

Deuteronomy 10:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

Analysis

The LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords—This superlative title (Elohei ha'elohim, God of gods; Adonei ha'adonim, Lord of lords) declares Yahweh's supremacy over all earthly and heavenly powers. In polytheistic ancient Near East, this affirmed Yahweh alone is divine; lesser 'gods' are either false or subordinate angelic beings. **A great God, a mighty, and a terrible** uses gibbor (mighty warrior) and nora (terrible/awe-inspiring), emphasizing God's irresistible power.

Which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward introduces stunning contrast: the supreme Sovereign is incorruptibly just—He cannot be bribed or swayed by status. Verse 18 applies this to defending the oppressed. Paul quotes this title in 1 Timothy 6:15 for Christ: 'King of kings and Lord of lords.' Revelation 19:16 places this name on Jesus's robe, identifying Him as Yahweh incarnate, the God who judges justly.

Historical Context

Moses declared God's supremacy as Israel faced Canaanite polytheism. The contrast between Yahweh's incorruptibility and pagan deities (often portrayed as capricious and bribable) would be stark to ancient hearers. This shaped Israel's understanding of justice.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's impartiality challenge favoritism or prejudice in your relationships and church?
2. What does Jesus bearing the title 'Lord of lords' reveal about His deity and eternal authority?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	יְהוָה	הָאֱלֹהִים	הוּא	הָאֱלֹהִים	הָאֱלֹהִים	הָאֱדֹנָיִם
H3588	For the LORD	is God	H1931	is God	is God	and Lord
	H3068	H430		H430	H430	H113
וְהָאֱדֹנָיִם	לֵאלֹהֵי	הַגָּדֹל	הַגִּבֹּר	וְהַנּוֹכָח	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא
and Lord	God	a great	a mighty	and a terrible	H834	H3808
H113	H410	H1419	H1368	H3372		
וְשֵׁי	כִּנּוּיִם	וְלֹא	יִקַּח	שָׂחָד:		
which regardeth	not persons	H3808	nor taketh	reward		
H5375	H6440		H3947	H7810		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:34 (References God): Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Romans 2:11 (References God): For there is no respect of persons with God.

Job 34:19 (Parallel theme): How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

Galatians 2:6 (References God): But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference added nothing to me:

Daniel 2:47 (References God): The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Nehemiah 9:32 (References God): Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day.

Deuteronomy 7:21 (References God): Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible.

Revelation 19:16 (References Lord): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Ephesians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Joshua 22:22 (References God): The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, he knoweth, and Israel he shall know; if it be in rebellion, or if in transgression against the LORD, (save us not this day,)