

The Naked Bible Podcast 2.0

Number 100

“Celebration”

Dr. Michael S. Heiser

With

**Residential Layman
Trey Stricklin**

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Celebration

We reached a milestone and to celebrate our listeners sent in recordings of themselves. Thank you for listening to The Naked Bible Podcast God bless...

TS: Welcome to the Naked Bible Podcast, Episode 100, Celebration. I'm the layman, Trey Stricklin, and he's the scholar, Dr. Michael Heiser. Hey Mike, congratulations, 100.

MSH: We made it. Can you believe that, 100 episodes?

TS: How time flies. It seems like just the other day we started doing it.

MSH: Just the other day, I quit for the first time.

TS: Only to be risen up again.

MSH: It's quite a milestone. I don't know if I should say I'm surprised. I guess I'm not once we jumped in and we're committed to it, we'd get here eventually and here we are.

TS: I just want to start things off by congratulating you and also thank you for letting me to be a part of this endeavor because I'm so honored to be a part of it.

MSH: Everybody should know it ain't happening without you.

TS: I appreciate that. I also wanted to say how touched I am to hear from our listeners. It was fun to have listeners send in their feedback and their recordings. And as you'll soon hear, this show reaches far and wide all over the globe and it's exciting how just this show is helping and teaching so many people everywhere, not just United States, but literally every continent.

MSH: That's true. I know I get e-mails about the show from a lot of different places but as time has gone on, they'll either tell me or I'll notice in the e-mail address where they're at. I would never have guessed at the beginning of all this that we have listeners in some places that they need vowels. It's just hard to know where in the world that place is. They're listening. They're getting the show. We all know what the Internet is and this is how it works and what not but until you're actually doing something and you see the people responding from literally all over the world, it doesn't sort of hit you until you look at it.

TS: Yeah and it's amazing how far we've come over this last year or so with Miqlat forming up and now we have infrastructure to help other nonprofits. The new website's coming out any day now. And with the formalization of that and Miqlat, other things are going to happen and speed up. Maybe the next 100th show we'll be hitting the road live Mike. Maybe we'll take the show on the road and we'll do a live episode 200 in Russia or somewhere. Who knows where we'll be? Wouldn't that be fun?

MSH: That would be crazy. I guess I shouldn't say that will never happen because God would probably just knock me upside my head because I would've never thought this.

TS: That would be fun. Secretly, that's my goal. Hopefully maybe someday we can go out and do some live shows with a group of people and I think that would be fun to do.

MSH: Oh yeah, that would be fun. I like live Q&A and that kind of thing would be fun.

TS: Speaking of Q&A, I've gotten a lot of Q&A questions recently so I just want let everybody know that has sent me a Q&A, I have received every single one of them. I've put them all in the queue. It might be a few Q&A's before your question actually makes it on air. So just know that I did get them and also receives a lot of e-mails Mike about transcripts and in things of that nature, and I want to remind people that you can go to the show's page and there's a link in there with the transcripts and links to other documents that Mike references throughout the show. So don't forget to actually go to the show page and see those links associated with each show. Also with the new website, maybe that will become more clear/ But just know that there's a wealth of information beyond the audio and we want to thank Mr. Tudor for all the transcripts that he has. That's been absolutely an invaluable resource and I know many people, as I've heard from them, really would like to extend a thank you to Mr. Tudor for that.

MSH: Yep, absolutely.

TS: And anybody else that's helped our show, other nonprofits that we're working with, Mike, that hopefully will be announced more so as time goes on?

MSH: The Miqlat thing has really, I can rattle off probably seven or eight things that are going on now that are related to Miqlat and Mike's content that are all in their infancy. They're all just beginning but there are things in motion that tie into that. So down the road, another 50-100 shows might be a good benchmark, maybe even sooner than that, you'll see things start to take shape and it is one of the reasons why, I didn't anticipate it but I see it clearly now, our webmaster Joe was the one who after Miqlat got IRS approval. He's like you need everything revamped. Now I see it as these things start to take hold. Just like one example video, I blogged a motion graphic video of a guy named Sean Swanson created for me and really for you the listeners, for users of the website, on Israelite cosmology.

That's his time. He's donating his time to do that. But we want to have more of those sorts of things. With a new website that will all be integrated, all be easier to find. There's just going to be a lot of improvement to the site and podcast is part of that, video's going to be part of that. Some of these other projects that relate to the content in some way, it's going to be a more convenient place to land and get exposed to those other things and also when you come back to find them with tagging and whatnot. So it is improving. I guess that's probably the best way to put it. We're still working on what we're doing. It gets better with time. We start to get a feel for what we are doing and what we should be doing. It's development but there a lot of things that are in process. I can't really go into now because I don't have anything to show people yet. But as those things become realities, they'll go up on the site. We'll talk about them here.

TS: That video is just one example of what we want to try to do more of and the donations that our listeners graciously donate helps produce and hopefully do more content like that. And the new website we want it to be a center for all kinds of biblical research for this type of content so you really can come and get the videos and the audio and the papers. If you want to learn about this material more in depth. DRMSH.com will be hopefully the go to resource for that. So with the new website we'll have a new ability to donate so if you're thinking about donating right now,

maybe hold off just for a few weeks until the new website comes up and you can donate on the new website that helps produce this content. I remind everybody we have enough listenerships that if everybody donated five dollars a month we would be able to produce content like that full time. That would be a really awesome.

MSH: I'll give people just a hint at what we're thinking. Way back in the original Miqlat post of December 22, 2015, I mentioned something about I would like to put all my content into video form and something to the effect that I would like to create sort of an M.Div. equivalent of my own in short videos. If listeners go up to Prager U, PRAGERU.com, that will give you an idea of just one thing, just the video element of Miqlat, of what we would like to create. There are hundreds, couple hundred videos, on this site. It's mostly political topics and whatnot. But as I've been looking at websites to try to get in my head what is the kind of thing that, what helps me visualize this, conceptualize what I like to do and I came across this site.

So if you want an idea of what we could do in terms of video with the kind of content you get on a podcast and on the website, and not just Naked Bible stuff, anything that I do, anything that I've done on websites in the past, this is the kind of thing that I want to see exist so that people can have access to really good content for free. But it takes money because it takes time. Time is money in a very direct way when you're doing something like we're trying to do with Miqlat. But this helps you conceptualized the vision a little bit. It's just one aspect but it's a significant one. So PRAGERU.com. I'd love to have something like that living on my site with biblical content focused on what we do here, Divine Council stuff. We think outside the box. We're not tied to creeds. We're not filtering the Bible for you. We're not protecting you from your own Bible, but just to have hundreds of videos, not just written content, not just the podcast, but have all that stuff live in the same place would be awesome.

TS: I don't want to wait another 10 years for Unseen Realm 2. You need to go to moreunseenrealm.com to see how much more content there is for another book. I don't want to wait another decade.

MSH: I have plenty of material. Now you sound like people who say I don't want to wait another 10 years for the next novel, and you're not. I don't think this is spilling the beans too much, that's the next thing on my plate. I'm working on a book now. When that's done, hopefully when we break into 2017, I'm going to be in novel mode. But the way things are right now, just with my time, and my time is directly related to how many donations, how much income I can replace to get back some of my time, it's a one-to-one correlation there so I have to pick projects. I'll do one or two or three projects a year. When I look at myself, I think I should be doing five or six. I look at one or two or three projects a year as kind of well, I did something but it still feels like failure. I know it's not but I'm just being honest with the audience. It feels that way because I know I could do twice as much. So I try not to think about that too much and you just do what you can. I've operated that way for years. But now I have a little taste of producing content and it matters to people, the unseen realm, I've gotten so much good feedback on that and then the podcast, it just makes you want to do more. It doesn't want to make me sit back and read Samarian grammars or something. I want to produce things.

TS: I've gotten a lot of people asking me about it and I've even asked you about it. It's hard to get other people who listen to the show or read the material, and the only advice I'd give myself and them is that people have to be ready and have their mind and heart open to receive this type of content. They have to want the ability to go down the rabbit trail and to dig a little bit deeper and not stay on the surface and you can't force it.

MSH: Since you said that, I might as well throw this nugget out. We're waiting for the final version of the website, the overhaul be done, because we're going to do something very specific in starting an e-mail list and, it's not a big secret. We're going to start an e-mail list. I don't have one at present. I know that probably shocks people out there but I don't. I never started one, never had one. We're going to do that. We're going to ask people for a ZIP code and with that, we want to tie that to a forum. It's going to live on the website so that you will know if there are people living near you, maybe in your own town, maybe an hour from you, that also listen to the podcast or that subscribe to the blog. People who are like-minded in terms of the content and want to think about biblical content, you need to know if some of those people are next door. They're just things like this that are just lurking, waiting to be born, waiting to be launched. It's moving along. It's slow but there is actually movement and there are things happening and you'll begin to see those things appear shortly.

TS: Mike, you used to have a newsletter. I remember you did have a newsletter at one point, right?

MSH: Yeah, but I never captured e-mail addresses. People would subscribe to that and I would just hand copy those things off PayPal and keep them in a word doc. That's what I did. I didn't have any technical, I not only didn't have any technical aptitude, I didn't even think that this was something that there was a technical solution for. I just I had no idea.

TS: My name's in there somewhere.

MSH: It feels like ancient history now.

TS: I know it does seem so long but yet it doesn't. It's weird. Now I'm here beating you in fantasy football.

MSH: Oh you've come a long way.

TS: Let's get into these Mike. We've got probably 25-ish maybe and a few of them have some questions in them. Why don't we just get started here and somebody is going to get a prize or give away. We're going to randomly pick somebody here.

MSH: I can tell you what the title of the book is.

TS: Why don't you tell us what it is and at the end of the show, we'll announce who won it.

MSH: Ok, well the book is called a Handbook on the New Testament use of the Old Testament, and it's by GK Beale. Beale's sort of a noteworthy figure, noteworthy scholar in this field. But we do a lot of this here on the podcast where we talk about how the New Testament links back into the Old Testament and also Second Temple Jewish literature. Beale is heavily conversant with that material as well. So how does the New Testament repurpose the Old? The New Testament is an inspired commentary on the Old so there's all these points of connections across the Testaments so this is a little handbook to introduce people to this whole sub discipline in biblical studies. So I thought this is perfect for people who listen to podcast because we just do a lot of this and it'll be a nice introduction to it.

TS: One of these people will get that book and I guess let's start with the first one here.

LISTENER: My name is Mark and I live in Fernandina Beach, Florida. I came across Mike work years ago through a website called Sitchen is wrong and earlier this year, I picked up on his Unseen Realm. Read through the book while I was visiting my daughter in Los Angeles. Have talked with my brother numerous times about some of the things in the book and picked up on the podcast not too long thereafter. My brother and I haven't made it through all 99 episodes yet but we've had some great discussion between the two of us about the episodes we have listened to, either together or separately. I would like to ask the question for Mike, if it's okay to pose questions. I'm wondering if he's ever done any work or considered doing some work or future podcast regarding the sayings of Christ from the cross. I just think that his insight on that would be very instructional, informative, and interesting. Thanks so much and really appreciate the work.

MSH: I've not written anything on that for the blog and we've never covered it here on the podcast. There's nothing I've done on that in any book as well so that's something I haven't touched.

LISTENER: Hi Mike and Trey and everybody. I'm Daniel from Québec, Canada. I found Mike through his work at LOGOS and Faithlife. Then I went over to his website and I wasn't too impressed with what I saw. I felt it was too weird for me. I'm going to take a step back for now. Then Unseen Realm launched and this book was the best reading time in my life. Suspense each morning and each night for weeks. It was deterring from some of my obligations but I couldn't get half of it. Since then I listened to all the podcasts. I read some papers. I took some courses from LOGOS. What I like the most about Mike's content is the explanatory power it brings to all my frustrations in Bible reading. My Bible reading leveled up. The content raised confidence and what I read in the Bible fits with what I heard from Mike. So I hear about that in a limited manner for now with the family and the smaller circle of friends. I plan someday God will slowly integrate the use of complex bits of my preaching and to small group Bible studies. I'm so happy to have found you. I thank you so so much and I leave you with two requests. The first one is would you engage more with classic commentary positions? And the second one, Mike, please tell us how to see idolatry being lived everyday in North American culture today and in our Christian lives? Thank you.

MSH: Well, the first of these I don't actually know what the questioner means. What is a classic commentary position and a classic commentary position on what, on a passage, a verse, a chapter? I can't put it any other way. The question is too vague to answer so I don't really even know what he's asking. The second one about idolatry, I look at it this way. Obviously, for those who naturally listen to me or read Unseen Realm, I do not think that the gods who were worshiped in the Old Testament, across the Testaments in the biblical world, I don't think their phantoms or nonexistent. I think the person who engaged in idolatry had a real entity in mind, believed that they existed and worshiped them. So the key question becomes why are they doing that? What is it about? Idolatry is always fundamentally about loyalty. Where you assigning your loyalty and why? And typically an idolater would do what they do because they assign power to something. They want something out of the relationship. They assign loyalty to this deity and they expect something in return.

The return might be you'll protect me. You'll make my life good. You'll give us kids and children or my herds will multiply or something like that. There's always this personal gain kind of thing that is being solicited through idolatry. I throw my loyalty to this deity and I expect certain things in return. And I think in modern culture, even if people don't believe in the spiritual world, and a lot of Christians, I'll be totally blunt, a lot of Christians don't believe in an active animate spiritual world. They believe the Trinity. They believe this nebulous concept of angels, demons, and Satan. They're just kind of somewhere but they don't really do a whole lot and I guess we have to believe in them does the Bible mentions them. That's about it. If you're in that camp, you don't really even accept the kinds of things we're talking about in Unseen Realm.

And even if you do, I think that we are guilty of the same kind of thinking in the modern world when we assume, we may not be so blatant like an idolater actually was, sort of a real-time idolatry situation where I'm turning my back on the God of Israel and I'm turning toward this deity over here because I think this deity is going to be my protector, my help through life. I think we commit idolatry when we don't believe that God will meet our needs, when we don't believe that God is capable. In other words, when we don't believe God is as capable of doing X as we are or as some other relationship will make this happen, that is the spirit of idolatry, depending on something else other than the God of the Bible, other than the Lord assuming that some other avenue is preferable or will get better results, and that could even be you. What I'm getting at here in answering the question is the spirit of idolatry. I do see this a lot in modern culture.

It's hard in our human nature to fight against it because we want to be self-sufficient. We don't want to be a drain on other people. We don't want to be dependent, an inconvenience, whatever it is. We kind of internalize this. We want to be responsible. That feeling isn't bad, but ultimately when push comes to shove where do you assign worth? Who is it you're really looking to to be your help and your guide and the source of the good things in life that you need, all these sorts of big questions? The spirit of idolatry assigns greater worth to someone else, either yourself or some other power, spiritual power, earthly power, whatever it is, other than the God of Israel. I think that spirit is all too often evident in the way we approach life as modern people. We divorce ourselves from dependence on God because that's what an Israelite was asked to do, believe who I am, I'm the God of gods. Be loyal to me and worship no other, assign worth to no other. Don't look to any other deity for any of these things I've promised you or anything that you need. When you did that, you were committing idolatry in your heart. And unfortunately, a

lot of Israelites committed literal idolatry through the worship of other gods because that's what drove them to do it. They just thought that was a better choice than the God of Israel.

LISTENER: Take number 3289, hello Dr. Heiser and Mr. Strickland. My name is George and I'm saying hello from Rosenberg, Texas. I'm a youth minister at my church and we are currently going through the Bible with our student ministry. This month we find ourselves in the book of Leviticus. Your material on the Naked Bible podcast has been of great benefit to my studying so I really appreciate that. All the content you guys put out is great and I thank you for making scholarly work so accessible to the common folk. I first found out about Dr. Heiser through the Ancient Aliens Debunked documentary on Youtube but I really got into your material when you appeared on Skywatch TV with Tom horn. So that's how I found out about you. I wanted to throw in a quick question or two. One, are you still teaching at Liberty University through their online course for the Old Testament? And the second question is if someone is pursuing a degree in ancient Israeli history and Semitic languages, which university would you suggest looking into? If you could answer those questions, that would be awesome. I just want to say thank you again and looking forward to all the future material you have to put out there.

MSH: The first of these is easy. Yes I still teach as an adjunct at Liberty in their distance ed. Program. The second one about when it comes to where do I go to school for Ancient Near Eastern languages and Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern worldview and context, history, and archaeology, and all those sorts of things, I'm going to assume that the question is about graduate degrees, graduate school. The answer for undergraduate would be, all these places I'm going to mention would be included, but if it's an undergrad situation, there would be more that's available. You really have to decide whether you want to go the seminary route because there are seminaries and there are divinity schools that can give you coursework and degrees in these sorts of fields. If it's a seminary it'd be something like a degree in Old Testament, Old Testament studies, or something like that. If it's graduate school, it's going to be Hebrew Bible Semitic languages.

They're going to have a wider variety of coursework in different languages than a seminary would. You kind of have to look at programs and figure out what it is you want to do. But having said all that, I don't think you should go anywhere unless you're funded because all of these places are expensive. On the graduate school side, the obvious choices are Harvard, University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University. UCLA has a good Ancient Near Eastern Hebrew Bible sort of program. I think Michigan is still has a program but I don't think it's going to be at the level of the others I mentioned there. I don't recommend of Wisconsin for a range of reasons. The department is sort of influx now, a bit of disarray there but they might get there situation resolved. There other reasons why I would hesitate in that direction. If you want to know, e-mail me. But those are sort of the major ones. They're all expensive. Wisconsin is a little bit less because it's a state school but Harvard, Johns Hopkins, that sort of thing. These are hard to get into, they're competitive and if you get into them, they're going to be expensive. So you want to be in a situation where you get funding. If it's Dead Sea Scrolls stuff, that's a little bit different but George asked about Ancient Near Eastern material. So that gives you an idea of the institutions.

If it's a seminary route, Wheaton has a good program. John Walton is obviously there but he's not, Dan Block's there. I know a lot of the guys on the faculty there. It's a good program.

They try to fund their students. They try to give them financial support. So the same issue there, it's an expensive school. Wheaton's expensive but they make an effort to fund their students. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School would be another choice. I always get these mixed up. There's a Southeastern and a Southwestern. There's lots of your seminaries that are big in the Southern Baptist orbit that all sound the same and some of them have doctoral programs. Since they all sound the same, I always get them mixed up. There are a couple really good ones there. When you get a confessional degree from a confessional school, you get a PhD from a confessional school, it narrows your employment options or at least potentially it does. And there's European places that are even more expensive and you're not allowed to work so you just have to be funded at those sorts of places.

But there are a number of places you can go but I don't think you should do any of them unless you get it paid for because the job market is brutal. If you don't care about the job market and you're independently wealthy, not of that really applies. Just get in. But it's not uncommon for a PhD to come out and apply for a job and you have six jobs appear in a year and 200 people are applying for each one. That is not uncommon. That is not an exaggeration. So if you have an M.Div. and then you want to go on for doctoral work, you're going to fall back on the M.Div. and do local church work, pastoral work, whatnot. That's something you need to be thinking about. Academically, that's the short list. I guess I'd put it that way.

LISTENER: Hello Mike and Trey. My name is Chris Balmonte. My mother is Jewish. My father is Catholic. They're divorced, long story short. Father is bad, mother is not bad. I sort of a converted Christianity after high school. I was kind of a deist. I started seeking and basically read Rabbinic writings, Jewish writings, Christian writings and found that the Christian writings were a little bit more Jewish than the Jewish writings, all things considered; long complicated process for me. I discovered Mike around 2013 because I was doing some research on the Internet and through my university library and I had come to some similar conclusions as Mike, although I don't have the qualifications that Mike has. Ever since I've been following Mike, I've bought Unseen Realm book and I really appreciate the work he has done in this quasi-ministry or ministry. I'm not sure what it's called.

I really appreciate how much you've eliminated for me the prototype of the Trinity, and how the Trinity is justified by basically a prototype thing in the Old Testament, which is made more explicit, more well written in the Second Temple Period. If there's one question I could ask is is there any linguistic evidence or anything like that which would suggest that sacred prostitution that the Canaanites believed they were also sexual rituals with the gods rather than just each other? I don't know. I'm just curious. I'm starting to research that on my own. OK, thank you so much and have a great day and I hope your ministry becomes infinitely more successful than it already has become.

MSH: Well, hieros gamos, sacred marriage, is related to but not the same as sacred or cultic prostitution. Sacred marriage has to do with an annual kind of ritual, whether it be Canaanites, Semites doing this sort of thing or Sumerians or Acadians or the Greeks and Romans or whatever. It was typically an annual sort of event that had to do with the fertility of the land, fertility of the people, that sort of thing. Sacred prostitution or cultic prostitution carries with it the idea that you have priestesses, plural, that this is their job in the temple, that men are going to the temple or where women, whatever, and engaging in sex with these prostitutes, these

priestesses like it was some sort of rite or a sacramental regular thing they were supposed to do. They're actually two different things. The second one is actually controversial. Was there legitimate sacred prostitution in the ancient world or not characterized by the way I just described? Nobody doubts that there was sacred marriage ideas in the ancient world so let's just fix on that for a moment.

The questioning zeroed in on Canaanite so I guess I'll will try to restrict a few brief comments to that. I don't know of any evidence where, and it was typically with a king or with a high priest who would perhaps, and I have to put it this way, because we don't know in all cases if there was actual sexual intercourse or a sexual event in the "sacred marriage ritual" in a given place. I think it's fair to say that there certainly was in some cases and there's a question mark on others. There are some cultures, some events, some rituals that might just use the language of sacred marriage but there wasn't an actual sexual event that went with it. Sometimes there was, sometimes there wasn't. But anyway, I don't know of any evidence where the king or though the priestess or whatever woman that was engaged with the king in this ritual, whether it was the Queen Mother or somebody else, whether they actually really thought that I'm having sex with a deity now. The priestess was viewed as a stand-in, as the representative of the Goddess and the King represented the gods.

So the sacred marriage is about reenacting a sexual relationship that was presumed to take place either at creation, there's your fertility idea, or some other important stopping point along the way of the primeval divine activity that gave life to the world or something like that. So it was viewed as a reenactment. They knew each other were humans. You can't divorce from that the notion, let's just truck on over to Egypt where it's the most clear where there was the belief that the Pharaoh was Horace incarnate. You can have a priestess, I'm just speaking theoretically now, you can have a priestess engaging in intercourse with the pharaoh. She knows it's the pharaoh and she also knows that if she gets pregnant, it's the pharaoh's kid. The priestess might have her own husband or whatever. They know what sex is. They know where babies come from and all this sort of stuff. There's this belief that could be attached to it that this person, this human being, like the god resides in them or was himself a spawn of a god or the god has come back in the form of this man. But that's different than thinking that this person has no connection to the human world, totally otherworldly, and is just sort of appearing, kind of masquerading as a human being. That's a little more nebulous, a little tougher to sort of establish. To wrap the thought up, these were viewed as reenactments and people viewed the sacred priestess or whoever it was that might be part of the ritual as the stand-in, the proxy for the goddess or the god or whatever. But there's still the knowledge that this is a person that the god is either using or inhabiting or whatever.

LISTENER: My name is Aaron Vaverka. I go by the handle crude juice in social media. I use the Divine Council/Unseen Realm/Supernatural to help educate our church. We have a think tank here in Cleveland, Ohio where we are using the teachings of Dr. Heiser. We also use them in apologetics. I help run an apologetics community in Google plus and I've also helped Dr. Heiser launch a Google plus community there as well, the Michael S. Heiser Research Center. You can find that in Google plus where Vince and myself, we help him run it and we try to help answer questions when it comes to Dr. Heiser's work. We've seen some book sales and people getting into MEMRA, so that's been helpful. We link back to that into other Google plus communities and also twitter and such. It's been very good for me, both with my church and

apologetics and I can't say enough how much I appreciate his teachings, instructions, it's just awesome. This is a voice clip and I'll talk to you soon.

LISTENER: I'm Bill and I'm from Idaho. Really Mike, did you miss the class in college where they teach you there are certain things you shouldn't talk about? Well, that's how I found you. I was interested in UFOs and related things. You had spoken at a UFO conference in Roswell and there was postings on the Internet, so that's how I found you. Being a Christian, that really piqued my interest so I've followed you over to your website. At the time, you had some PDFs on Divine Council theology. That's kind of the trail that I began to follow. Eventually, you started on your podcast. That's how I ended up here. I really enjoyed the Leviticus study. That's something 35 years in church, I've never had a pastor that attempted to tackle that. It was really extremely useful so keep up the good work. There's lots of us out here who are really getting a great benefit from what you're doing.

LISTENER: Hi, my name is Bobby from Marietta, Georgia. I found Mike's 6 hour lecture on Mysticism which led me to his website which led me to the Naked Bible Podcast. I listen to the podcast during my daily commute to and from work. I thoroughly enjoy the content, the guests he's invited. I like the book recommendations and the scholarly perspective Mike has. I like to share a lot of that contact with friends and family and many of my brothers at church. You're doing a great job. Keep up the good work. Thanks.

LISTENER: Hello, my name is Chad. I'm from San Antonio, Texas. I've been enjoying listening to Dr. Heiser's Naked Bible Podcast show for quite some time now. I thought Trey's idea of having listeners provide feedback on the show was an interesting one. As I wondered on a good way to provide that feedback, I settled on something similar to an interview process. I thought of a list of questions I asked someone who listens to this show regularly and then provide my feedback in the form of an answer to those questions. The first question I would ask someone is how did you hear about the podcast? I found Dr. Heiser's podcast after having visited his website. I found his website after doing some internet research after having watched a documentary on Ancient Aliens.

The premise put forth on that show is so bizarre that I simply had to do some research into its viability. The premise for the show is that a race of aliens from somewhere beyond our solar system had visited the Earth and provided early mankind with technical assistance and/or know-how in building some of human kind's most famous ziggurats including the pyramids of ancient Egypt. Furthermore, the visitations provided a better explanation for the early religious and spiritual texts which identify an encounter with God's angels including some of the Old Testament books and what could be found in those pages. If you have seen the show, then you know this position is propagated by Erich von Hagen....That research led me to Dr. Heiser and his website. Another question I thought would be good to ask a listener is why do you listen to the podcast? I listen to the podcast because it provides me with an opportunity to have guidance studying the Bible.

LISTENER: My name is Chris from Grand Rapids. I first became aware of Mike's material while I was reading a blog post on another website that had linked to Mike's website. It was on Romans chapter 5 and I was just really intrigued and blown away by what Mike was saying

about that text that I had never really thought about before. As I began to look around the website, what struck me was that Mike was providing a level of scholarly content that rarely makes its way to the Christian masses. I actually have a seminary degree but I have to say that even at the seminary level, at least the Master's level in the seminary I was at, much of what I was getting was content filtered through to a confessional bent. That's not all bad but I really wanted more than that out of my seminary experience.

Since discovering Mike's websites and content, I've been pouring over his books *Unseen Realm*, the 60 Second scholar books that he's put together and just really enjoying those. I'm actually using the *Supernatural* book in a morning devotional for my two daughters before taking them to school and that has been a lot of fun. I really believe what Mike is doing here is very important. He's filling a very large gap that I perceive in evangelicalism today. I'm very concerned about the state of things that I see conservative Christians becoming more ignorant of biblical content and hermeneutics on one hand, but at the same time holding a more rigidly traditional view of certain readings of Scripture that have very little support in the text itself. So I see Mike's material as a great remedy for this problem that I see. So I continue to recommend Mike's stuff to other people and I'll continue to do that because it's just really great content and quality. Keep up the good work guys. Thank you so much and God bless.

LISTENER: Hi Dr. Heiser and Trey. My name is Doug Overmyer and I came across the *Naked Bible* podcast a few years ago. I had discovered Dr. Heiser's dissertation while researching sort of the unseen realm and spiritual things in the Old Testament as a way to try to understand the New Testament and also the world we live in just from sort of a spiritual warfare standpoint. I definitely come from a charismatic background and I've just found this *Naked Bible* Podcast so helpful in rounding my theology in the Word. I've listened to the podcasts mainly when I'm mowing the lawn or when I'm going for long drives, not with my wife because she says do we have to listen to this? But that's just because I'm a nerd and then she's not. She's way cooler than I am. I appreciate what you guys are doing and I looking forward to the next hundred episodes.

LISTENER: Good evening gentlemen. My name is Eddie Smith from Napa, California. First and foremost, congratulations on 100 episodes. It's quite the accomplishment. I'm a newer listener. I came across Dr. Heiser a couple of months ago and I have just dove headfirst into all of your material good sir. It is quite the ride. I am so grateful that you found time to step down from upper earth to middle earth and pass some of the knowledge that you have acquired through your years of study. It has been such a blessing. I'm just amazed at how God is working through you and truly sharing everything that the Bible really has to offer. It's actually been on my heart to start a discipleship church where we just serve all met, no potatoes, maybe a glass of milk. As you've mentioned before, these self-help sermons, while they're good for a certain aspect. I believe we're coming into the time when we need true discipleship, true soldiers and to regain that fierce Christianity of the first century because it's just where my heart's at and what the Lord's put on my heart. I will definitely be using some of your resources. When the time comes, we can discuss royalties and maybe seminars or something. Once again, thank you so much for all that you guys do and since I am a new listener, I believe now I've got 76 more episodes of just grade A content to dig through so thank you guys and God bless and continue fighting the good fight.

LISTENER: My name is Jeff and I'm from Virginia and I would say that my first introduction to the idea of the Divine Council, though at the time I was not familiar with that terminology, probably was about 10 years ago. I was reading through some of the pseudepigraphical writings and seeing bits and pieces of the idea but not fully understanding how it all fit together. Then around 2010, I acquired a copy of a book called the Forgotten Heavens and in it, a book by Evan Wilson called the Governing Princes which deals mainly with the idea of Satan being just one of these princes that rules over the nations. That was quite intriguing. Two years ago when our pastor was away, they asked me to fill the pulpit and I turned that essay from the book, expanded it and turned it into a sermon, which I knew it was a little out there but did not realize just how far off the beaten path this topic was at the time.

Anyway, it confuses some people. It was met with some opposition. The pastor was taken back by it a little bit. But I found about a week later he had started studying the issue and was kind of blown away by the information and how it tied into the Scripture. Somewhere along that line, somebody said have you ever heard of Michael Heiser and we started looking into it there. And next thing you know, we are reading the books and reading the material and listening to the podcast and now it becomes part of a weekly thing. We listen to the podcast and compare notes and talk about it and it's become a real blessing in expanding our knowledge on these issues. It's just been great since then and now we belong to the cult is known as followers of Michael Heiser. Anyway, great stuff, keep up the good work.

LISTENER: My name is Kenneth. I'm an Army Chaplain from Ft Hood, Texas. I've been following Mike and the podcast since is just about the beginning. I first discovered the Naked Bible in 2011 after I came home from a tour overseas in Afghanistan. One of my soldiers was telling me about some of his beliefs, which include ancient aliens and that kind of thing. So I figured I needed to find out more about it. Looked online and that's when I discovered Mike, the Naked Bible, and eventually the podcast. I've been listening through all two or three versions of the podcast. I've enjoyed every one. They've taught me a lot. And how I make use of the content, I'm doing a Bible study with my soldiers here at Ft Hood as well as preaching in sermons, that kind of thing. I try to include whatever I can of the Divine Council worldview in that. Basically, it helps me to learn how to plumb the depths of Scripture, especially in the Ancient Near Eastern context so I can show people this is what's going on, even in the parts of Scripture that you don't understand. This is what's going on behind the scenes and it makes a lot of sense. I've enjoyed the majority of what Mike has done work wise, and there's a lot more to read obviously. But it is a journey that has been amazing and wonderful to be on. I'm very thankful for all this and to be on the podcast now. You all enjoy, thanks, and God bless.

LISTENER: Hello folks, Trey, and Michael. Congrats on 100 episodes. This is Michael from Norfolk, Virginia and I want to thank you for your podcast. I first heard it through another podcast. I enjoy your podcasts and I look forward to it each time and I just want to congratulate you guys. I noticed in the book you used the LEB for your quotes yet on the air you read from the ESV. I was curious if there was a reason why. And in the same vein, I do have a question. If you were to pick your five favorite Bible translations, not necessarily the best, but your five favorite ones, what would they be and why? Congratulations on 100 episodes and have a great day.

LISTENER: Hey Mike, hey Trey, this is Nathan. I just wanted to let you guys know you got some loyal listeners here in the weird city of Portland, Oregon. My wife and I love your podcasts. We love your books. We love all the content you offer. Because of you, we are definitely not afraid of our Bibles. We first heard of you, Mike, through Chris White and Ancient Aliens Debunked, and also some of his other books that reference the Divine Council. Through those we were directed to your website. We like to use your content to encourage those that are in our Christian circles to tell them that the principality of Portland is nothing compared to the power of Jesus Christ. We also have two young boys three and a half and one and a half. We're super excited to teach your content to them, to mold their worldview, to mold their spiritual worldview and their biblical worldview, to teach them the true battle is between the gods over the souls of men, and it really is about allegiance, and we can only gain victory in Jesus Christ. We like handing out your Supernatural book to people who are interested in that kind of topic, really opens doors to conversations, and we consider that a ministry. Of late, I'm super impressed with your youtube video, the animated one about ancient Israelite cosmology. Whoever did that for you, top notch work, super high quality, can't wait for more. In fact, I think you're next animated video should be about the head coverings of 1 Corinthians 11. Just wanted to say happy 100th episode from Nathan, Liz, Peter and Daniel.

LISTENER: My name is Peter. I'm from Bellingham, Washington. I discovered Dr. Heiser's work a couple of years ago. I was doing a word study on firmament and it led me to the realization that the ancient Israelites had a totally different understanding of the universe than we do. And I was processing through the nature of inerrancy and inspiration, really struggling. And Dr. Heiser's work helped me tremendously on that. I started listening to the podcast about a year ago and it's been constantly pushing me to take the Second Temple context as the Old Testament and New Testament context, and Ancient Near Eastern context more seriously, which has been a lot more work in studying the Bible but it's already starting to pay off for me in my personal Bible studies and teaching, just giving me a more accurate understanding of the passages I'm studying.

LISTENER: Hi my name is Robert Morris from Little Rock, Arkansas, and I actually found the Naked Bible podcast through Dr. Mike Heiser. I've always followed his work and always been impressed by what he does. I remember years ago I was trying to start off preaching and teaching and I didn't know what I was doing. One particular time I got through preaching, the leaders of the church came to me and said, Robert, you have no continuity, you ramble, and you shock people. I said thank you. I knew I had a problem. I didn't know what it was and they just pointed it out to me. So I took responsibility for that and I went to Mardel Bible bookstore and I found this product called Libronix. If anyone's been with Faithlife for a long time, they started off one of their platforms as Libronix.

That's like having Dr. Heiser in a box. I am very impressed with his work. He's a scholar for the layman and he really deals with the stories of the Bible. He doesn't know this but Dr. Heiser is the reason I married the wife of my dreams. I was struggling with marriage, divorce, and re-marriage and I needed some answers. I reached out to Dr. Heiser and he took the time to break all of that down for me. Six months later, me and my wife was married. So that is a direct result of the work he does. The compassionate he has and the real time care that he gives, and everything he does. He cares about people. So he told me about the Naked Bible podcast. I come

from an ultra-conservative background. My wife comes from ultra-liberal background and the Naked Bible podcast brings us somewhere in the middle. I'm able to have fellowship with my wife. I'm able to have the wife that I have all because of this man's work. And so I love you Dr. Heiser and wherever you go, I'm going to try my best to be there.

LISTENER: My name is Nathan Luman from Lubbock, Texas. I came across Naked Bible through Internet spam actually. A buddy of mine who was in seminary who actually introduced me to critical scholarship, he was on Facebook one day and he found a link to Dr. Heiser's Unseen Realm plug on the sharpening and our lives have never been the same since. I love Naked Bible Podcast because it breathes life into a dusty old Scripture. We are excited about the Bible in ways we never thought possible. Most importantly, Dr. Heiser respects the text. He doesn't say outlandish things to get his name out there. He weighs the evidence and if there's multiple interpretations, he'll give them both. We've used the podcasts and Unseen Realm in our Bible studies. I've sent Naked Bible podcast links to my pastor and family members. I think so far I've purchased nine copies of Unseen Realm for prisoners, pastors, seminary professors, neighbors, list goes on and on. There's nothing else like this online. It's actually incomparable. This week I conducted an experiment and I was trying to find another podcast to compare it to and they don't exist. There's no other scholar out there that produces this high-quality content, an hour to an hour and a half of material every single week. That does not exist, which is why I encourage everyone to give to Miqlat as much as possible. If Dr. Heiser can do this in his free time, imagine what he can do full throttle. Please give to Miqlat as much as possible. Trey, Dr. Heiser, thank you so much for all that you guys do. You all have been completely life-changing. I appreciate it.

LISTENER: Hi Trey and Mike. It's Robin here in New Zealand. I found the Naked Bible Podcast after reading Unseen Realm. I love the information and I'm sharing it with many of our friends that believe in Jesus and go to church, and finding their life has been revived. Their spiritual life has just been kick-started since finding this information. Thanks.

LISTENER: Hi Mike and Trey. My name is Stephen from Fife in Scotland in the United Kingdom. I'd just like to say thank you very much for the hard work you guys bring to the podcasts. Thank you very much mates for the books. I started reading the three books you released a few years ago.... I started reading books on Nephilim, etc etc, and that's how I came across Mike's material, which I'm so glad and grateful for. It makes my Bible study so much more interesting.... I'm actually a Sunday school leader and I do try to put some of that material in. Getting them at a young age is pretty good. Anyway, thanks for all the hard work guys.

LISTENER: Hi Mike and Trey. This is Steve Henry from Valencia, California. I found the podcast because I've been following Mike's work since probably 2005-2006, somewhere around there. I actually found him back when I was following Guy Malone's work and also sharing Derrick Gilbert on PID radio. I've listened to them since they first started their podcast back in 05. I've seen all of Mike's lectures from the Roswell UFO conferences and all that stuff. I really enjoyed what he was doing and been following ever since. Basically, the podcast is my church. The churches in my area are either the social Gospel seeker friendly mega church type of establishments or a lot of charismatic churches in town so not a lot of choices where I'm at. So

basically, this is my church and just want to say thanks. Keep up the great work and I'll be listening.

LISTENER: Hi Trey and Mike. I'm from Zimbabwe Africa. I'd like you gentlemen to know that I immensely enjoy each and every single episode of the Naked Bible podcast. I'm currently unchurched. I haven't found a community that I can comfortably integrate in. What the Naked Bible podcast is doing is it's become a virtual community where I can learn and study Scripture. And I'm actually beginning to learn how to read Scripture and to study on my own. Keep up the good work and may God bless you.

LISTENER: Hello and good evening. My name is Trevor Page and I've listened to Naked Bible podcast for only a little while now but I went back and listened to the archives, all of them. And Dr. Michael Heiser is a very well-educated individual. You all should really heed his teachings and draw from them. His stuff is top notch, well researched, and well-studied, and peer-reviewed in his field. And he does great work. So you all listen up, stay tuned, be blessed.

LISTENER: Hey Trey and Dr. Heiser. This is Vincent from New Jersey. I came across Dr. Heiser's work around 2011 and I began to realize right away that I had a lot of work to do, didn't take my own Christianity seriously, so that was real humbling so thank you for that. How I use your content Dr. Heiser is I talk to as many people as I can here in northeast New Jersey. And you're right, sometimes when you speak to people regarding Divine Council and all the related material, you get looked upon like you got a couple of heads and so whenever I hear you say that, I can't help but smile and laugh. I also use your material through my own WordPress account and I also help Aaron out with the Dr. Heiser Research Center on Google plus. Like a lot of folks, I'd just like to thank you very much for everything that you do, how easy and digestible you make it, and as easy and digestible as you make it, it's a springboard for deeper richer Bible studying. So thank you very much and God bless you.

LISTENER: Dear Mike and Trey, my name is Jimmy and I live and work in the Netherlands. About 5 years ago, I saw a video on YouTube in which Mike explained an approach to the first three verses of Genesis 1 with which I wasn't familiar at all. From here, I visited the old style Naked Bible website and I discovered more approaches to various topics like the Nephilim, inspiration and inerrancy, and the meaning of Romans 5:12, which all captured my attention. I've been an interested follower of the podcast since the episodes on the book of Acts. One of my favorite episodes to date is the one on the head covering of 1 Corinthians 11. In a small Bible study group I attend, we have addressed this topic, and I can say that it made a lot of heads rise up in amazement. Anyhow, I hope you guys will be able to continue and expand this good work that you are doing. God bless.

LISTENER: My name is John. My friend got me into the podcast maybe 6 months ago or so, maybe less than that. I've almost run through them all. I love them all. The knowledge that I'm learning from them is very informative and insightful. It seems to be non-bias. I use it with my friends in conversation. I have a small group of friends and when we get together, normally we talk about the Lord our God and the peace he brings, and the law, all the events and how we use it through our daily lives. I've been fortunate that my friend introduced me to Dr. Mike Heiser

just to listen, as well as your guests, and as well as Trey. To listen to you Trey, and your insights, and your other guest books and knowledge, it's beautiful. It's a pleasure and honor. It's very insightful. It brings me peace actually, and I couldn't be more thankful so praise God for people like you all. I hope you continue for ever and ever doing what you're doing.

LISTENER: My name is Chris Jones. I am a missionary. I use Dr. Heiser's material to help me with translation efforts, Bible translation, material like Bible lesson development. My team and I live in a remote stone age basically tribe of hunters and gatherers in Papua, New Guinea. We've learned their undocumented language and since developed an alphabet literacy program, textbooks and all that stuff to help them read and write in their own language with the intention of one-day planting a completely indigenous church in the tribe among the people group for first time in recorded history. So pretty excited about that and long story short, our team has realized that the tribe's worldview is a lot closer to the original authors of Scriptures worldview than our postmodern Western cosmology worldview it actually is. We've learned to step back a little bit and try to recognize our cultural baggage before we put pen to paper with any translation or lesson development. And it's been super helpful to help us contextualize the metanarrative of Scripture for the tribe. So I really thank you guys for the work you do. I heard about Heiser's the Naked Bible Podcast through Heiser's other blogs and have since attended a couple of events. I've read nearly everything Dr. Heiser's published and have loved just about every minute of it. Thank you for the work that you are doing so keep it up and I'll be supporting Miqlat and praying for you guys hard-core.

TS: Well Mike, that was awesome to listen to everybody to call in. We appreciate it. It's fun to hear from everybody. We also have a winner here. I'm going to pull somebody's name out of a hat here randomly, so are you ready? Here we go. We got a Bobby from Marietta Georgia is the big winner. So Bobby, I will send you an e-mail. I'll reach out to you to get your address. You got a book coming your way.

MSH: The book is Handbook on the New Testament use of the Old Testament. Subtitle is Exegesis and Interpretation. It's just an introduction to the use of the Old Testament in the New; short book. It's about 150 pages of text so not hefty but just a good introduction of the subject. It's something we do and talk about all time here.