



The Caller

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Confidence
Corner
John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I want to examine the large expanse that existed in the thinking regarding deities by those of the Ancient Near East and those of the Hebrew Bible. The mythology of both Mesopotamia and Egypt makes clear that their gods had origins. In other words, those from the ANE believed their deities were created and had a beginning.

When we compare this to the biblical portrait of YHWH (Deity) we see a distinct difference. The biblical text offers no indication that Israel considered YHWH as having an origin. There are no other gods that are brought into existence by YHWH. The Godhead who is one has always existed.

As Scripture begins, the existence of God is assumed as if there is no question. The Psalmist affirms, "From everlasting to everlasting thou art God." Jesus is revealed by John as One who has always existed. John 1:1 reads, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

When a comparison is made between the gods of the ANE and the God of the Bible, YHWH stands above in all aspects. In the aspect of eternal existence, He is unique from the gods concocted by the minds of men.

jfb



**"A sound heart is the
life of the flesh: but
envy the rottenness of
the bones."**

Proverbs 14:30

Sunday's Sermons:

AM — WHY SAUL WHY

GALATIANS 1:11-19

PM — JOSEPH

GENESIS 37:1-4

What About Mary?

What attitude should we have towards Mary, the mother of Jesus? She was indeed honored by being selected to bring the Christ into this world (Luke 1:26–35). Even *Time* magazine recognized that Mary is recognized as significant. In the Dec. 30, 1991 article by Richard N. Ostling we read:

“Among all the women who have ever lived, the mother of Jesus Christ is the most celebrated, the most venerated, the most portrayed, the most honored in the naming of girl babies and churches. Even the Koran praises her chastity and faith. Among Roman Catholics, the Madonna is recognized not only as the Mother of God but also, according to modern Popes, as the Queen of the Universe, Queen of Heaven, Seat of Wisdom and even the Spouse of the Holy Spirit.” (p. 62).

To read after some, one might get the impression that Mary is mentioned on every page of Bible. The truth is that Mary is never mentioned by name in any New Testament epistle, and only appears four times after the beginning of Christ’s personal ministry:

A. At Cana (John 2:1–11).

B. At Capernaum (Matt. 12:46; Mk. 3:31–35; Luke 8:19).

C. At the Cross (John 19:25).

D. In the Upper Room (Acts 1:14).

Perhaps Wayne Jackson summarizes it best when he writes regarding Mary, “Mary certainly was worthy of honor as a godly Jewish woman (see Matthew 1:16ff; Luke 1:27ff; John 19:25ff), but the cult-like superstition that has evolved regarding her across the centuries, promoted principally by the Roman Catholic Church, is entirely foreign to the Scriptures.”

(see <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1049-what-about-catholicisms-ideas-about-mary>)

John F Board

Elizabethtown, KY