

Did Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah *Pre-Exist* His Human Birth?

What Do You Really Mean, “ONE True God”?

Who is the true and living Elohim (God)? Who is the God of the Old Testament or Tanakh? Who is the real Creator? If there is only ONE “true God,” then who was the “Word of Yahweh” in the Old Testament – was it a Person? Or merely the revealed words of the Father? Why does Scripture use the expression “Elohim” in Genesis 1:1, which is a PLURAL FORM of the word “Eloah,” and which means literally “Mighty Ones”? More and more, today, some are saying that Jesus Christ had no “pre-existence” before He was conceived in the womb of Mary. What does Scripture say about that theory? What is really meant by the expression “the FAMILY of God” in Ephesians 3:15? Is the One who spoke to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and Elijah, and the prophets, the One we know as the “Father”? Does the answer to this question really make any difference as to our future SALVATION? Does denial of the pre-existence of Messiah constitute the doctrine of the Antichrist? What DIFFERENCE does it make, anyway?

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The Scriptures teach that ultimately and originally, in the strict sense of the word, that there is ONE ELOHIM. Yeshua Messiah (Jesus the Christ) Himself stated this fact unequivocally when He said, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, THE ONLY TRUE ELOHIM, and Yeshua the Messiah whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

The apostle Paul corroborated this sublime and divine truth when he wrote to the Corinthians, “Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is *no other God but ONE*. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth, (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us THERE IS ONE GOD, THE FATHER, of whom are ALL THINGS, and we for Him; and ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST, through whom are all things, and through whom we live” (I Cor.8:4-6).

Notice! The inspired Word of God, which cannot be broken (John 10:35), which is TRUTH (John 17:17), says plainly that the Father is the “One GOD” from whom or of whom are “ALL THINGS.”

Modern Gnosticism

Some modern Orthodox Jewish rabbis claim that this fact nullifies the claims of Christ as being the Son of God, or divine, and nullifies His “pre-existence.” Some Christians, and former members of the Worldwide Church of God, also have come around to the belief that there was “one” God, God the Father, mentioned in the Old Testament, and that He is the One who interacted with Abraham, Moses, and the prophets of old. The belief of those who accept the teaching of these rabbis that there was One God mentioned in the Old Testament, is that Jesus Christ, or the “Logos” of God, first came into literal existence when He was conceived in the womb of His mother Mary.

This teaching has gained ‘new legs’ since the Worldwide Church of God leadership began abolishing the teachings of the founder of the Church, Herbert W. Armstrong, who taught that God is, in effect, a “Family,” and that Christ was Co-Creator with the Father, at which time He was the “Logos” or pre-incarnate Christ.

Many people today are being mesmerized and hypnotized by this new teaching, which seems so “logical” and which is so subtle. This theory seems to do away with the idea of the “Trinity,” of course, as well as the concept of there being “TWO” members of the original Godhead – The Father and the Logos. As many of us have proved in the past, the Bible does not teach a “Trinitarian” Godhead. Read our articles, “Is God a Trinity?” and “The Trinitarian Doctrine Disproved.”

Seemingly, there are three sides to this argument. There are the Trinitarians, who believe God exists in Three Persons in One – a concept which even theologians find baffling and incomprehensible. Then there are those who believe that the original Godhead was composed of two Beings, the Father and the Word – both God throughout all eternity. Jewish rabbis find this teaching repugnant and ridiculous, also, since it seems to postulate TWO divine beings and not ONE God. It seems to be a watered down version of the “Trinity,” and some wags have called it the “Binitarian” viewpoint.

On the other side of the argument are the Neo-Gnostics who claim that Christ had NO pre-existence whatsoever – that He was not God, or an angel, or any kind of being in heaven, but that He first existed as a human being, although He was supernaturally conceived by God in the womb of the virgin woman, Mary.

A fourth viewpoint, and approach to this question, seems to have gone completely unnoticed and ignored by the vast majority of Jews and Christians. It is the concept that indeed the Word was a created being, the greatest of the Angels, who was the first One created, to be a companion of the Father, and who was in effect his “Executive

Vice President” over the works of “God” -- that is, over the Universe. He was known as the “Word of God,” and the “Logos,” and became a divine son of God by creation, and by the will of the Father. He came down to this earth, many times, in the Old Testament, and communicated messages from the Father to the prophets. He was in effect the “Spokesman” of the Father.

What does the Bible – the Word of God – teach? What is the truth about “God”?

A Growing Controversy

Professor James Tabor, of North Carolina University, used to be a member of the Worldwide Church of God. He has written a paper called “Abrahamic Faith,” in which he claims that God is but ONE, and that Christ was NOT God nor divine. He claims that the gospel of John is riddled with errors, and interprets many New Testament passages that allude to the pre-existence of Christ as mere “metaphors,” analogies, and similitudes.

Other former Worldwide Church of God scholars and ministers have joined the ranks of those who deny Christ’s pre-existence, such as Anthony Buzzard, the son of a British admiral, Charles Hunting, former evangelist, and more recently Kenneth Westby, a former pastor in the Church. Discussion on the issue seems to abound in the pages of *The Journal*, a publication by former Worldwide members, which appeals to those people who left Worldwide and who now attend various groups around the world.

This explosive controversy over the nature of the Godhead was precipitated by the flagrant changes in Worldwide Church theology by its new leadership, who rejected the concept of God being a “Family” and went over to the orthodox “Christian” teaching of a Trinitarian Godhead.

The new Gnostics, it seems, have plunged from both of those beliefs to a novel, new theology which denies the pre-existence of Christ *completely and totally*.

The Neo-Gnostics

The new Gnostics, for example, point to Ephesians 3:9 and claim it is a fraudulent verse. It says in part: “God who created all things through Jesus Christ” (NKJV). They claim that this phrase is not in certain ancient manuscripts and therefore was “added” by Trinitarians. This claim, however, rests upon very weak evidence.

The fact of the matter is that the passage of Ephesians 3:9 is found in the original GREEK New Testament. It is left out of the New International Version and some others only because they are not based on the original Greek “Textus Receptus,” the traditional text of the Greek speaking churches.

Two critical scholars, Westcott and Hort, in the nineteenth century, postulated the strange theory that the Textus Receptus text was altered by the fourth century church. They rejected its authenticity in favor of a few far-flung manuscripts, particularly the

Siniaticus and Alexandrian texts. However, as the Preface to the New King James Version shows, modern Biblical scholarship has forced a revision of their theory (see the Preface to the NKJV, page X). Says the Preface, such variations and omissions, as Ephesians 3:9, which differ from the traditional text generally represent the Alexandrian or Egyptian text, and are based on the old but *questionable* manuscripts of the Siniaticus and Vaticanus. These often disagree with one another and have significant omissions, causing many scholars to doubt their faithfulness. The passage in Ephesians 3:9 is corroborated by over 5,000 Greek texts.

So those teachers who reject Ephesians 3:9 which states that God created all things “through Jesus Christ” are basing their understanding of Ephesians 3:9 on an EGYPTIAN TEXT!

Does not the Word of God warn His people not to “return to Egypt”? Surely, such a manuscript or text is an inferior text and not to be trusted. Scholars now widely hold that the Byzantine Text of the KJV [the Textus Receptus] “has as much right as the Alexandrian or any other tradition to be weighed in determining the text of the New Testament.” The Alexandrian was found in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1628 and dates back to 350 A.D. The best text, the Received Text, has in Ephesians 3:9, as the Greek-English Interlinear shows, “the fellowship of the mystery which has been hidden from the ages in God, *who all things created by Jesus Christ.*”

I cite this particular controversy as a case in point concerning how it is so easy for people to go astray when they are beset by the arguments of modern pseudo-scholars and false teachers. Many become seduced into rejecting the best, traditional Greek language texts, preserved in the Greek churches and faithfully copied over the centuries, in favor of a few comparatively recently discovered Egyptian texts which were in fact corrupted.

The apostle Paul, we should remember, did not found any churches in Egypt. He said of the good news, the gospel, “to the JEW first, and also to the GREEK” (Rom.1:16). Most of the churches of God Paul established were in GREECE and Asia Minor. He did not go to Egypt, and only visited Rome a few times. But the Greek churches he established are well documented – Corinth, Ephesus, Colossae, Philippi, Berea, etc., as the Book of Acts shows. The New Testament Scriptures were preserved in the Greek language, by the Greek-speaking churches, and then down through the centuries by the Greek Orthodox Christian monasteries, copied ever so painfully and punctiliously, to maintain incredible accuracy. That is why we have over 5,000 copies of the Greek manuscripts, today – a treasure-trove of manuscripts which proves their accuracy and origin.

But what about the underlying issue of the divinity and pre-existence of Christ? Is it important? Does it really matter what we believe?

Consider this: For a person to deny the facts – proven truths – about the pre-existence of Christ – if we can demonstrate from the Scriptures that He did indeed PRE-EXIST HIS FLESHLY EXISTENCE -- is tantamount and equal to DENYING CHRIST

and following the teachings of an ANTI-CHRIST! The apostle John wrote, “he is ANTICHRIST who denies the Father AND the Son. *Whoever denies the Son DOES NOT HAVE THE FATHER EITHER*; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also” (I John 2:22-23).

With that being understood, now let’s look at the evidence from the Scriptures with an open, fair-minded approach. Remember, as a preface and caution, Jesus Christ tells us, “The Scripture CANNOT BE BROKEN” (John 10:35). The apostle Paul tells us that “ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of GOD” (II Tim.3:16). And Christ also said, “Your Word is *truth*” (John 17:17). Therefore, with that in mind, what do the Scriptures of truth teach?

Yeshua Came from Yahweh

Some teachers claim that the Messiah did not really come down from heaven, but was “merely a thought” in the Mind of Yahweh. However, to believe this we must turn several plain Scriptures on their head. John the Baptist, bearing witness of Him, said, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes *after* me is preferred *before* me, for He was *BEFORE* me’” (John 1:15). Yet John was born six months before Jesus Christ. In what sense, therefore, was Messiah “before” him? John’s ministry came first. Yeshua’s came second. The only way Christ was “before” John, even though He came *after* him, is that He pre-existed John because of His existence in heaven BEFORE His own human birth!

In another place, Jesus Himself declared, “For I HAVE COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN” (John 6:38). He said also, “I have come down from heaven” (verse 42), and, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven” (verse 51). Are we to believe what He Himself said? Or was He merely speaking figuratively? His words seem simple and clear enough. Why can’t people just take Him at His word? We should be very cautious before believing any teaching which appears to contradict the plain and simple statements made by the Messiah Himself!

Yeshua also said to His disciples, "For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I CAME FORTH FROM ELOHIM. I came forth FROM THE FATHER and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." (John 16:27-28).

These verses make it crystal clear that Messiah came forth from the Father, down from heaven. This certainly implies He was much more than a mere “thought” in the mind of the Father aeons ago! He was His companion, who was alongside Him! This is a divine mystery, a great incomprehensible mystery -- but Yeshua said it, and He stated it, quite LITERALLY!

Does Yeshua mean what He says, or are we going to put some kind of “spin” on it? Does anyone really think He did not literally mean exactly what He said?

As for me, I will take my Saviour AT HIS WORD – I choose to BELIEVE HIM – not some man who says that He didn't really mean what He said! Maybe I am "simple-minded" in the sight of some people – but it seems awfully clear and plain to me!

It is so simple to understand for those whose minds have not been clouded by the fog of deception and false, cunning, exploitative teachings of modern GNOSTICISM!

"Descended"

Notice also, Paul wrote of Christ, "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men. (Now this, '*He ascended*' – what does it mean but that He also FIRST DESCENDED into the lower parts of the earth? He who DESCENDED is also the One who *ascended* far above all heavens, that He might fill all things" (Ephesians 4:8-10).

Notice this carefully! Christ DID DESCEND. To where? To the Earth! From where? FROM THE HIGHEST HEAVEN! To "descend" in Greek here is *Strong's* #2597 and means just what it says in English. The same word is used where it says, "And the RAIN descended" (Matt.7:25), "the angel of the Lord descended from heaven" (Matt.28:2), "And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove" (Luke 3:22). It is the word *katabaino* and means "to descend, come down."

"In the Form of Elohim"

Notice the words of Paul to the Philippians. He wrote, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, *being [existing] in the FORM OF GOD, did not consider it robbery to be EQUAL with God, but MADE HIMSELF of no reputation, TAKING THE FORM OF A BONDSERVANT, and coming in the LIKENESS OF MEN.* And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil.2:5-11, NKJV).

How is it possible that people can claim this Scripture is merely a "metaphor"? Paul meant exactly what He wrote! Yeshua Messiah was at one time "IN THE FORM OF ELOHIM" – that is, He was in the Father's exact form and likeness. This was BEFORE His human birth! He was, it says, EQUAL WITH ELOHIM! But then He gave up that exalted position and made Himself of no reputation at all, and became a mere human being, and as such, He died on the cross, to pay the penalty of our sins as our sacrifice for sin!

Isn't that Scripture plain and simple? Isn't it clear? But we have just begun this exploration of the nature and mystery of "ELOHIM."

The Great "I AM"

Yeshua Himself declared, "I proceeded forth and came from God" (John 8:42). What did He mean by this expression? In fact, notice the entire 8th chapter of the gospel of John. It is remarkable!

In this one chapter, Yeshua says repeatedly:

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

"I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me" (John 8:18).

"I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sins. Where I go you cannot come" (John 8:21).

"You are from beneath; *I am* from above. You are of this world; *I am* not of this world" (John 8:23).

". . . if you do not believe that *I am [He]*, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). Note that the word *He*" is in italics in the New King James Version, which means that it was not in the original Greek.

"Then Yeshua said to them, When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that *I am [He]*, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things" (John 8:28). Note again that the word *He*" is in italics and does not belong.

"Then the Jews said to Him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham? Yeshua said to them, Most assuredly I say to you, BEFORE ABRAHM WAS, **I AM**" (John 8:57-58).

Eight times in this single chapter, Yeshua refers to Himself as the "I AM." The Jews of that time got the point of His message. "Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but He hid Himself and went out of the Temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by" (John 8:59). Why would they attempt to stone Him? Because in their eyes, when He said He pre-existed Abraham, His words were tantamount to BLASPHEMY, and when He said, "I AM," they recognized that this was the NAME of the One who revealed Himself to Moses!

They took His words literally – not figuratively. They *knew* what He so plainly said!

Yeshua EQUAL with Elohim

Another incident which disturbed the Jews occurred in the fifth chapter of John. On the weekly Sabbath day, Yeshua healed a man who had been unable to walk for 38

years (John 5:2-10). He told the man to take up his bed and walk. Now this was strictly forbidden by the Pharisees, for carrying a burden on the Sabbath was considered a violation of the Sabbath. When the man told the Jews that Yeshua had healed him, and told him to carry his bed, “For this reason the Jews persecuted Yeshua, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath” (John 5:16).

Yeshua answered them, however, saying, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working” (verse 17). In their eyes, notice it, this meant He was equating Himself as being the Son of the Father – equal with Elohim. This was blasphemy to them! John writes, “Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that Elohim was His Father, *making Himself EQUAL WITH ELOHIM.*” (verse 18).

Throughout the rest of this chapter, Yeshua went on saying that the Father has committed ALL judgment to the Son, Himself (verse 22), and said that even as the Father has life in Himself, so He has “granted the Son to have life in Himself” (verse 26). These are all GOD-LIKE ATTRIBUTES!

The Jews knew what He meant, when He spoke of Himself as the “I AM.” They knew what He meant when He said, “MY FATHER works until now, and I work.” They KNEW He was claiming *equality with God – being on the same divine plane of existence!* To their minds, this was “blasphemy,” as apparently it is to some people, today.

Now we come to one of the KEY Scriptures of all, regarding the TRUE IDENTITY of the One we know as Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) – the Saviour.

John 5:37

Yeshua plainly said of the Father, “You have neither *heard* His voice at ANY TIME, nor *seen* His form” (John 5:37). This is a remarkable statement.

But Yeshua corroborated it in John 1:18 where we read: “*No one has seen God at any time.* The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him” (John 1:18). A third time, He made this truth absolutely binding, saying, “*Not that anyone has seen THE FATHER,* except He who is from God; He has seen the Father” (John 6:46).

And in I John 4:12, we read: “No one has seen God at any time” (NKJV).

What does this remarkable series of statements prove to us? Clearly, Yeshua stated with absolute authority that NO HUMAN BEING has ever heard the voice of Yahweh the Father, and no human being has ever SEEN Yahweh the Father. Not ever! Not at any time during human history! Yeshua was very blunt and outspoken about this.

At this point then, it behooves us to study the Scriptures and see what they tell us about Yah's interaction with mankind, in the Old Testament Scriptures. Remember, "the Scripture cannot be broken." Yeshua's words are absolute TRUTH.

Well, let's notice just who was really seen by men, and heard by men, during Old Testament times.

The Burning Bush

Jesus Christ -- Yeshua the Anointed One -- used this expression, "I AM," in a fascinating context in John 8, where He said to the Rabbis who were questioning Him: "If God were your Father, you would love Me: for I *proceeded forth and came from God*; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me" (verse 42).

Jesus went on, "Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. . . . Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, *Most assuredly I say to you, Before Abraham was, I AM*" (John 8:42, 55-58).

What did Jesus mean? In what way did He mean He was the "I AM"? To what does this expression refer? And "how" was He before Abraham?

Could this mean, then, that He really DID pre-exist His human incarnation, as a divine member of the Godhead, during Old Testament times?

To get to the root of this problem, let's go back to an amazing episode that occurred in the time of Moses, while he was tending sheep in Arabia. On this occasion he saw a remarkable sight – a bush that burned but was not consumed. An "Angel" talked to him out of the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-4). Let's examine this account.

The One that appeared to Moses in the burning bush, many have thought, was God the Father. But this simply cannot be so. We read in the book of Exodus, "And the ANGEL *of the LORD* appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush" (Exo.3:2). We read: "So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, GOD called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am'" (verse 4).

Notice! Here the ANGEL of the LORD is called "God." And He SPOKE to Moses, and Moses HEARD him! Yet, as we have seen, no man has heard the voice of the FATHER! Therefore this "God" personage had to be somebody different from the Father!

He is called an "Angel." The Hebrew word for "angel" here is *malak* and means "from an unused root meaning to dispatch as a deputy, a messenger; specifically of God" (Strong's #4397). This "Angel" is later identified as God Himself! He is called "God" (verse 4). He said to Moses, "I am the God of your father – the god of Abraham, the God

of Isaac, and the God of Jacob” (verse 6). So this Angel identified Himself as being God – not just *a messenger from God, but as VERY GOD!*

Does this destroy the concept of ONE GOD, if it were not the Father Himself? Just what do we mean by the term “ONE,” anyway? This is where many people become utterly confused – yet they should not be. Let’s notice further.

The Angel said to Moses, later, when asked His name: “And *God* said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exo.3:14).

This “angel of the LORD” went on to say to Moses, “Moreover *God* said to Moses, ‘Thus shall you say to the children of Israel: “The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, *has sent me* to you. This is *My name forever, and this is MY MEMORIAL to all generations*”” (Exo.3:15).

Notice now, this One who said He was God, also said that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob SENT HIM to Moses! How could “God” send “God” to Moses? What a mystery! This implies quite clearly that there had to be TWO PERSONS OR INDIVIDUALS *known as God – One in heaven, and One on the earth, talking to Moses!*

This One who spoke to Moses was *not God the Father*, as many have assumed. This had to be another member of the Godhead. Who was He? When and where did He originate? Did He *eternally* pre-exist? Or did He come into existence at some ancient time aeons ago? What does the Bible reveal about this “Angel” of the LORD?

Before answering those questions, notice more proof that the GOD of the Old Testament who interacted with the prophets was NOT the Father.

The ELOHIM at Mount Sinai

This Great Being later spoke the Ten Commandments, at Mount Sinai, to all the children of Israel. “And GOD spoke all these words, saying” (Exo.20:1). The next 16 verses give us God’s Words, the Ten Commandments. The people were afraid, and told Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die” (v.19). They had been listening to the very voice of God! Yet, Jesus plainly said, “No man has heard the voice of God at ANY TIME” (John 5:37). So who was this Person whom Moses called “God”?

God Himself said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘You have seen that *I have talked with you from heaven*’” (Exo.20:22). From this point on, God spoke with Moses, and Moses communicated His message to the people. Who was this Mighty God-Being, if it was not the One we know as the Father?

But there is even more. The mystery deepens, and the perplexity increases, when we realize that not only did ALL Israel HEAR the voice of God – in seeming

contradiction to the words of the Messiah Himself – but many of them actually SAW Him with their own eyes!

Seeing ELOHIM

This great Supreme Being was actually *seen* by Moses himself, and seventy of the elders of Israel. That is, He made Himself visible to their eyes, and they beheld Him! After God gave Israel His covenant, at Mount Sinai, they agreed to perform it completely. Peace offerings were made, to ratify the covenant. Notice what happened next!

“Now He said to Moses, ‘Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near . . .

“Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: And *they SAW the God of Israel*. And there was under his feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel he did not lay His hand: *So they saw God* and ate and drank” (Exo.24:1-11).

Again, this “God” who appeared to them, the God of their fathers, the God of Israel – whom they both heard and saw with their own eyes – could not have been the FATHER! It was the “Angel of the LORD” – and yet He is also called “GOD”!

What a mystery! How do we solve it?

Later, Moses Himself got a personal, close-up glimpse of the One who spoke to him at Mount Sinai. Moses said to Him, “Please, show me Your glory” (Exodus 33:18). “Then He said, ‘I will make My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you’ . . . But He said, ‘You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me and live’ (Exodus 33:19-20).

“And the LORD said, ‘Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So shall it be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen” (Exo.33:20-23).

Just who was this, anyway?

Who was this GREAT GOD? Was it – could it – have been the Father?

Impossible! The Father was busy running the Universe, controlling the stars and galaxies, ruling the Universe from His august throne in the heavens. How could He leave this super-important job to come down to the earth to interact with mere man? Who would have been left at the controls of the Universe, seeing to it that everything ran

smoothly and nothing failed to function properly?

What's the answer to this perplexing mystery?

At one time, the Jews knew. Rabbis long ago understood the truth. It was not until after the time of Christ, that they denied the truth and turned aside to mythology and fables, and a false concept of the meaning of "one God."

Who Appeared to Moses and the 70 Elders?

How do we know this was not the Father? The context shows clearly that this Person was no doubt God Himself -- He is called "God," and He gave the Ten Commandments to Israel. He appeared to Moses, and to the seventy elders of Israel.

Turn to the book of Acts, in the New Testament. Notice what the evangelist Stephen had to say about this matter.

In his defense before the Sanhedrin, the evangelist Stephen a man full of grace and power (Acts 6:8), who did miracles among the people, declared: "This Moses whom they refused, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer *by the hand of the ANGEL who appeared to him in the bush*" (Acts 7:35).

How plain! The One that appeared and spoke with Moses was the Angel of the LORD!

The Word "Angel"

Stephen goes on, speaking of Moses, saying, "This is he [Moses], who was in the congregation in the wilderness WITH THE ANGEL WHO SPAKE TO HIM ON MOUNT SINAI, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us" (Acts 7:38).

Thus the One who spoke with Moses, and Israel, in mount Sinai, was not the Father -- it was the "Angel of the Lord." Could this have been the One who was the Pre-existent Messiah?

Interestingly, the word "Angel" in the Greek language is derived from the word *ago* which means "to bring, drive," "go," and "pass (time)." The word translated "angel" is *aggelos* and literally means "a messenger," from "to bring tidings," especially an "angel." (Number #32 in *Strong's Concordance*).

The Hebrew word for "angel" is *malak* and means "to despatch as a deputy, a messenger," "an angel (also a prophet, priest, or teacher)," translated variously as "ambassador, angel, king, messenger" (#4397 in *Strong's Concordance*). *Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon* adds, "1) one sent, a messenger," "2) a messenger of God, i.e.,

a) an angel . . . b) a prophet . . . c) a priest . . . d) of Israel, as being the messenger of God and the teacher of the Gentiles.”

Just who was this “Angel of YAHWEH,” if it wasn’t and could not have been Yahweh the Father? Who was the One sent by Yahweh the Father?

Gideon’s Encounter with YAHWEH

This ONE we are speaking of was called “the Angel of YAHWEH” in the Old Testament. We read of Him in the book of Judges, “And the Angel of YAHWEH appeared to him [Gideon], and said to him, ‘YAHWEH is with you, you mighty man of valor’” (Judges 6:12).

Gideon didn’t know who it was, and called him “adoni,” meaning “lord” or “master” (verse 13). But the account then says, “Then YAHWEH turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel’” (verse 14).

Do you see? This “Angel of YAHWEH” mentioned in verse 12 is the very One who spoke to Gideon, and who is called “YAHWEH” [YHWH in Hebrew] in verse 14!!!!

He is NOT just some “prince” among the angels! God calls objects and persons THAT WHICH THEY ARE! This “Angel” was YAHWEH! But it could not have been the FATHER, as no man has seen Him or spoken directly with Him at any time (John 1:18).

Clearly this Being pre-existed the incarnate Jesus Christ, whose inception as a human being occurred in 4 B.C. This Great Being could not have been the Father, either. So the question remains – DID Yeshua Messiah PRE-EXIST HIS HUMAN INCARNATION? What do the Scriptures say?

Elijah’s Encounter with the “Word”

This same Being came to Elijah the prophet. We read, “Then the *word of Yahweh* came to him, saying” – He literally spoke to Elijah, and said – “ ‘Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan” (II Kings 17:2-3). Later, the Word came to him again, speaking with him (verse 8), telling him to go to a widow woman in Sidon, and again telling him to appear before king Ahab (18:1).

Later this same Word came to him in a cave in Mount Sinai, speaking with him there (19:9) in great detail. The context shows that this was a distinct Being called the “Word of Yahweh.”

Who was this Being?

Perhaps the solution to the problem is found in the mysterious book of Proverbs.

King Solomon declared,

“Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, *and what is HIS SON’S NAME*, if you know?” (Prov.30:4).

“Wisdom” of Elohim

The truth of the Pre-existence of Messiah as the Logos of Elohim is also hinted at in Proverbs 8. Here we read of One called “Wisdom” who says: “YAHWEH possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, *from the beginning*, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths, I WAS BROUGHT FORTH . . . Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I WAS BROUGHT FORTH; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I WAS THERE . . . Then I was BESIDE him, as a MASTER CRAFTSMAN; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him” (Prov.8:22-30).

This is the One who BECAME Yeshua Messiah. Notice how He says He was “BROUGHT FORTH.” This is very important! Now notice the Words of the Messiah Himself! He said in His prayer to the Father: “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself [literally, “alongside”], with the glory which I had with You *before the world was.*” (John 17:5).

Now if Yeshua had not pre-existed as the Logos, a supreme Being under the Father, who shared His GLORY in the primordial earth, then what did He mean asking Yahweh to give Him “the glory” which He had with the Father, “before the world began”? That would make no sense, if He had not existed as a Being at that time, who shared the glory of the Father!

If we believe He meant exactly what He said, then at some time in the primordial past, before the Creation, He was brought forth by the Father as a separate BEING -- a Companion for the Father -- in His very likeness and exact image – composed of divine Spirit, just as the Father is – created of His very own substance and essence!

What an awesome truth!

The Jewish Tanakh makes this passage in Proverbs 8 the plainest. Notice, beginning verse 22: Wisdom says, “YAHWEH [FATHER] *CREATED ME* at the *beginning* of His course *AS THE FIRST OF HIS WORKS OF OLD*. In the distant past I WAS *FASHIONED, at the beginning*, at the ORIGIN of the earth. There was still no deep when I was BROUGHT FORTH, no springs rich in water; before [the foundations of] the mountains were sunk, before the hills *I WAS BORN*. He had not yet made earth and fields, or the world’s first clumps of clay. I WAS THERE when He set the heavens in

place . . . When He made the heavens above firm . . . When He assigned the sea its limits . . . When He fixed the foundations of the earth, I WAS WITH HIM AS A CONFIDANT, a source of delight every day, rejoicing before Him at all times, rejoicing in His inhabited world, finding delight with mankind” (Proverbs 8:22-31).

How clear! The One who became Messiah was *BORN* back in the “beginning”! He was literally “BROUGHT FORTH” -- He was “FASHIONED” -- He was “*CREATED*”! Yahweh the Father, with Wisdom at His side (that is Christ, or the Logos -- John 1:1-3), then *CREATED THE UNIVERSE*, using Wisdom (the Logos or Christ) to create everything that exists.

Light Penetrates the Mystery!

Turn to John 1:1 in the New Testament. And notice!

In the book of John we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with ELOHIM, and the Word was ELOHIM. He was in the beginning WITH ELOHIM. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” (John 1:1-3).

Now notice verse 14, commenting about this “Word”: “And the Word *became* flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Notice! There is a clear distinction made here between One called “Elohim,” and One who is called the “Word.” The Word is also said to be “Elohim,” and was instrumental in the entire Creation of the Universe. Nevertheless, this Word who was ALSO “Elohim,” was WITH “Elohim.” Clearly, this other One was Elohim too or Yahweh the Father. The Word is clearly said to have been involved in the CREATION of all things – the entire Universe – and yet He became flesh and blood, a human being, and dwelt among us human beings on this earth!

The clear point made here is that this Word was with One who was primarily known as “ELOHIM.” In the New Testament, the Greek word for our English word “God” (Hebrew – Elohim) in these verses, is *Theos*, and means, “a deity, the supreme Divinity, figuratively, a magistrate, God, god,” (see *Strong’s Concordance*, #2316). The context, of course, must tell us which is the correct definition in each individual case.

This verse simply states that these two individuals both existed “IN THE BEGINNING.” They both were “God,” yet there was a subtle and important difference between the two. The One being the “Word” implies He was the “Word” of the other One. A “Word” is that which is spoken by another. The Greek word for “Word” here is the mysterious word *LOGOS*, and means: “something said, including the thought; by implication a topic; also reasoning, (the mental faculty) or motive; by extension, a computation; specifically, the Divine Expression (i.e. Christ)” (*Strong’s Concordance*, #3056).

The word is used in Scripture translated variously, as follows: “account, cause, doctrine, preaching, reason, speech, thing, talk, tidings, utterance, word, work.”

Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words defines “Logos” as “the expression of thought . . . (a) as embodying a conception or idea . . . (b) saying a statement.” It is “the message of the Lord, delivered with His authority and made effective by His power.” *Vine’s* continues, discussing the word *Logos* as applying to Christ: “The Personal Word,’ a title of the Son of God; this identification is substantiated by the statements of doctrine in John 1:1-18, declaring in verses 1 and 2 (1) His distinct and superfinite Personality, (2) his relation in the Godhead (*pros*, ‘with,’ not mere company, but the most intimate communion), (3) His deity; in v.3 His creative power, in v.14 His incarnation (‘became flesh,’ expressing His voluntary act; not as KJV, ‘was made’”

Nobody, reading the words of John, can or should doubt their explicit meaning. The Word was another GREAT BEING in union with “God” – who would be God the “Father.” This second being was called the “Logos” or “Word” of God. Notice that He was present AT CREATION – indeed, He was CO-CREATOR of the Universe, as nothing made was made without His participation (John 1:3).

Does this sound as if Jesus Christ had no pre-existence?

The phrase “in the beginning” is interesting. The literal, explicit, original Greek translated “in the beginning” actually was simply, “IN BEGINNING,” or could be translated, “IN A BEGINNING.” The article “the” was supplied by English translators; there is no definite article in the original Greek in this passage of Scripture.

Back to Genesis 1:1

Similarly, in Genesis 1:1 we read, “*In the beginning* God created the heavens and the earth.” In this verse, the original Hebrew simply states, *Bereshit bara*, that is, “In [a] beginning.” The article “the” is once again supplied by the translators. Moffatt renders this verse simply, “When God began to form the Universe . . .” The *Ferrar Fenton* translation has this verse, “BY PERIODS God created that which produced the Solar Systems; then that which produced the Earth.” In a footnote to this passage he states, interestingly, about the phrase “by periods,”

“Literally, ‘By Headships.’ It is curious that all translators from the Septuagint have rendered this word *bereshitii*, into the singular, ALTHOUGH IT IS PLURAL in the Hebrew. So I rendered it accurately.”

In other words, the original Hebrew says, “In beginnings,” or, “by beginnings.” Furthermore, the Word for “God” in Genesis 1:1 is *Elohim*, which literally means, “The Mighty Ones.” Says *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*, “*Elohim*, plural of *Eloah*, *gods* in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural, thus especially with the article)

of the Supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates, and sometimes as a superlative.” It is sometimes translated therefore as “angels,” “judges,” “gods,” “God.”

This word, *Elohim*, is clearly a plural form. Why? Some claim that when referring to the true God, it cannot have a “plural” meaning. Some claim the “plural” form denotes the “Trinity.” Others say the plural form merely denotes “majesty” of the divine. (Human kings, when giving an edict, often speak as “we,” instead of using the first person singular, “I”.)

However, the clear fact is that this name for God DOES imply plurality. It is a word which is “uni-plural.” It is a unitary-plural word, much like “church” or “family” in English. A “church” or “family” may be composed of two or more individuals or people -- one church or one family, may have many members in that one church or one family. Similarly we can speak in nature, of a bee hive, knowing that there may be hundreds of bees in that one hive; or one ant colony, which may have hundreds of ants belong to it. One nation may have millions of citizens, belonging to that one nation.

Even so, in like manner, the expression “ONE GOD” is a term which *can include more than one entity as a part of “God.”*

Ages ago the Jews understood this concept. In the Jewish prayer book, *Siddur Tehillat Hashem*, in the prayer for the Eve of the Sabbath, we read these words:

“Elijah opened his discourse and said: Master of the worlds,
You are One but not in the numerical sense” (p.125).

Notice those words! Yes, God is “ONE” – “but NOT IN THE NUMERICAL SENSE”! This means there is not “one God” numerically speaking, necessarily. There could be many “members” in the Godhead. But how, then, is God to be understood as being “ONE”? He is ONE in UNITY – with God there is complete and total UNITY or “oneness,” no matter how many individuals or personalities there may be in the Godhead!

What Do You Mean, “ONE”?

When Jesus prayed to the “only true Elohim,” and when Paul wrote that “there is ONE Elohim,” what did they mean? Obviously, we have seen that Yeshua claimed to be “equal” to the Father in that He was His Son. Paul wrote that Christ was the Co-Creator, the One through whom all things were created. Did they contradict themselves?

Of course not!

In Hebrew, the word for “ONE” in reference to Elohim is *echad*. We read this word in Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear O Israel: Yahweh our Elohim, Yahweh is *one*.” (Deut.6:4). The word *echad* literally means: “to unite, to join oneself together, to collect oneself,” as well as “one, the same,” and *b’echad* means “AS ONE MAN, i.e.,

TOGETHER” (Ezra 2:64), “the whole congregation *together*” (Ezra 3:9, 6:20, Eccl.11:6), and “*together unitedly*” (Isaiah 65:25; see also Judges 20:8, I Sam.11:7).

Adam and Eve were TWO INDIVIDUALS, and yet the Bible says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall BECOME ONE FLESH” (Genesis 2:24). The word for “one” here is *echad*. The man and woman, two individuals, were “ONE FLESH” – *ECHAD*. They were obviously two people, but they were UNITED TOGETHER, AS “ONE.” So the meaning of *echad*, or “one,” in Hebrew, does not mean in the numerical sense, but in the sense of BINDING TOGETHER and being UNITED, a state of harmony and unity.

Even so, when God says He is ONE, we should not jump to conclusions as to what He means by that, or as to HOW He is “One.” We must let the rest of the Scriptures SHOW us *how and in what way He is ONE*, and not listen to modern pseudo-sophisticated Gnostics who pervert the truth with their own opinions and clever speech.

As of this moment in time, we know of TWO members in the Godhead – the Father, and the One known as the “Logos” or “Word.” They, together, comprise the Supreme Beings known as the *ELOHIM*.

We read in Genesis 1:26, “And God [Elohim] said, ‘Let *Us* make MAN in *Our* image, according to *Our* likeness . . . So God [Elohim] created man in His *OWN IMAGE; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created THEM*” (Gen.1:26-27, NKJV).

Why did God say, “Let US”? Why did He speak of “OUR image” and “OUR likeness”? The plural words “us” and “our” imply a plurality of personalities in the Godhead – at least TWO. And when God created mankind in His own divine image, notice – He made TWO of them – a male and a female – one to take the lead, and one to be the follower, aid, assistant, and supporter of the one who leads.

The human husband-wife relationship is reflective of the divine relationship between the Father and the Son – the Ancient of Days and the Word or Logos.

The Relationship of the Logos with the Father

Even before the physical Universe was made, God created the angelic world. God said to Job, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding . . . To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the MORNING STARS SANG TOGETHER, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7). The time when the angels were created, then, PRECEDED the time of the creation of the earth itself!

What was the very FIRST of all God’s Creation?

Jesus, who was the Logos or Word of God (John 1:1-3), says, in the book of

Revelation, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the *Beginning* and the End” (Rev.1:8). He also declared, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the FIRST and the last” (Rev.1:18). He declared, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the BEGINNING and the End” (Rev.21:6). He said also, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the *Beginning* and the End, the First and the Last” (Rev.22:13).

What does all this mean?

Was the Logos the FIRST of all the Creation of the Father? When He was created, then, did He participate with the Father in all the Creation of God to follow?

Notice what he plainly said in Revelation 3:14:

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,
‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True
Witness, THE *BEGINNING* OF THE CREATION OF
GOD” (Rev.3:14, NKJV).

The word translated “beginning” in *all these verses* is the VERY SAME WORD TRANSLATED AS “BEGINNING” IN JOHN 1:1!

Throughout the New Testament, in 39 places, this word is translated “beginning.” It is at no time EVER translated as “beginner.” It is always used in terms of describing a beginning, not a “beginner.” It is the word *arche*, in Greek, and means “a commencement, or (concrete) chief (in various applications of ORDER, TIME, PLACE, OR RANK): *beginning*, corner, *first*, magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule” (*Strong’s Concordance*, #746).

It is the Father and His Son who accomplished the original Creation -- bound up the wind, set boundaries for the seas, established the limits of the earth. Obviously, then, the One who revealed Himself to Job, and spoke to him about the creative acts of God, was also none other than Jesus Christ/the Logos/the Word of God/the Angel of the Lord.

This PROVES that the One who was SEEN by Moses, and HEARD by all Israel at Mt. Sinai, was NOT THE FATHER! Therefore, since this Being was clearly referred to as YHVH, it had to be the One who became CHRIST! Jews themselves speak of a Higher YHVH and a Lower YHVH, thus indicating some awareness in Jewish thought of the existence of BOTH! They both acted in unison in creating the heavens and the earth, who said, “Let US make man in OUR image” (Gen.1:26-27).

The Real Meaning of "B'Reshith"

Writes Randolph Parrish in “The Fourth Jewish Sect,” concerning the ancient Nazarenes, the name of the early Christians in the first century:

“The Nazarenes were a Jewish sect of the late Second Temple period. They were the followers of Yeshua of Nazareth. They believed that a

mocked and ridiculed rabbi, who had been executed under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, was actually the promised Redeemer of Israel. They expressed great confidence in this view, because they asserted that everything which had happened to him, including his rejection, had been foretold and outlined long before in the Tenach, and that it was, therefore their very belief in the Jewish scriptures, which compelled them to recognize him as the promised Messiah.”

In fact, Parrish says, the Nazarenes found evidence that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah, or “Christ” (“Messiah” and “Christ” both mean “Anointed One”) in the very first pages of the Old Testament! He continues:

“It was clear to them that the scriptures talked of nothing else, quite literally from the very beginning. For example, the opening words of Genesis 1:1 are usually translated as ‘In the beginning . . .’ But the Hebrew word ‘reshith’ (beginning) can also have the meaning ‘firstborn son.’ And so, one could translate this passage as ‘In the firstborn son God created the heavens and the earth.’ Jerome quoted Aristo of Pella, who, according to Origen, was a Nazarene (Quaest.heb.Gen.1:1) as stating in the ‘Dialogue of Jason and Papiscos’ that the verse should be translated in this way. Iraneus also translated this as ‘The son in the beginning; then God created the heavens and the earth’ (Dem.43). Tertullian noted the same possible interpretation (Adv. Prax.5). Hilary said that ‘b’reshith’ could have three possible meanings: ‘in the beginning’; ‘in the head’; or ‘in the son.’ (Tract. Psalm 2:2). The modern French author Danielou noted the comparison between these meanings and Col.1:15-18, where Paul seems to write of the same three meanings: ‘He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him were all things created . . . And he is the head of the body . . . he is the beginning and the firstborn . . .’ This would suggest, according to Danielou, that there was perhaps an *already extant rabbinical tradition of explaining the passage in these several ways, which Paul employed*” (quoted from *The Messianic Outreach 1996*).

How interesting! When properly understood, the opening of the book of Genesis is actually a prophecy and a description of the Messiah -- the Son of God! Genesis 1:1 could be translated, “In the Son God created the heavens and the earth.” Or, if we combine two meanings of “bereshith” to show both truths, we would have: “*In the beginning, in the Son, God created the heavens and the earth,*” or, “*In the Son in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*”

This clearly suggests in a most powerful manner that the Son of God most definitely PRE-EXISTED His human incarnation and was instrumental in the very act of the creation of the Universe – just as the apostle John wrote in the first chapter of his gospel!

Colossians

Paul discusses this awesome truth in even more detail. He writes to the church at Colossae: “Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to be partakers of the

inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. *He is the IMAGE of the invisible God, the FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION*" (Col.1:13-15). Or, as the King James has it, He is the "firstborn *OF every creature*"!

Notice that Jesus -- the Word or Logos of God -- was the "firstborn over ALL creation" -- the "firstborn of *every creature*." This fact implies that He was the FIRST of God's Creation -- and He was the One God used to create all other things in heaven and earth!

The Greek word translated "firstborn" here in Colossians is *prototokos* and literally means, "firstborn, or firstbegotten." Says *Vine's Expository Dictionary*, this word is from *protos*, meaning "first," and *tiko*, which means "to beget." It therefore means in time order the first one born, and also first in superiority of rank and preeminence. In Colossians, "the clause means both that He was the 'Firstborn' BEFORE ALL CREATION AND THAT HE HIMSELF PRODUCED CREATION (the genitive case being objective, as v.16 makes clear."

Therefore Christ was "first" -- literally "the first," both in rank, and in progressive order. Thus Christ from the very beginning was the FIRST being God the Father created -- and then with Him as His "Son," the Father proceeded to create the entire Universe!

Paul goes on, speaking of the Logos, or Word, who became Jesus Christ, our Redeemer -- "For by him *all things* were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers [authorities]. ALL THINGS *were created THROUGH Him* and for Him: And He is BEFORE all things, and IN him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him all the fullness should dwell" (Col.1:16-19).

The Testimony of Hebrews

In the epistle to the Hebrews, Paul also points out this sublime truth. He writes: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, *through whom also He made the worlds*; who being the brightness of His glory, and the *express image* of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

How clear that the Logos was with the Father in the beginning. He was the instrumentality through whom God made the worlds. He was and is the brightness of the glory of the Father, and is in His "express image" or exact likeness. He has upheld the Universe by the word of His power, and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

This passage goes on, describing the Logos. Paul says, “Having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: ‘*You are My Son, Today I have BEGOTTEN you?*’ And again, ‘*I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?*’”

This was the case in the ancient primordial world. Paul then goes on:

“*But when He AGAIN brings the FIRSTBORN into the world [notice, He was already called the “Firstborn” when He was brought into the world, as a human being!], He says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship him’*” (Heb.1:4-6).

When the Logos was first begotten, and created, born of the Father, at the beginning of time, as it were, and He was then “brought into the world,” it was His destiny that all the angels of God should worship Him. And undoubtedly they have done so, from that ancient primordial time in dim antiquity.

He was, from His beginning, made -- created -- in the “image” of the Father. Thus He was a “likeness” of His Father in every respect. He was the “brightness” of the Father’s glory. Thus He was the true “Light” as John says (John 1:9).

It is interesting that the first thing God “re-created” in “Creation week,” in Genesis 1, on the first day, was one thing only. He said: “Let there be *light*” (Gen.1:3).

“Light” was the first thing created. This was a physical “type” of the original Spiritual Creation, in which also the first thing the Father created was “Light.” That light was the Logos, the true light. He Himself says of Himself, “I am the Alpha [the first letter of the alphabet, a created thing] and Omega [the last letter of the Greek alphabet], the beginning [the first object created in a series] and the end [the conclusion of the matter], the first [in time order] and the last [in time order]” (Rev.22:13).

The Father is the original Creator -- but first He created Christ, the Logos, and in Him created all else -- in Him and through Him, so that He will be both the beginning and the “end,” the first and the “last.”

The ROCK

Did Christ pre-exist His human form? The apostle Paul wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink:. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, *and that Rock was Christ*” (I Cor.10:1-4).

Christ – the Logos – was the Rock that went with the Israelites through the wilderness of Sinai, and into the Promised Land! To be that “Rock,” He had to have existed at that time!

Who is the “Rock”?

David declared, “I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is MY *ROCK* and my fortress and my deliverer; MY GOD, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold” (Psalm 18:1-2).

The LORD is the Rock, and Christ is the Rock – they are One and the Same!

Christ is the Rock – the cornerstone – “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone” (I Pet.2:7; see also Psa.118:22). He is “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense” (I Pet.2:8; see also Isaiah 8:4).

How clear it should be. The One who appeared to Moses, and spoke to the children of Israel, and was seen visibly by 74 men, including Moses, Aaron, his two sons, and seventy of the elders of Israel, was not the Father Himself, who has never been seen or heard directly by men. It had to be Another Personage. The Rock who came with Israel out of Egypt was the Pre-existent Christ, who was the LORD, the “Rock” of David.

Again, for emphasis’ sake, I repeat: The Scripture says plainly, “**No man hath seen God at any time**; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18).

No man -- no human being -- has ever seen visibly God the Father! That’s what the Word of God says! The disciple Philip once asked Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus answered him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me, He does the works” (John 14:9-10).

We can only know the Father through His messenger, His representative, His mouthpiece -- His spokesman -- the Logos, the Word, the “Angel of the LORD,” the Son of Elohim -- the One who became Yeshua -- Jesus Christ!

YAHWEH [YHWH] in the Old Testament

This doctrine that Christ had no “pre-existence” is another of those diabolical “destructive heresies,” mentioned by Peter, which leads people to be “even *denying* the Lord who bought them” (II Pet.2:1). Because of these evil teachers “the way of TRUTH will be blasphemed” (verse 2). They bring on themselves, and those who foolishly follow them, “swift destruction” (verse 1). They despise “authority,” they are “presumptuous” (verse 10), especially of the Word of God itself!

The Bible is clear that there were two Beings in the Old Testament who were known collectively as *Elohim* and “Yahweh.” It was “YAHWEH” [YHWH, the Hebrew

letters Yod, Hay, Waw, Hay, known as the “Tetragrammaton”] who became Christ. The Father was also known as “YAHWEH.” The Logos was the “lesser” of the two Beings called by the Name ‘YHWH,’ or “Yahweh.” A careful reading of the Old Testament clearly shows that there were TWO individuals who were known as ‘Yahweh’!

Notice, first of all, the account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In Genesis 18, we find that the “LORD” appeared to Abraham by a tree in Mamre, as he was sitting in the door of his tent (verse 1). Abraham looked up, and saw three men coming. One of them was the “LORD,” and He spoke to Abraham (verse 13). In verse 22, we read, “And Abraham still stood before the LORD.” They discussed whether the LORD would spare Sodom if righteous men were found there. Abraham knew that he had taken it upon himself “to speak to the LORD” Himself (verse 27). These verses clearly show that the LORD was with Abraham, on the earth, at that time.

Could this have been the Father?

The other two angels went to Sodom, and proceeded to save Lot and his daughters from the fiery destruction soon to rain down upon the city. They led them outside the city to a safe place.

Now notice what the account says: “Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, FROM THE LORD OUT OF THE HEAVENS” (Gen.18;22).

Now one LORD was with Abraham on the earth. This verse clearly says that One LORD was up in heaven at this very time. Therefore there were clearly TWO “LORDS” – TWO “YHWHs” – Two members of the Tetragrammaton – TWO Great Beings or “Mighty Ones” with the title “ELOHIM” AND “YAHWEH”!

This same truth is spelled out in the book of Psalms. David exclaimed, “The LORD said to *my Lord*, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies’ (Psalm 110:1-2). Notice – TWO PERSONAGES are here called “LORD”! One is the Father in heaven; the other is the Messiah-King, the Logos, the One who became Jesus Christ! In this verse, the first “LORD” (*Yahveh* in Hebrew) refers to the Father, and the second “Lord” (*Adonai* in Hebrew) refers to the Messiah.

Now is the Messiah Himself really One who pre-existed His human birth? Or was He merely a human being who qualified to become the Messiah? These many Scriptures seem very plain and understandable, without any twisting or distortion or trying to insist they are mere “figures of speech.” But the prophet Micah drives the point home like a railroad spike!

The prophet Micah wrote of the coming Messiah, the son of David, who was born in the little town of Bethlehem: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, WHOSE GOINGS FORTH ARE *FROM OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING*”

(Micah 5:2). The Jewish Tanakh has this passage: “And you, O Bethlehem of Ephrath, least among the clans of Judah, from you one shall come forth to rule Israel for Me – One whose ORIGIN is from of old, from ancient times.” The *New Berkeley Version* has it this way: “As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, little as you are among the thousands of Judah, from you shall He come forth to Me, who is to be ruler over Israel, His goings forth are *from of old*, FROM DAYS OF ETERNITY.”

Yes, His goings forth are from ETERNITY – from the Beginning! From “ANCIENT TIMES”! So, yes, my friends, HE DID PRE-EXIST HIS HUMAN BIRTH!

HOW PLAIN! Even a child can understand it, so long as he hasn’t been DUPED by false prophets, phony teachers, who deserve to be castrated for their diabolical work of deception and duplicity!

It is interesting to note that these false prophets try to get around all these plain Scriptures by saying that the Messiah was merely “in the mind of the Father” or the “Great Mind of God” from the beginning. But read these Scriptures again! That is NOT WHAT THEY SAY AT ALL!

Scriptures must be taken LITERALLY, unless there is an obvious reason to conclude they must be allegorical or metaphorical. God means EXACTLY WHAT HE SAYS! God is a FAMILY, and He is in the process of EXPANDING His Family!

Isaiah 9:6

The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah, the “Anointed One” of God, the “Christ.” He wrote, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty GOD, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the *increase* of His government and peace there will *be no end*” (Isa.9:6, NKJV).

This states that the government and kingdom of God will *increase forever – without end. It will never be static or stop growing and increasing in scope, power, magnitude, and glory.* This also states categorically that this “Child,” this “Son,” is the key to the whole process. He is called “Mighty God,” yet He is clearly the Messiah, born as a child of a woman! He is called “Everlasting Father,” for He is the Father to Israel.

Some have wondered how “Christ” could be called the “Father,” since the Father is the Ancient of Days in Heaven. The problem is not really so difficult to understand, however. As Jesus told Philip, He is in the Father, and the Father is in Him. Also, He will be a literal Father to many who will be born into God’s Kingdom in the future!

The Jewish Tanakh says, of the Messiah, “He has been named ‘The Mighty God is planning grace,’ ‘THE ETERNAL FATHER, a peaceable ruler.’”

The Messiah will be a Father to Israel! Notice! When Christ returns from heaven, He will marry His bride, the Church, the firstfruits of His Kingdom (Rev.19:7-9; 14:1-4). As the Husband of the Bride (the Church), He will rule all nations as a KING of kings and LORD of lords, with the Church being His “Queen” at His side. From that time, all those who enter God’s Kingdom will be, as it were, “children” of the Messiah and His Queen. He will be a “FATHER” to all those born later into the kingdom of God. Of course this does not replace God the Father, but He will be a Father UNDER God the Great Father of all.

Look at the human family, by analogy. We are made in God’s own IMAGE. We have a Family Relationship. Parents give birth to children; they grow up, and the day comes when they marry, and also beget children; they grow up and then THEY have children; on and on, for generations to come! God the Father is the FIRST generation of the Father who started it all. The next Generation is Christ, the Logos, who will also become a Father. Those who come into the God kingdom as a result of the rulership and government of Christ and the Bride will be in a sense *their* “children.”

And so on and so forth – for all eternity, as the family of God grows and expands. Eventually, God the Father will be looked upon by succeeding generations in the God Family as the Grand Father, or the Great Great Grand Father, etc.

There will be new generations added to the God Family throughout eternity! It will continue to grow and expand FOREVER! God the Father will reign over a continually increasing and growing Kingdom. *He will never lose His power. His power and family will expand throughout eternity, according to His will. But He will always be the ONE IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING, AS IT ALL EXPANDS AND GROWS UNDER HIM!*

As the apostle Paul wrote, “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power . . . Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all” (See I Corinthians 15:24, 28).

Isaiah’s Misunderstood Passages

On the other hand, there are several passages in Isaiah which certain rabbis and disbelievers in the pre-existence of Christ try to use to disprove this reality. For example, notice what Isaiah says in a few passages relating to One called “God” or the ‘LORD’:

“I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another” (Isaiah 42:8).

“Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no saviour” (Isa.43:10-11).

“I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God”
(Isa.44:6).

“You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed, there is no other Rock; I know not one” (Isa.44:8).

“I am the LORD, and there is no other” (Isa.45:18).

“And there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Saviour; there is none besides Me. Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other’ (Isa.45:22-23).

God says here that He is the “only One,” and “there is no other.” The context of all these verses shows that He is contrasting Himself with all the idols and false gods of the nations. There is no true God but the Saviour, the Redeemer, of Israel. There is no other “Being” who deserves to be called “God.” He will not share His glory with another competing “god.” There was no other “God” before Him, nor will there be another “God” after Him!

Does this prove that Christ, therefore, could not be true “God”? or the “Firstborn” of God’s creation? The question really is, of *whom* are these verses speaking?

The answer should be obvious – the One doing the speaking here is the One who interrelated with mankind – the Word of God, the Logos – the “Lesser Yahveh” – the One who spoke to Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Elijah, and others! It is the One who later became the Messiah – the “Saviour”!

He is speaking as being “ONE” with the Father – Hebrew *echad* – “oneness” of the God family. All the idols and false gods are vain and futile. There will never be any other “God” but the TRUE GOD *and His own extended Family – His own “SONS”!*

Zechariah 14 and the Coming of “YAHWEH”

Perhaps the most singular, powerful proof that Jesus Christ is the “YAHWEH” of the Old Testament is that which is found in the prophecies of Zechariah. Let’s investigate them.

After Jesus Christ finished His ministry on earth, He went to the Mount of Olives and, in the sight of His disciples, He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:12). The angels told the disciples that Jesus “WILL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER *as you saw Him go into heaven*” (verse 11). They SAW Him arise into heaven from the Mount of Olives! He will return in like manner! It is plain that when He comes, He will return TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES!

This prophecy compares explicitly with the prophecy of Zechariah! Notice!

We read in Zechariah 14:1 – “The day of YAHWEH is coming.”

Verse 3 – “Then YAHWEH will go forth and fight against those nations”

Verse 4 – “AND IN THAT DAY **HIS FEET** [YAHWEH’S feet] **WILL STAND ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES**”

Verse 5, latter part – “Thus Yahweh my Elohim will come, and **all the saints with you**” – clearly a reference to the coming of the Messiah with His saints and angels (Matt.16:27; Matt.24:30-31; Matt.25:31-32; Mark 13:26-27; Luke 21:27; I Thess.4:16-17; II Thess.1:7-9; Jude 14-15; Rev.19:11-16).

Verse 7 – “It shall be one day which is known to Yahweh.”

Verse 9 – “And Yahweh shall be King over all the earth” – clearly another reference to the One who will be KING of kings (Rev.19:16).

Verse 9 – “In that day it shall be – ‘Yahweh is One.’” One – yes – the word *echad* in Hebrew, as in “one flesh,” (Adam and Eve together), “one church,” “one family,” ONE UNITY. The word does not mean in the numerical sense, as Jews themselves know, and the Jewish prayer book shows. There are many bees, but ONE HIVE, many ants, but “ONE COLONY,” many members, but “ONE CHURCH,” many Sons, but “ONE GOD FAMILY” – as we read in Ephesians 2:14-15, the Father is He “from whom the WHOLE FAMILY in heaven and earth is NAMED.”

Verse 12 – “And this shall be the plague with which Yahweh will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem”

Verse 13 – “a great panic from Yahweh will be among them”

Verse 16 – “all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the KING, YAHWEH of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles” – as we have seen, the KING of the earth at that time will be Messiah (Rev.19:16, etc.).

Verse 17 – “the King, Yahweh of hosts”

Verse 18 – “the plague with which Yahweh strikes the nations”

Verse 20 – “HOLINESS TO YAHWEH”

Verse 21 – “holiness to YAHWEH of hosts”

Verse 21 – “no longer be a Canaanite in the house of YAHWEH of hosts.”

This chapter uses the name of Elohim in every verse THROUGHOUT THIS CHAPTER. Yet the chapter clearly refers to the Messianic King who is coming, the One

who will stand on the Mount of Olives, the One who will wage war with the nations of the earth -- the Messiah Himself!

Therefore, beyond the shadow of a doubt, beyond any question, this passage proves that the Messiah Himself is the “YAHWEH” of the Old Testament in many applications – He is the YHWH – YAHWEH – the One called the “LORD” and who revealed Himself to and spoke with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and the prophets. Therefore, in many places in the Old Testament or Tanakh, the term YHWH refers directly and plainly to the LOGOS, the One who became Christ Jesus, the “Anointed” One -- THE MESSIAH!

Any Hebrew Lexicon, or *Strong’s Concordance*, or any Hebrew interlinear Bible, or any Jewish Bible, or any Hebrew original, has the word “LORD” translated from the Hebrew YHWH – throughout Zechariah 14. These prophecies are clearly a reference to the coming Messiah – the Anointed One of Elohim – the Christ!

In every one of those verses, the original Hebrew word is “YHWH” – the Tetragrammaton. This chapter therefore demonstrates clearly and unequivocally that Jesus Christ is the Yahweh of the Old Testament who continually interacted with the patriarchs and the prophets!

This magnificent truth has been hidden from the prying eyes of countless generations of mankind. Not very many understand the TRUE nature of the Godhead. It is a mystery to millions – an enormous enigma – an inexplicable conundrum – a puzzling perplexity.

Nevertheless, during these last days, during this end-time generation, God is calling His people back to Him. He is revealing knowledge which has been lost for thousands of years. He is opening the eyes of His people to discern and understand truths that have been hidden even from angels!

Are you capable of putting the Scriptures together, here a little, and there a little (Isa.28;10), in order to ascertain the TRUTH? Do you realize that God Himself HID this incredible knowledge from BILLIONS of people, and has only revealed it to a precious few at this time?

The truth is, Almighty Yahweh is in the process of REPRODUCING HIMSELF – of EXPANDING His divine heavenly FAMILY!

Millions of Christians, and perhaps Jews, believe that those who attain to the resurrection from the dead will become “angels.” But they haven’t even begun to comprehend the immensity and awesomeness of our *divine destiny and potential!*

The deceptive teachings of men, are responsible for the common belief in TWO EXTREMES -- the false doctrine of the Trinity, which makes Christ “co-equal” with the Father, and limits the Godhead – and the false doctrine which relegates Christ's status to

being that of a mere human being, supernaturally conceived, but who had no pre-existence at all. Both of these extreme views are nothing more than erroneous superstitions and are utter frauds!

The truth, as is often the case, lies right in the MIDDLE of these two extreme positions! The Anthony Buzzard view of Christ, and that of many others, that He was simply a man who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and had no pre-existence, is tantamount to denying the Saviour, a doctrine of devils (accusers), causing loss of salvation. As Peter prophesied, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will SECRETLY bring in destructive heresies, EVEN DENYING THE LORD who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction” (II Pet.2:1, KJV).

Such a doctrine leads to many difficulties, including how the death of one mere man could possibly atone for the sins of multiple BILLIONS of humans? Only a life worth the lives of billions could balance the scales and make such an atonement.

The Value of One Life

IF as some say Christ had no pre-existence, and He was just a human being born of the virgin Mary, divinely conceived, and was NOT true “God,” in any sense of the word – then of what value is His death? How many of us would His death atone for? If He was merely ONE human being, then at best His death would atone for the sins of ONE OTHER human being!

This would mean it seems to me that if He were NOT God, in any way, shape or form, then He was just HUMAN – and therefore His life would be worth only one other human life!

So, pray tell, why would HIS life be valuable enough so that He could “save to the uttermost” those who are saved through Him? How could the price of His one life pay for the sins of any more than ONE other person? If He were just one man, how could that one death qualify to redeem BILLIONS OF SINNERS? It just does not “compute.” It does not “add up.”

But because He was the CREATOR, the Logos, the Pre-existent One who created all things together with the Father, THEREFORE HIS DEATH QUALIFIED TO SAVE ALL MANKIND! Now, my friends, that does “add up”! That does “compute.”

Therefore, the apostle Paul writes jubilantly and joyously, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb.7:25). His life was worth more than all our lives put together. Therefore His sacrifice of His life was greater in value than all human lives put together!

The Elohim Family Revealed

The Trinitarian view of Elohim, also, has no validity. It stems from ancient paganism, and was the heart of the pagan Mysteries of Babylon and Egypt. The Egyptians had Isis, Osiris, and Horus; the Babyonians had Astarte (Easter), Baal, and Gilgamesh. The “Trinity” is utterly pagan, and has no basis in the Scriptures. Nowhere does either the Old or New Testaments show or teach that God is a “Trinity” composed of three Persons. The Scriptures do not teach that the Holy Spirit is a “Person” at all, but rather the POWER of God (Luke 1:35), His Spirit which fills the Universe (Psalm 139).

On the other hand, those who teach that Christ existed forever, with the Father, are teaching what could be called “a DUAL Godhead.” They teach that Christ and the Father are EQUAL in every respect -- co-equal, co-eternal. But the Scriptures simply do not teach this concept! It is an assumption closely related to the Trinitarian view, slightly modified of course. But “two Gods” throughout all eternity seems no better than “three Gods” throughout eternity.

Jesus Himself declared clearly, “My Father is GREATER Than I” (JOHN 14:28). But if they were both Elohim *AND* co-equal, for all eternity, then how could He say the Father was ‘greater’ than He was? Since He admits the Father is greater, then He is also admitting that He Himself is lesser, or inferior. For a comparison, you might say that the Father is to Christ as the sun is to the moon, or as gold is to silver.

If you read God's Word closely, you see that Christ is SUBORDINATE to the Father, clearly. The Father is #1, if I may put it that way. Christ, who was created as His Companion, in the very beginning, is #2. The Father is SUPREME and always will be; He is also “the One True Elohim,” in the ultimate sense, as all others come from/flow from HIM, as He chooses and directs.

The Father is the Supreme HEAD of the God Family, and always will be. Jesus repeatedly said the Father “sent” Him, and one who sends another is greater than the one sent. As Jesus Himself said, “Most assuredly I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him” (John 13:16).

This truth totally destroys the “Trinity” doctrines which states they are equal in every respect – co-equal and co-eternal.

The “Trinity” Error Limits God

Some say that my teaching is very similar to the Trinity view, since I have written that “Christ is VERY GOD.” However, there are major differences between the truth of God, revealed in Scripture, and the “Trinity” view of God! The Trinity concept *limits* God and the God-head to “three Persons.” Is God limited? The very word *Elohim* in Genesis 1:1, means “The MIGHTY ONES,” a word, like “family” or “church.” God said, “Let us make man IN OUR image” (Gen.1:26). We human beings are now in His physical likeness; someday, in the resurrection, we will be in His *spiritual* likeness! --

that is, real *sons* of Almighty GOD, like Him in every respect, but completely subject to His overall government and authority. He will be the greatest, but we will be His children, ruling the Universe – or many Universes – under Him and with Him, carrying out His will and His Plan for all eternity, in awesome glory, splendor and majesty.

Genesis says that God made us human beings in His own image and likeness. There is a great truth hidden in this concept. Men and women “reproduce” after their own image and likeness, through genetic sexual reproduction. Can we limit God? Can we tell the Father that He cannot reproduce new God beings in His own GOD Family? He will always be the HEAD, and no one is really co-equal or co-eternal with Him. We will be younger God beings, descended from Him and Christ (The Logos). The first ones to be born into this Universe-ruling Family will be those who are the “first-fruits” – the Church of God, spiritual “Israel.” The vast majority will be born into this divine Kingdom at the end of the Millennium, or thousand year reign of Christ (Rev.20:9). The Family will continue to grow and increase and multiply *forever throughout eternity*.

Today is merely the beginning. We are in effect on the “ground floor.” It boggles the human mind to contemplate it. “Infinity” and “eternity” are terms we cannot fully grasp. But the truth is, we are not all doomed to die, one day. Nor is the sun and earth doomed to perish. *Creation will go on forever*, for those who ENTER God’s Kingdom!

The True ONENESS of God

We will all be ONE as Christ and the Father are, together “One.” They are one family, one in thinking and planning and acting, one in substance and essence -- ONE IN NATURE -- TOTALLY UNIFIED AND COMPLETE IN EACH OTHER -- they are “one Spirit” in a sense in which a husband and wife are “one flesh,” a mystery to us, but a deep truth of God which transcends human understanding.

Jesus spoke of this sublime truth. He prayed to the Father, of us, “That they all may BE ONE; as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be ONE in Us. . . . And the glory which You gave Me I have given them; that they may BE ONE JUST AS WE ARE ONE: I in them, and You in me; that they may be MADE PERFECT IN ONE” (John 17:21-23).

This is speaking of a very intimate, close relationship -- something we can scarcely comprehend or understand. But human marriage is a TYPE of the divine relationship. The human FAMILY is also a TYPE of the God Family.

Yes, Jesus Christ IS “Elohim,” and we will be His younger brothers (Rom.8:17), co-heirs with Him of the KINGDOM OF YAHWEH! To put it another way, the “Kingdom of Yahweh,” the true gospel which we preach, when we really understand it, is that ELOHIM IS A KINGDOM. Human kingdoms are merely a TYPE of the supreme, divine GOD KINGDOM. Human kingdoms are filled with and composed of human beings. The GOD KINGDOM WILL BE FILLED WITH DIVINE SONS OF GOD -- HIS EXPANDED, SUPER-FAMILY of SONS WHO ARE JUST LIKE HIM, but

subordinate, under His everlasting authority, ONE with Him in plan, thought, motivation, mind, and deed, just as He and Christ are ONE!

Perhaps the orderliness and togetherness, in the animal world, of an ant colony, or a bee hive, gives us a faint illustration of the PERFECT UNITY which ALL MEMBERS OF THE GOD FAMILY will have in the GOD KINGDOM!

This is an astonishing, incredible truth which God has revealed through His servants, the apostles and prophets, and His Word. Very few, today, understand it.

Nevertheless, the Father is greater than the Son, and the original “one True God,” the Father, is greater than the Word or Logos of God. Paul makes this difference in rank and authority in the Kingdom of God very plain. He wrote to the Corinthians, “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father” (I Cor.15:24).

Paul goes on, in verse 28, “Now when all things are made subject to Him, *then the Son Himself* will also be SUBJECT to him who put all things under him, that GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL” (I Cor.15:28).

Read that last phrase very carefully: *“that God may BE ALL in ALL.”* That is not just rhetorical speech. In it exists a deep, fundamental truth. God means what He says. In the Kingdom of God, GOD WILL BE *IN US ALL* -- AND WE WILL BE *IN HIM!* God will literally be *ALL IN ALL!*

Can we really grasp the overwhelming significance of this mind-blowing, brain-boggling, fantastic truth of God? The Father is the PRIMARY God, the Origin of all, and Christ, or the Word or Logos, is the SECOND member of the Godhead. Those BORN of God in the first resurrection at Christ’s coming will also become God, as the Bride of Christ – the THIRD “member” of the Godhead!

Does this not blow our minds? In the strict and absolute sense, as the apostle Paul wrote, there is “ONE GOD and one mediator, the man Christ Jesus” (I Tim.2:5). This, however, does not mean that Christ is not also “God,” as the SON of God, or that we, also, won’t be divine members of the GOD-FAMILY! But it does show the relationship we will forever have with each other!

The Incredible Truth

How plain! How clear! How wonderful! The truth about the origin of Christ, the Logos, the Word of God, is indeed incredible. With the help of the Logos, the Father “made the worlds” (Heb.1:2). The Logos is the “image of the invisible God,” and “by Him [the Logos] were all things created,” and “he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Col.1:15-17).

Thus they were “partners” in the creation as we know and see it, today – just as Genesis 1 says, “Let US make man in OUR image,” etc. They did it together! The Father was overall supervisor and supreme Builder/Creator; the Logos was His Superintendent of Construction. Or, to put it another way, the Father was the Builder and Christ was the Contractor. They worked closely together. But the Father was always in charge and taught the Logos everything, while He was at His side, learning (Prov.8:22-23, 30).

My Father taught me a lot about the building business; he built houses in the Seattle area, and I worked for him as a teenager and youth, learning how to build houses, lay foundations, nail studs for walls, flooring, roofs, braces, hang doors, and so forth. He taught me, and I learned “by doing.” So it was with the Father and the Logos.

Therefore, the Logos, who became the Messiah – the Christ, our Saviour -- is not the original “God,” that title belongs to God the Father. Rather, He is the “Son” of God – by divine decree and appointment. And, surprise of all surprises, He is the “firstborn among MANY BRETHREN” (Rom.8:29)!

The truth is that God is ONE – true Hebrew Monotheism -- but that ONE is a fully united FAMILY, which began with God the Father, or Ancient of Days, and then included the Word or Logos, the two of them becoming “Elohim,” the “Mighty Ones.” The Family will include ALL those born of God at the resurrection as His literal SONS, who, along with Christ, will “inherit ALL THINGS” (Heb.2:7-13; Rom.8:14-17, 19-21).

As Paul the apostle wrote, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: And if children, then heirs -- HEIRS OF GOD and JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we also may be GLORIFIED TOGETHER. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the *revealing of the SONS OF GOD*” (Rom.8:16-19).

Do you comprehend that awesome reality? That is to say, there are OTHERS whom God the Father is bringing into His royal and divine Universe-ruling FAMILY as “heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom.8:17). Thus God is “bringing *many* sons unto glory” (Heb.2:10) – that is, He is now in the process of EXPANDING HIS DIVINE FAMILY!

Will you become one of His divine Sons and rule with Him for all eternity?