Jewish Scripture and Tradition* received the prestigious Goldstein-Goren Prize in Jewish Thought from Ben Gurion University for the years 2014-2016 and was a finalist for both for the National Jewish Book Award for 2015 and the Association for Jewish Studies' Jordan Schnitzer Prize for 2014-2016. An earlier book by Professor Sommer, *The Bodies of God and the World of Ancient Israel*, received the Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in 2010 awarded by the American Academy of Religion, as well as the Jordan Schnitzer Award from the Association for Jewish Studies for the years 2006-2009. The first book Dr. Sommer published, *A Prophet Reads Scripture: Allusion in Isaiah 40-66*, was awarded the Salo Wittmayer Baron Prize by the American Academy of Jewish Research in 1998.

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1. **Genesis 6:2** א. **בראשית ו':ב'**  
(2) the divine beings saw how beautiful the daughters of men were and took wives from among those that pleased them.—  
(ב) וַיִּרְאוּ בְנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנוֹת הָאָדָם  
כִּי טֹבֹת הֵנָּה וַיִּקְחוּ לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר  
בָּחָרוּ:
2. **Psalms 29:1** ב. **תהילים כ"ט:א'**  
(1) A psalm of David. Ascribe to the LORD, O divine beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
(א) מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד הַבּוֹ לַה' בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים הַבּוֹ  
לַה' כְּבוֹד וְעֹז:
3. **Psalms 86:8** ג. **תהילים פ"ו:ח'**  
(8) There is none like You among the gods, O Lord, and there are no deeds like Yours.  
(ח) אֵין־כְּמוֹךָ בָּאֱלֹהִים | אֲדוּשָׁם וְאֵין  
כְּמַעֲשֶׂיךָ:
4. **Psalms 89:7** ד. **תהילים פ"ט:ז'**  
(7) For who in the skies can equal the LORD, can compare with the LORD among the divine beings,  
(ז) כִּי מִי בְשָׁמַיִם יַעֲרֹף לַה' יִדְמֶה לַה' בְּבָנָי  
אֱלֹהִים:
5. **Job 1:6** ה. **איוב א':ו'**  
(6) One day the divine beings presented themselves before the LORD, and the Adversary came along with them.  
(ו) וַיָּבֹאוּ הַיּוֹם וַיִּבְאוּ בְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים לְהִתְנַצֵּב  
עֲלֶיהָ וַיָּבֹא גַם־הַשָּׂטָן בְּתוֹכָם:
6. **Numbers 20:16** ו. **במדבר כ':ט"ז**  
(16) We cried to the LORD and He heard our plea, and He sent a messenger who freed us from Egypt. Now we are in Kadesh, the town on the border of your territory.  
(טז) וַנִּצְעַק אֶל־ה' וַיִּשְׁמַע קוֹלֵנוּ וַיִּשְׁלַח  
מַלְאָךְ וַיִּצְאֵנוּ מִמִּצְרָיִם וְהֵנָּה אַנְחָנוּ בְּקֶדֶשׁ  
עִיר קֶצֶה גְבוּלְךָ:

7. **II Samuel 24:16** ז. שמואל ב כ"ד:ט"ז  
 (16) But when the angel extended his hand against Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD renounced further punishment and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough! Stay your hand!" The angel of the LORD was then by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.  
 (טז) וַיִּשְׁלַח יְדּוֹ הַמַּלְאָךְ וַיְרוּשָׁלַם לְשַׁחֲתָהּ וַיִּגְחַם ה' אֶל-הַרְעָה וַיֹּאמֶר לַמַּלְאָךְ הַמְשַׁחֵת בְּעַם רַב עַתָּה הֲרַף יָדְךָ וּמַלְאָךְ ה' הָיָה עִם-גֶּרֶן הָאוֹרֶנָה [הַצְּרוּנָה] הַיְבֻסִי: (ס)
8. **I Kings 13:18** ח. מלכים א י"ג:י"ח  
 (18) "I am a prophet, too," said the other, "and an angel said to me by command of the LORD: Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water." He was lying to him.  
 (יח) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ גַם-אֲנִי נְבִיאַ כְּמוֹךָ וּמַלְאָךְ דִּבֶּר אֵלַי בְּדִבְרֵי ה' לֵאמֹר הִשְׁבֵּהוּ אִתְּךָ אֶל-בֵּיתְךָ וַיֹּאכַל לֶחֶם וַיִּשְׁתַּ מַּיִם כַּחַשׁ לוֹ:
9. **Zechariah 1:11-12** ט. זכריה א' י"א-י"ב  
 (11) And in fact, they reported to the angel of the LORD who was standing among the myrtles, "We have roamed the earth, and have found all the earth dwelling in tranquility." (12) Thereupon the angel of the LORD exclaimed, "O LORD of Hosts! How long will You withhold pardon from Jerusalem and the towns of Judah, which You placed under a curse seventy years ago?"  
 (יא) וַיַּעֲבֹרוּ אֶת-מַלְאָךְ ה' הַעֹמֵד בֵּין הַהַדְסִים וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַתְּהַלְכֵנוּ בְּאֶרֶץ וְהַגָּה כָּל-הָאָרֶץ יְשֻׁבֶת וְשָׁקֵטָה: (יב) וַיַּעַן מַלְאָךְ-ה' וַיֹּאמֶר ה' צְבָאוֹת עַד-מָתַי אֶתְּהָ לֹא-תִרְחַם אֶת-יְרוּשָׁלַם וְאֶת עָרֵי יְהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר זָעַמְתָּה זֶה שְׁבַעִים שָׁנָה:
10. **Psalms 78:49** י. תהילים ע"ח:מ"ט  
 (49) He inflicted His burning anger upon them, wrath, indignation, trouble, a band of deadly messengers.  
 (מט) וַיִּשְׁלַח-בָּכֶם אֶת-חַרְוֹן אֲפֹ עֲבָרָה וְנֹעַם וְצָרָה מְשַׁלַּחַת מַלְאֲכֵי רָעִים:
11. **Job 33:23** יא. איוב ל"ג:כ"ג  
 (23) If he has a representative, One advocate against a thousand To declare the man's uprightness,  
 (כג) אִם-גִּישׁ עָלָיו אֶת-מַלְאָךְ מְלִיץ אֶתְּךָ מִנִּי-אֶלְפֵי לְהַגִּיד לְאָדָם יִשְׁרָו:
12. **Exodus 20:1-6** יב. שמות כ' א'-ו'  
 (1) God spoke all these words, saying: (2) I the LORD am your God who brought

you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage: (3) You shall have no other gods besides Me. (4) You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. (5) You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I the LORD your God am an impassioned God, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generations of those who reject Me, (6) but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

(א) וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה  
 לֵאמֹר: (ב) אֲנֹכִי ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר  
 הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבְּיַת עַבְדְּךָ יָם:  
 (ג) לֹא יִהְיֶה־לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל־פְּנֵי  
 (ד) לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה־לְךָ פֶסֶל וְכָל־תְּמוּנָה  
 אֲשֶׁר בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּמִמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ  
 מִתְּחִיל וְאֲשֶׁר בְּבֶן יָם וּמִתְּחִיל לָאָרֶץ (ה)  
 לֹא־תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנֹכִי  
 ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל קַדֵּשׁ פֶּקֶד עֵינָי אֶת עַבְדֵי־בְנֵי  
 עַל־שָׁלִשִׁים וְעַל־רַבְעִים לִשְׁנָא י: (ו)  
 וַעֲשֵׂה חֶסֶד לְאֲלֹהִים לֵאמֹר וְלִשְׁמֵרֵי  
 מִצְוֹתַי: (ז)

13. **Deuteronomy 6:4**

(4) Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

**דברים ו':ד'**

(ד) שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד:

14. **Psalms 82**

(1) A psalm of Asaph. God stands in the divine assembly; among the divine beings He pronounces judgment. (2) How long will you judge perversely, showing favor to the wicked? Selah. (3) Judge the wretched and the orphan, vindicate the lowly and the poor, (4) rescue the wretched and the needy; save them from the hand of the wicked. (5) They neither know nor understand, they go about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth totter. (6) I had taken you for divine beings, sons of the Most High, all of you; (7) but you shall die as men do, fall like any prince. (8) Arise, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are Your possession.

**תהילים פ"ב**

(א) מִזְמוֹר לְאַסָּף אֱלֹהִים נֹצֵב בַּעֲדַת־אֵל  
 בְּקִרְבַּ אֱלֹהִים יִשְׁפֹּט: (ב) עַד־מַתִּי  
 תִּשְׁפֹּטוּ־עוֹל וּפְגִי רְשָׁעִים תִּשְׁאוּ־סִלָּה: (ג)  
 שְׁפֹטוּ־דָל וַיְתוֹם עֵינֵי יְרֵשׁ הַצַּדִּיקוֹ: (ד)  
 פִּלְטוּ־דָל וְאֶבְיֹן מִיַּד רְשָׁעִים הַצַּיִלוֹ: (ה)  
 לֹא יִדְעוּ וְלֹא יִבְיֵנוּ בַחֲשֻׁכָה יִתְהַלְכוּ  
 מִמָּוֶטוֹ כָּל־מוֹסְדֵי אָרֶץ: (ו) אֲנִי־אֲמַרְתִּי  
 אֱלֹהִים אַתֶּם וּבְנֵי עֲלִיוֹן כְּלַכֶּם: (ז) אֲכֹן  
 כְּאֵדָם תִּמּוֹתוֹן וּכְאֵחָד הַשָּׂרִים תִּפְלוֹ: (ח)  
 קוּמָה אֱלֹהִים שִׁפְטָה הָאָרֶץ כִּי־אַתָּה תִּנְחַל  
 בְּכָל־הַגּוֹיִם:

15. **Deuteronomy 4:15-19**

(15) For your own sake, therefore, be most careful—since you saw no shape when the LORD your God spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire— (16) not to act

**דברים ד':ט"ו-י"ט**

(טו) וּנְשַׁמְרֶתֶם מְאֹד לִנְפְשֵׁיכֶם כִּי לֹא  
 רִאִיתֶם כָּל־תְּמוּנָה בַיּוֹם דְּבַר ה' אֱלֹיכֶם  
 בְּחַרְבַּ מִתּוֹךְ הָאֵשׁ: (טז) פֶּן־תִּשְׁחַתְּוּן

wickedly and make for yourselves a sculptured image in any likeness whatever: the form of a man or a woman, (17) the form of any beast on earth, the form of any winged bird that flies in the sky, (18) the form of anything that creeps on the ground, the form of any fish that is in the waters below the earth. (19) And when you look up to the sky and behold the sun and the moon and the stars, the whole heavenly host, you must not be lured into bowing down to them or serving them. These the LORD your God allotted to other peoples everywhere under heaven;

וַעֲשִׂיתֶם לָכֶם פֶּסֶל תְּמוּנַת כָּל־סִמָּל  
 תְּבִנִית זָכָר אֹו נְקֵבָה: (יז) תְּבִנִית  
 כָּל־בְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ תְּבִנִית כָּל־צִפּוֹר  
 כָּנָף אֲשֶׁר תִּעֹף בַּשָּׁמַיִם: (יח) תְּבִנִית  
 כָּל־רֶמֶשׂ בָּאֲדָמָה תְּבִנִית כָּל־דָּגָה  
 אֲשֶׁר־בַּמַּיִם מִתַּחַת לָאָרֶץ: (יט) וּפְּנֵי־תִשְׁאָא  
 עֵינֶיךָ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְרָאִיתָ אֶת־הַשָּׁמַשׁ  
 וְאֶת־הַיָּרֵחַ וְאֶת־הַכּוֹכָבִים כֹּל צָבָא  
 הַשָּׁמַיִם וְנִדְחָתָה וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתָ לָהֶם וַעֲבַדְתָּם  
 אֲשֶׁר חָלַק ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֹתָם לְכָל־הָעַמִּים  
 תַּחַת כָּל־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

16. **Deuteronomy 32:7-12**

(7) Remember the days of old, Consider the years of ages past; Ask your father, he will inform you, Your elders, they will tell you: (8) When the Most High gave nations their homes And set the divisions of man, He fixed the boundaries of peoples In relation to Israel's numbers. (9) For the LORD's portion is His people, Jacob His own allotment. (10) He found him in a desert region, In an empty howling waste. He engirded him, watched over him, Guarded him as the pupil of His eye. (11) Like an eagle who rouses his nestlings, Gliding down to his young, So did He spread His wings and take him, Bear him along on His pinions; (12) The LORD alone did guide him, No alien god at His side.

**דברים ל"ב:ז-י"ב**

זכר יָמוֹת עוֹלָם בִּינּוּ שָׁנוֹת דּוֹר־וְדוֹר  
 שְׁאֵל אֲבִיךָ וַיִּגְדֶּךָ זְקֵנֶיךָ וְנֹאמְרוּ לְךָ: (ח)  
 בְּהִנְחַל עֲלִיּוֹן גּוֹלִים בְּהַפְרִידוּ בְּגֵי אַדָּם יֵצֵב  
 גְּבֻלַת עַמִּים לְמִסְפָּר בְּגֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ט) כִּי  
 חָלַק ה' עִמּוֹ יַעֲקֹב תְּחַל בְּחֻלָּתוֹ: (י)  
 יִמְצָאֵהוּ בָּאָרֶץ מִדְּבָר וּבְתַהוֹ יִלֵּל יִשְׁמֹן  
 יִסְבְּבֵנָהוּ יְבוֹנְנָהוּ יִצְרָנָהוּ כְּאִישׁוֹן עֵינָיו:  
 (יא) כְּנִשְׂרָ יַעֲיִר קִבּוֹ עַל־גּוֹזְלָיו יִרְחַף  
 יִפְרֹשׁ כַּנְּפָיו יִקְחָהוּ יִשְׂאָהוּ עַל־אֲבָרְתָיו:  
 (יב) ה' בְּדָד יִנְחֵנּוּ וְאִין עִמּוֹ אֵל נֹכַר:

17. **Deuteronomy 32:16-21**

(16) They incensed Him with alien things, Vexed Him with abominations. (17) They sacrificed to demons, no-gods, Gods they had never known, New ones, who came but lately, Who stirred not your fathers' fears. (18) You neglected the Rock that begot you, Forgot the God who brought you forth. (19) The LORD

**דברים ל"ב:ט"ז-כ"א**

יִקְנֹאֵהוּ בְּזָרִים בְּתוֹעֵבֹת יִכְעִיסָהוּ:  
 (יז) יִזְבְּחֻוּ לַשְּׂדִידִים לֹא אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים לֹא  
 יִדְעוּם חַדָּשִׁים מִקִּרְבִּי לֹא שָׁעֲרוּם  
 אֲבֹתֵיכֶם: (יח) צוֹר יִלְדֶךָ תִּשְׂשִׁי וְתִשְׁכַּח אֵל  
 מְחַלְלֶךָ: (יט) וַיִּרְא ה' וַיִּנְאֹץ מִכַּעַס בְּגֵיו  
 וַיִּבְנֶתִיו: (כ) וַיֹּאמֶר אֶסְתִּירָה פְּנֵי מַהֶם

saw and was vexed And spurned His sons and His daughters. (20) He said: I will hide My countenance from them, And see how they fare in the end. For they are a treacherous breed, Children with no loyalty in them. (21) They incensed Me with no-gods, Vexed Me with their futilities; I'll incense them with a no-folk, Vex them with a nation of fools.

אָרְאַה מָה אַחֲרֵיהֶם כִּי דָוַר תִּהְיֶה הַמָּה  
 בְּנִים לֹא־אֱמָן בָּם: (כא) הֵם קִנְאוּנִי  
 בְּלֹא־אֵל כַּעֲסוּנִי בְּהַבְלִיהֶם וְאֲנִי אֶקְנִיאֵם  
 בְּלֹא־עָם בְּגוֹי נִבָּל אֶכְעִיסֵם:

18. **Isaiah 19:18-25**

(18) In that day, there shall be several towns in the land of Egypt speaking the language of Canaan and swearing loyalty to the LORD of Hosts; one shall be called Town of Heres. (19) In that day, there shall be an altar to the LORD inside the land of Egypt and a pillar to the LORD at its border. (20) They shall serve as a symbol and reminder of the LORD of Hosts in the land of Egypt, so that when [the Egyptians] cry out to the LORD against oppressors, He will send them a savior and champion to deliver them. (21) For the LORD will make Himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall acknowledge the LORD in that day, and they shall serve [Him] with sacrifice and oblation and shall make vows to the LORD and fulfill them. (22) The LORD will first afflict and then heal the Egyptians; when they turn back to the LORD, He will respond to their entreaties and heal them. (23) In that day, there shall be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians shall join with the Egyptians and Egyptians with the Assyrians, and then the Egyptians together with the Assyrians shall serve [the LORD]. (24) In that day, Israel shall be a third partner with Egypt and Assyria as a blessing on earth; (25) for the LORD of Hosts will bless them, saying, "Blessed be My people Egypt, My handiwork Assyria, and My very own Israel."

**ישעיהו י"ט:י"ח-כ"ה**

(יח) בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיוּ חָמֵשׁ עָרִים בְּאֶרֶץ  
 מִצְרַיִם מְדַבְּרוֹת שְׂפָת כְּנָעַן וְנִשְׁבָּעוֹת לַיהוָה  
 צְבָאוֹת עִיר הַהֶרֶס יֹאמַר לְאַחַת: (ס) (ט)  
 בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה בְּתוֹךְ אֶרֶץ  
 מִצְרַיִם וּמִצְבֵּה אֲצִל־גְּבוּלָהּ לַיהוָה: (כ) וְהָיָה  
 לְאוֹת וּלְעֵד לַיהוָה צְבָאוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם  
 כִּי־יִצְעֲקוּ אֶל־ה' מִפְּנֵי לַחֲצִים וַיִּשְׁלַח לָהֶם  
 מוֹשִׁיעַ וְרַב וְהִצִּילֵם: (כא) וְנוֹדַע ה'  
 לְמִצְרַיִם וַיִּדְעוּ מִצְרַיִם אֶת־ה' בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא  
 וְעָבְדוּ גִבְחָ וּמִנְחָה וְנִדְרוֹ־גִדְרָ לַיהוָה וַיִּשְׁלְמוּ:  
 (כב) וְנִגְרַף ה' אֶת־מִצְרַיִם נִגְרַף וְרָפוּא וְשָׁבוּ  
 עַד־ה' וְנִפְתָּר לָהֶם וּרְפָאֵם: (כג) בַּיּוֹם  
 הַהוּא תִּהְיֶה מְסֻלָּה מִמִּצְרַיִם אֲשׁוּרָה  
 וּבְאֲ־אֲשׁוּר בְּמִצְרַיִם וּמִצְרַיִם בְּאֲשׁוּר  
 וְעָבְדוּ מִצְרַיִם אֶת־אֲשׁוּר: (ס) (כד) בַּיּוֹם  
 הַהוּא יִהְיֶה יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׂלִישִׁיהָ לְמִצְרַיִם  
 וּלְאֲשׁוּר בְּרִכָּה בְּקִרְבַּ הָאֶרֶץ: (כה) אֲשׁוּר  
 בְּרִכּוֹ ה' צְבָאוֹת לֹאמַר בְּרוּךְ עַמִּי מִצְרַיִם  
 וּמַעֲשֵׂהָ יְדֵי אֲשׁוּר וְנִחַלְתִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (ס)

19. **Micah 4:1-5**

(1) In the days to come, The Mount of the LORD's House shall stand Firm above the mountains; And it shall tower above the hills. The peoples shall gaze on it with joy, (2) And the many nations shall go and shall say: "Come, Let us go up to the Mount of the LORD, To the House of the God of Jacob; That He may instruct us in His ways, And that we may walk in His paths." For instruction shall come forth from Zion, The word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (3) Thus He will judge among the many peoples, And arbitrate for the multitude of nations, However distant; And they shall beat their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take up Sword against nation; They shall never again know war; (4) But every man shall sit Under his grapevine or fig tree With no one to disturb him. For it was the LORD of Hosts who spoke. (5) Though all the peoples walk Each in the names of its gods, We will walk In the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.

מיכה ד': א'-ה' יט.

(א) וְהָיָה | בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים וְהָיָה הָרַ  
בֵּית־ה' נָכוֹן בְּרֹאשׁ הַהָרִים וְנִשְׂאָה הוּא  
מִגְבְּעוֹת וְנִהְרֹו עָלָיו עַמִּים: (ב) וְהָלְכוּ  
גוֹיִם רַבִּים וְאָמְרוּ לְכוּ | וְנַעֲלֶה אֶל־הַר־ה'  
וְאֶל־בֵּית אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב וְיִוְרְנוּ מִדְּרָכָיו  
וְנִלְכֶה בְּאַרְחֻתָּיו כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תוֹרָה  
וְדַבְרֵה' מִירוּשָׁלַם: (ג) וְשָׁפֹט בֵּין עַמִּים  
רַבִּים וְהוֹכִישׁ לְגוֹיִם עֲצָמִים עַד־רִתּוֹק  
וּכְתַתּוּ סֶרְבַתֵיהֶם לְאַתִּים וְחִנִּיתֵיהֶם  
לְמִזְמוֹת לֹא־יִשְׂאוּ גּוֹי אֶל־גּוֹי חֶרֶב  
וְלֹא־יִלְמְדוּן עוֹד מִלְחָמָה: (ד) וְיָשְׁבוּ אִישׁ  
תַּחַת גִּפְנוֹ וְתַחַת תְּאֲנָתוֹ וְאִין מִחֲרִיד  
כִּי־פִי ה' צְבָאוֹת דָּבַר: (ה) כִּי כָל־הָעַמִּים  
יִלְכוּ אִישׁ בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהָיו וְאֲנַחְנוּ נִלְךְ  
בְּשֵׁם־ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד: (ו)

