

YAHWEH OF NAZARETH: THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

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DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF PAIN MEDICINE

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Yahweh of Nazareth: The Name Above All Names

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ISBN: 978-0-615-99411-6

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Cover and book design by AEB Graphics, Denver, CO.

Edited by Marshall Mitchell and Terri Michel

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1-303-818-4731

First Printing 2014

Printed in the United States of America

“But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.” (Matthew 23:8 NKJV)

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.” (John 14:25, NKJV)

“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.” (John 16:12 NASB)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26 NKJV)

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13 NKJV)

*“All your children shall be taught by the LORD [**Yah-weh**], and great shall be the peace of your children.” (Isaiah 54:13 NKJV)*

*The man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favor from the LORD [**Yahweh**]. (Proverbs 18:22 NLT)*

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD [**Yahweh**] will be greatly praised. (Proverbs 31:30 NLT)*

DEDICATION

To My Rabbi, the Christ, who sent the Helper, Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth to teach me, that my children and the children of Israel might have peace.

To my wife Annette, whose love for me is second only to her love for God.

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INTRODUCTION

This book deals with the Bible. Whether you consider the Bible a Jewish book or a Christian book isn't the issue. God used men and women to communicate His plans and His will to His people. The Lord GOD of Israel even goes so far as to say that if He has a secret to tell, He tells it to His servants the prophets first. (Amos 3:7)

Prophets generally do two things, *foretell*, and *forth-tell*. Prophets foretell, which means they predict future events from the LORD God's perspective. The LORD, God of Israel, spoke through many of His prophets predicting that Israel would go into captivity in foreign countries. His predictions through His prophets came true. For example, the Southern Kingdom of Judea went into captivity in Babylon.

Prophets also forth-tell. This means they speak what God has spoken. The typical format of "Thus saith the LORD..." uses the old English vernacular such as found in the King James Version of the Holy Bible. Reading from a more recent translation it might say, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says...." Another way to describe this is to say they speak *for* God. God tells them something and they speak it out. Another illustration of forth telling is a prophet repeats what the LORD God has told an earlier prophet. Different translators and translations express these words differently, but the concepts are the same.

All scripture quoted in this book is from <http://www.blueletterbible.org>,¹, except as noted. What they have accomplished by the leading of Holy Spirit is no less amazing than the first moveable type. Johannes Gutenberg revolutionized the world with his printing press. The scholars at Blue Letter Bible have done a great service for all, regardless of whether one has attended seminary or Bible College.

Frequently, I have added brackets to Scriptures to ease reading, and to pull back the veil of the name of God. In essence, “LORD” is “[**Yahweh**].” A more-detailed explanation of how Yahweh became “LORD” in the Bible is explained later in this book.

Here are my “marching orders” from the LORD, Commander of Hosts:

- Tell them that “I AM” the God of Israel
- Tell them about the “work of My hands”
- Give glory to My name

I invite you to join me as we revisit a portion of my personal journey in rediscovering Yahweh of Nazareth, the greatest Man who ever lived, the Man with the name above all names.

“The LORD [Yahweh] descended in the cloud and stood there with [Moses] as he called upon the name of the LORD [Yahweh]. Then the LORD [Yahweh] passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD [Yahweh], the LORD [Yahweh] God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

He said, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession.” (Exodus 34:5-9 NASB)

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

The Apostle Paul of the tribe of Benjamin wrote much of what we call the New Testament. There are 27 books or epistles in the New Testament.

Paul was the author of 13 of those works. The Book of Acts, also known as the Acts of the Apostles is primarily about Paul and his traveling companions. Paul is directly responsible for almost one-half of the New Testament.

Paul wrote what is known as the “Letter to the Philippians” while he was in prison for his teachings about the Jewish Messiah. Philippi was a city in northern Turkey. He sent this letter to thank them for supporting him and to encourage them in their faith in the Jewish Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. The residents of Philippi were not Jews by birth but rather Gentiles. They apparently received the Apostle Paul eagerly and continued to support his efforts in spreading the Good News of salvation through belief in the Messiah of Israel. Paul’s resume, his curriculum vitae, is impressive, even by today’s standards. (Philippians 3:1-6) In this letter to the Philippians Paul writes without hesitation that the name of Jesus is above (greater) than every other name. Paul had spent his life worshipping “The LORD God Almighty” or in transliterated from Hebrew, “Yahweh El Shaddai.” Did Paul mean that the name of Jesus was greater than Yahweh El Shaddai?

This book is a journey to search out how Paul arrived at that point.

I remember when I was young in my faith and understanding of this Jewish Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Although I was born to a devout Roman Catholic family, I never developed a personal faith and relationship with Jesus. Many Catholics don't and I was one of them. I prayed many prayers to God and most of them I don't remember. I do remember praying at one time, "Teach me what Paul knew." I am sure Holy Spirit prompted me to ask Father for that revelatory gift of knowledge. I am also sure that I had no idea of what I was asking for. Father God heard that prayer and graciously granted it. That happened over seventeen years ago, and I have been "unwrapping" that gift ever since.

Part of what I know about Paul I have by "Divine revelation." In other words, "God told me." I know that not everyone is comfortable with that concept. I know there was a time when I was not comfortable with it either.

Honestly, there are times when I am still not comfortable with what God tells me, which is a good thing. It is good for me as a writer and good for you as the reader.

Holy Spirit explained to me "Paul had the mantle of Moses."

Moses was of the tribe of Levi by birth. The Levites were given the gift and the responsibility of ministering to God. They ministered to God and God then sent them to minister to His people. They were priests, teachers, musicians, song-

writers, poets, prophets, artisans, and butchers (meat cutters). Mostly they had the privilege of being in the presence of God. Eleven of the tribes were not given that honor. The destiny of the eleven was that they too, were to be priests before God. In fact, Israel's destiny is to be a kingdom of priests. (See Exodus 19:6). God called Israel a holy nation. Holy means they were to be in the world but not part of it. They were to be "set apart." That is the operative and true meaning of the word "holy." Holy means set apart for God's pleasure.

Moses was to take the words of God and teach them to the Hebrews. God actually tells Moses that He is the God of the Hebrews. God also tells Moses He is the God of the Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Much later, God tells the prophet Jeremiah that He is also the "God of all flesh."

In simple terms, that means He is the God of all humankind. Paul is sent to teach the Gentiles about the God of the Hebrews, the God of the Patriarchs, and the God of all humankind. Levites teach, and Paul is a good picture of a non-Levite who fulfills the prophetic destiny of Israel to be a "Kingdom of Priests." Recall, Paul is of the tribe of Benjamin. This is what the Spirit of the LORD meant when He told me, "Paul had the mantle of Moses." Moses taught Hebrews and Paul taught Gentiles.

I do not intend to write a commentary on the entire Epistle to the Philippians. Paul makes one intriguing statement that is the cornerstone of this book. I personally believe it might

be one of the most important and overlooked revelations in the entire Bible. I know that Paul would agree and so would his predecessor, the prophet Isaiah. While we're at it, Moses would agree as well. These three witnesses of the LORD [Jehovah or Yahweh] make a three-fold cord of revelation with which it is extremely difficult to argue.

Let's read the statement from Paul that ought to be a source of great introspection and even greater controversy:

*5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. 8 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. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him **the name which is above every name**, 10 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, 11 and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [Philippians 2:5-11 NKJV]*

Most Christian scholars believe that Paul's greatest work was his epistle to the Roman church. It is often referred to

as his “magnum opus.” My pseudo-scholarly opinion is that, properly understood, Chapter 2 of Paul’s letter to the church in Philippi could be his greatest work. I could easily call this epistle to the Philippians “The Gospel of Paul.” The apostle John is often referred to as the theologian of the gospel writers. I believe Paul picked up where John left off and took that revelation to the Gentile world.

THE NAME OF GOD

I first came to faith in Jesus Christ in 1995 at a Promise Keeper's conference. I was a non-practicing Roman Catholic at the time. A friend invited me and I couldn't think of a reason not to go. All I knew was that Promise Keeper's was a "Protestant thing." On the first night on the conference, I responded to what I now know was an "altar call." My life has never been the same... Praise the LORD!

I recently received an email from a man who is a contemporary scholar and theologian. He has been in ministry for almost fifty years.

This email referenced a verse in Psalm 45. Verse 17 states that *"I will cause Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the peoples will give You thanks forever and ever."* (NASB)

Psalm 45, was written by the "sons of Korah." Unless you read an American Standard Version (ASV) of the Bible, it would be easy to miss that the God of the Old Testament even had a name. If you read a King James Version (KJV), you might get the idea that the God of Israel had a name and His name is "Jehovah." The reason I say, "might," is that the name only appears clearly four times. If you read any other major translation, unless you are a very careful reader of footnotes, you could easily end up with the understanding that the God of Israel has a name and it is "LORD." You might think it to be "Lord." If you read the ASV you would

not be able to miss the name of the God of Israel as it appears an astonishing 6888* times in that translation. (See author's note at the end of *The Name of God, Revisited*.) By the way, the ASV fell by the wayside in the late 1950s but was eventually revived as the New American Standard Bible (NASB) among others. Like my favorite translation, the New King James Version (NKJV), the NASB fails to include the name of God even one time in the text.

When I was “young in the faith,” I remember hearing the expression “from Genesis to maps.” It is a cute expression. Why would one stop reading at the end of the Book of Revelation if you could read all the way through to the maps? I didn't. Doesn't everyone? The problem with that expression is that I am a medical doctor by training. I want to know why one wouldn't begin reading with the first page. I read from an “adult version” on the Bible. I read a large print version that is published by Thomas Nelson. My version starts with a “presentation” page. Mine also has a “church record” page, a “Holy Matrimony” page, a “husband's family tree” page, a “wife's family tree” page, an “our children” page, an “our grandchildren” page, and a “record of deaths” page. Next, it has a “title” page, for lack of a better term. Next, is the table of contents, and then the preface. (It is not my intent to mock the publisher in any way.)

As a physician, anesthesiologist, and specialist in pain medicine and pain management, I learned to read from “cover to cover.” The first motto I learned as a medical doctor was “*primum no nocere*,” roughly translated as “first, do

no harm.” My primary teacher in medicine was fear and, if I didn’t read from “cover to cover,” I might cause harm.

I must admit that I had been reading the Bible for a number of years, like maybe ten, when Holy Spirit “got” my attention one day and asked me the difference between “LORD” and “Lord.” He graciously directed me to the preface of my Bible, which I had previously read. Reading and understanding are not always the same. There I re-learned that God has a name and out of deference to the Jewish community, it usually isn’t translated. The word “LORD” or “Lord” is usually substituted.

So, let me ask you a question. How can Paul say there is a “name above all names” unless one knows what the options are? Paul said that Jesus is the name above all names in his Epistle to the Philippians. (Philippians 2:9-11) What were the other names on Paul’s list and how did this “ultra orthodox” rabbi and Pharisee decide that Jesus was the name above all the others?

As an aside, let me make a couple of observations. I spent about an hour one day with a Hasidic rabbi friend of mine. If I asked him the question, “What is the name above all names?” He would answer, “HaShem.” He might say, “Adonai.” Jews usually don’t pronounce the name of God out of respect. The story is more complicated than that but suffice it to say they use two expressions. ‘HaShem’ means “The Name.” “Adonai” means “My lord.”

A pastor friend of mine has an accountant who worships at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. I suspect if I asked the accountant what the "name above all names" is he would say, "Jehovah." Not to offend anyone, but I believe the name of God from the Hebrew is best translated as "Yahweh." You could twist my arm and I might admit that it could be "Yahveh." In the Hebrew language, a V can be pronounced as a W when it is transliterated.

It should be obvious that when the question is asked (1) it matters who you ask, (2) it matters what translation of the Bible they read, (3) it matters if you read the preface or not, and (4) their faith matters. Of the three "monotheistic" faiths, those who believe in "One God," a Muslim will not answer Jehovah, Yahweh, or Jesus Christ. So, the debate about the name above all names could center on whether you would take a Jewish position or a "New Testament Christian" perspective.

By the way, in Psalm 45 the name of the God of Israel doesn't even appear! How can we remember God's name when it doesn't appear in a Psalm that admonishes us to remember His name? Interestingly, one of the commands to the Hebrews from their God was "to remember."

What if we could ask the prophet Isaiah? *"Truly, You are God, who hide yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior!"* (Isaiah 45:15 NKJV)

What if we could ask Saint Jerome? This man of God is responsible for translating the Hebrew and Greek scriptures into Latin. Jerome might say "Domini" or "Dominus."

Do you think there might be a different answer if we limited the question to the Old Testament? What if we asked based on the New Testament only? What if you could answer out of both Old and New? If you were a Christian, how would you answer the question reading both the Old and the New Testaments?

Why am I even asking this question? Why do I expect you to care? Do you? What name did the psalmist “remember”? What name do you “remember” when you read the Old Testament?

Let me be clear about one thing that the minister of the Gospel who sent the email referenced earlier clearly knows. I find it fascinating that as I am writing this chapter about the name of God, I receive an email from a man of God calling us to remember the Name of God! When the Spirit of the Living God is speaking, those who have “ears to hear” are hearing. It doesn’t matter where they live, what translation they use, or in which denomination or non-denomination they worship. It doesn’t matter if they are in a Saturday “congregation” or a Sunday “church.” Those who have “ears to hear,” do.

When God speaks, things happen. Things are created and maybe even “re-created.” God told Moses of His name, *“This is My name forever and it is My memorial to all generations.”* (Exodus 3:15) St. Jerome said, loosely, “from generation to generation.” I like St. Jerome’s perspective.

Since God is speaking, maybe the generations that are

represented today might want to listen. Those with ears to hear will soon be teaching, speaking, and writing what they have heard.

Jesus said the Father would send the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, and He would Teach. (John 15:26, John 16:13, 1 John 2:27) The teachers will need to teach but they will need to teach what the Teacher is teaching. The Father will “see to it.”

Lest you become offended by the concept of Father and Son, it is not Christian but Hebraic. Genesis 49:24 in the Hebrew, is an excellent starting place. Check out the root words.

GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF CONFUSION, BUT...

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.” (Proverbs 25:2 NKJV)

As we read Paul’s letters to the church in Corinth, it would appear as though the Apostle had his hands full. The Corinthians appear to be zealous for their newfound God, but they have some issues. Their services appear to have an element of confusion in them for several reasons. Paul sends them two (or maybe more) letters to help them sort out their challenges. Paul writes, *“for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”* (1 Corinthians 14:33 NASB)

As we begin to dig deeper into the name of God, it would appear to be a confusing task. When I am confronted with something that I believe is confusing, I am eager to blame Satan. Since he is always eager to blame us, why not spread around the blame?

One day I was blaming Satan for the difficulty I was encountering in searching out the name of God and Holy Spirit said, “I wouldn’t be so eager to give him all the credit.”

What did He mean?

What follows is part of the journey He took me on: *“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”* (Proverbs 25:2 NKJV)

Holy Spirit then reminded me:

*And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us **kings** and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'*" (Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV)

It would appear that it is our glory and honor as well to "search out a matter."

Holy Spirit also reminded me, "***For I, the LORD [Yahweh], do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.***" (Malachi 3:6 NASB)

We have a new covenant today, but in the process of moving from "old to new" God did not change.

Since Holy Spirit was sent to teach, He does.

*"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD [Yahweh], "plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. **You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.** I will be found by you," declares the LORD*

[Yahweh], “and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,” declares the LORD [Yahweh], “and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14 NASB)

Since the Lord God established criteria by which He would reward Israel for seeking Him and searching for Him, i.e., with all your heart, then those same criteria must apply to the Church as well. If He changed the criteria between Old and New Testament by which He might be found, then He would have changed. **The new covenant is a better covenant but with the same God.** If He changed on the Israelites, how do we know that He wouldn't change on us? He didn't and He won't.

Here was Holy Spirit's point: Satan has not confused the issue of the identity of God. We must search it out. This issue is at the core of the identity of the Messiah. **We, the Church, must search out God's identity, as Israel was required to do in the first century.**

In the last chapter, I mentioned several different translations of the Bible. One translation, the American Standard Version (ASV), reads very much like a King James Version (KJV). Both are written in an “old English” style that is cumbersome to read today. I once heard the King James Version referred to as “Good News for 17th century man.”

Our school systems no longer teach Elizabethan English. It is an excellent translation, if you understand the language. The KJV translators followed the custom of translating the name of God as “LORD.” The ASV is very similar with one striking difference; every place the name of God appears written in the original Hebrew text, the translators of the ASV translated the name of God as “Jehovah.”

According to the translators of the ASV, the name of God, translated as “Jehovah,” appears an astonishing 6888* times. (Courtesy of <http://www.blueletterbible.org>.¹ See author’s note at the end of *The Name of God, Revisited* for an explanation of the *asterisk* above).

Another popular English translation today is the Amplified Bible. This is another excellent and commendable contemporary text. I was reading it some time back when Holy Spirit directed me to a footnote. I “happened” to be in Genesis 18. The story is about Abraham and Sarah. Three “men” appear to Abraham and enter into a conversation that goes in the direction of Sarah’s infertility. Sarah overhears the LORD speaking to Abraham, laughs to herself, and the LORD directs a question to Abraham. “Is anything too hard or wonderful for the LORD?” The footnote states, “The word “Lord” as applied to God Himself is obviously **the most important word in the Bible**, for it appears more often than any other important word—by actual count more than 5000 times . . .”²

Let me ask an obvious question. How can the name of God as translated “Jehovah” be less important than the word “Lord?” On its “best day,” the word “Lord” is a title. It cannot be God’s name. Let me remind you, my preference as to the name of God is “Yahweh.” The discussion, at this point, is not whether “Jehovah” is correct as opposed to “Yahweh.” **Both are proper names and proper names always take precedence to titles.** In Exodus 3:15, the LORD [Yahweh] says He has a memorial name not a memorial title.

If we return to the ASV and search out the word “Lord,” we will find something very interesting. The word “Lord” appears in the ASV 1,378 times. A little math leads to the following. “Lord” appears 642 times in the New Testament and 736 times in the Old Testament. So, how can the word “Lord” appear over 5,000 times in the Bible according to the translators of the Amplified Bible?

Do you see why I would like to blame Satan for the “confusion”? However, **God is not the author of confusion; He just wants us to search out this matter.**

The “source document” for the apparent confusion happens to be the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, the “Septuagint.” This text was allegedly translated by 70 Rabbi’s in Alexandria, Egypt between the years 300 and 200 B.C. Hebrew was no longer spoken as the language of the day and the need had arisen for a “better translation.” What we need is a simple discussion of the matter. Scholars have written excellent texts evaluating the LXX or the Septuagint.

We just need a very basic story. A rabbi friend of mine made the statement, “Never criticize a Jew until you have walked a mile in his Jewish moccasins.”

In the Book of Ezekiel, there is a fascinating story involving the name of God:

“Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them.

*“When they came to the nations where they went, **they profaned My holy name**, because it was said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD [Yahweh]; yet they have come out of His land.’ But **I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.***

*“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but **for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst.** Then the nations will know that I am the LORD [Yahweh],” declares the Lord GOD, “when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.”’” (Ezekiel 36:19-23 NASB)*

Let us add to this discussion from the Ten Commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD [Yahweh] your God in vain, for the LORD [Yahweh] will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.” (Exodus 20:7 NASB)

It is clear if we read the entire Bible, Israel defiled the name of Yahweh by their sin and not by mispronouncing the name. Since I’ve never walked a mile in Jewish moc-casins, I’m not going to fault them for choosing to translate the name of their God, Yahweh as LORD. We do however need to see the “search” for what it is. While it is not Satan’s “fault,” neither is it the “fault” of the Jews. We are “kings and priests to our God” and we have the blessing of searching out a matter.

What we are left with is the following list of possibilities for the name of God: the LORD, the Lord, Jehovah, Yahweh, or Yahveh. Paul spent his entire life before his Damascus road adventure worshipping either “the LORD” or Yahweh. How did the Apostle Paul arrive at the conclusion that Jesus was the name above “the LORD” or Yahweh?

These “names” were clearly on his list of possible candidates. The debate between “Yahweh” and “Yahveh” is not really a debate as far as we are concerned in *this* book. I’m

choosing to end the discussion by using only “Yahweh” for the remainder of *this* book.

What I’ve attempted to do is give a brief and simple outline of the search. It isn’t meant to be exhaustive by any means. This discussion isn’t meant to be a rigorous, academic exercise. We are addressing a question of enormous importance: the name of our God.

I want us to consider the words of a contemporary scholar, John R. Kohlenberger III. Mr. Kohlenberger has authored what we could call a standard seminary reference text. I purchased it when I was thinking about attending seminary full-time. After two classes, I decided to “keep my day job.” The title of this excellent work is *The Interlinear NIV Hebrew-English Old Testament (NIVIHEOT)*. In the Introduction, there is a scholarly section dealing with “word choices and word order.” I would like to quote Mr. Kohlenberger and then comment on his remarks:

“A fourth type of exception involves the name of God. The proper name of God (יהוה) is translated “LORD” in the NIV and most other English versions. The NIVIHEOT consistently renders this name as “Yahweh.” This is the spelling and pronunciation generally acknowledged by Bible scholars. Further, according to scripture, this is God’s special name and it has no direct connection with the idea of lordship. Thus, the use of the

name Yahweh is a major—and I think, meaningful—exception to the NIV.³”

Let me reiterate what I believe Mr. Kohlenberger is saying. First, the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible has made a decision to translate the name of God as “LORD.” The NIV translation is being “paired” with the Hebrew text being translated by Mr. Kohlenberger. He has chosen, and I believe very correctly, to use the name of God. Every place in the Hebrew text where the name of God appears as “Yahweh,” Kohlenberger chooses to use the name instead of a title. Let me be clear, I am not attempting to “put words in his mouth.”

Let me quote a verse from Moses and ask a question: *“You shall **not add to the word** which I am commanding you, **nor take away from it**, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD [Yahweh] your God which I command you.”* (Deuteronomy 4:2 NASB) Since the name of God is clearly written in the Hebrew Scripture, how can a translator translate the name of God to “LORD” or “Lord” and not violate the word of Yahweh our God “not to add to” or “take” away from His word?

Mr. Kohlenberger should receive a Nobel Prize for his scholarship. The committee might add a new category called “Honesty or Courage in Scholarship.”

Do you think it is the same to “Love the LORD your God” as it is to “Love Yahweh your God?”

Let me further “muddy the water.” As I have studied the forwards and prefaces of several Bibles, I have been surprised at what I have discovered.

Here is a quotation from the preface of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. It was written by Dr. Bruce Metzger, who I am confident is dancing before the throne of God. Let me be clear that in my criticism of the text of the preface I am not being judgmental. There is a difference.

“A major departure from the practice of the American Standard Version is the rendering of the Divine Name, the “Tetragrammaton.” The American Standard Version used the term “Jehovah”; the King James Version had employed this in four places, but everywhere else, except in three cases where it was employed as part of a proper name, used the English word Lord (or in certain cases God) printed in capitals. The present revision returns to the procedure of the King James Version, which follows the precedent of the ancient Greek and Latin translators and the long established practice in the reading of the Hebrew scriptures in the synagogue. While it is almost if not quite certain that the Name was originally pronounced “Yahweh,” this pronunciation was not indicated when the Masoretes added vowel signs to the consonantal Hebrew text. To the four consonants

*YHWH of the Name, which had come to be regarded as too sacred to be pronounced, they attached vowel signs indicating that in its place should be read the Hebrew word Adonai meaning “Lord” (or Elohim meaning “God”). The ancient Greek translators substituted the word Kyrios (Lord) for the Name. The Vulgate likewise used the Latin word, Dominus. The form “Jehovah” is of late medieval origin; it is a combination of the consonants of the Divine Name and the vowels attached to it by the Masoretes but belonging to an entirely different word. The sound of Y is represented by J and the sound of W by V, as in Latin. For two reasons the Committee has returned to the more familiar usage of the King James Version: (1) the word “Jehovah” does not accurately represent any form of the Name ever used in Hebrew; and (2) **the use of any proper name for the one and only God, as though there were other gods from whom He had to be distinguished, was discontinued in Judaism before the Christian era and is entirely inappropriate for the universal faith of the Christian Church.**^{4”} (emphasis is authors)*

Dr. Metzger was involved with the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible as well. There is a nearly identical

statement made in regards to the name of God in the preface of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Let me make an observation from Exodus 3:15 in the NASB

*“Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD [**Yahweh**], the 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-**name** to all generations.”*

Yahweh is My name forever and this is My memorial name to all generations. Some translations say “from generation to generation.”

It would be good to remember that Yahweh gave His name to the Hebrews in part because they had left a country where all the gods had names. Moses had journeyed in Midian where all the gods had names. Every religion had and has gods, and they all have names. Here is how I believe Yahweh dealt with this reality:

*“For the LORD [**Yahweh**] your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.” (Deuteronomy 10:17 NASB)*

Yahweh describes Himself as the God of gods. It doesn't matter how many other gods there are or will be. Yahweh is always the God of gods. He is the only real or true God but He still has a name. Yahweh is His name. Being the only true God doesn't negate the fact He has a name. To say that the universal faith of the Christian Church is such that the name of the God of the Old Testament doesn't really matter opens the door to creating at least two Gods, Yahweh, and Jesus. Now, we have the beginning of polytheism. The issue of the Jews deciding as an act of their own free will, to stop using the name of God is a separate issue entirely. Their decision to change the name of God was in a large part responsible for the majority of first century Jews missing their Messiah. Be clear, though, a remnant received Him.

Let me ask the question again. Is it the same to "love Yahweh your God" as it is to "love the LORD your God?" I am a medical doctor by degree. Would it be the same in a marriage ceremony for the pastor to ask the bride, "Do you take this medical doctor to be your lawfully wedded husband...?"

I would like to make an observation from another excellent Bible, the New International Version. Like my observations from the Revised Standard Version and the New Revised Standard Version, I can make a similar statement about the New International Version. My statements are critical but not judgmental. Again, there is a difference.

Here is a familiar text:

*“God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD [**Yahweh**], the 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, **the name** by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. (Exodus 3:15 NIV)*

I have added the name Yahweh in brackets. Here is the footnote in the NIV that is given to explain the text from the web site <http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible>. The Hebrew for LORD sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew for I AM in verse 14.⁵

The Hebrew word for “Lord” is transliterated as “Adon.” The name of God as often spoken by Jews is “Adonai,” meaning “my lord.” They say this with deference and reverence instead of pronouncing the name of God as Yahweh. It is their choice.

In Exodus 3:14, God says His name transliterated is “hayah asher hayah.” It is translated as “I AM WHO I AM” into English. God then tells Moses simply, “I AM.” This would be transliterated as “hayah.” I am confident that the translators of the NIV, which is an excellent translation, meant to say something like, “The Hebrew word for Yahweh sounds like and may be derived from the Hebrew word for I AM, ‘hayah.’” Yahweh sounds like “hayah.” I have seen the

word transliterated as “eyeh.” Yahweh sounds like “eyeh.” The Hebrew word for “lord” is transliterated “Adon” which sounds nothing like “hayah” or “eyeh.” In the process, the name of God, Yahweh, doesn’t make it to the footnote. Moses’ encounter with the Living God at the burning bush is the first time in the *narrative* that God reveals that name *to the children of Israel, the Hebrews*. Moses writes Genesis knowing the name. Moses did not live during the book of Genesis. Moses is hired to be the biographer for the characters in Genesis. He writes his own autobiography *in the remainder of the Torah*.

Do I have a point or am I being paid for how many words I type? Why is there so much confusion about the name of God as revealed to Moses? I am not generally given to conspiracy theories. Why is it so difficult to see in English the name of God as revealed to Moses?

Jeremiah tells us, paraphrased, “The LORD [**Yahweh**] is the God of all flesh.” (32:27) Yahweh isn’t just the God of the Hebrews or of the Patriarchs but He is the God of all humanity. We have a right to know our God’s name. Why are we being kept from God’s name? Sounds like the serpent to me.

Let me ask the question for the third time. Is it the same to “love Yahweh your God with all your heart” as it is to “love the LORD (or Lord or lord) with all your heart”?

When Jesus was asked what the first or greatest commandment was He quoted from Moses as found in Deuter-

onomy 6: *“You shall love the LORD [**Yahweh**] your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”* (6:5 NASB) Again, I have added the brackets around the name of God, Yahweh. The Hebrew clearly says Yahweh. The Jews may choose not to pronounce it, but it is in the scroll of Moses and in their Siddurim (prayer books).

Now it is time to appreciate the challenge of the “search” that we have embarked on as “kings and priests” of our God. Do you want to be blessed to be a blessing like Abraham?

Paul said in his letter to the Philippians, “Jesus was the name above all names” (paraphrased). Did Paul consider the name “Yahweh”? Paul often uses the title, “Lord.” Did Paul consider the title “Lord” as a possibility for the name above all names?

Remember, we are searching out a matter... and it is our glory, our honor to do so.

THE NAME OF GOD, REVISITED

Let's begin by starting to "unpack" some of the story as it relates to the name of God.

From someone who likes to read from cover to cover, open your Bibles to Exodus and turn to chapter three. Here is the prologue to our text. Moses is tending sheep in the desert and sees a bush on fire but not being consumed. He approaches the bush and a voice and a presence engages him. Moses asks who He is and the "Voice" identifies Himself and tells him His name.

What we need to understand is that it's so obvious it's easy to miss. Moses doesn't write in "real-time" but rather records his encounter years after it happened. Moses eventually writes knowing not just the name of God, but God Himself. God told Moses His name. He expected Moses to use it. Moses uses the Name of Yahweh over 1550 times in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

We'll pick up our discussion of this story in verse 13 but I strongly encourage you to begin your reading in verse 1.

Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, ***“I AM WHO I AM”***; and He said, ***“Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you’.*”**

God, furthermore, said to Moses, ***“Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the 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-name to all generations.”***

***“Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, ‘I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt. So I said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey.*”**

They will pay heed to what you say; and you with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt and you will say to him, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, please, let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD [Yahweh] our God’.*”** (Exodus 3:13-18 NASB) ***[Yahweh] added by author

If you read these verses in English, what it appears is that God has a name and it is LORD. God identifies Himself with a name and two “titles.” The texts appear to say, My name is “LORD” and I am God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. The “LORD” also says, I am God of the Hebrews.

In the Hebrew or Jewish culture, it is a sign of respect toward God not to pronounce His name. In fact, you may see it written as

“G-d” or “L-rd.”

As I mentioned earlier, they may pronounce it as “HaShem” meaning “the Name” or as “Adonai,” “my Lord.” Rarely, if ever, will they actually pronounce what is written in the Hebrew. We read these verses in English but the original text is Hebrew. Here is what the Hebrew text says the name of God is:

יהוה

Hebrew reads from the right to the left. The first letter is “yod.” The next letter is “hey” followed by a “vav” and lastly is another “hey.”

The name is “yod-hey-vav-hey,” phonetically. There were no written vowels in the ancient Hebrew. You had to “know” what they were.

My name is “Tom.” I could write it after the ancient Hebrew and it would be, “Tm.” If I add an “o,” it obviously becomes, “Tom.” If I add an “i” it becomes a different name,

“Tim.” One had to know!

If we were to read the Ten Commandments, the third commandment, from a Hebrew perspective is: “*You shall not take the name of the **LORD** your God in vain, for the **LORD** will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*” (Exodus 20:7 NASB)

An ancient Jewish perspective was that if the name, “yod-hey-vav-hey” was pronounced and it contained the wrong vowels, then it would not be possible to “mispronounce” the name and thereby offend God violating this commandment. They equated mispronouncing the Name of God to “taking it in vain.” Their teachers, their Rabbis, would write the name and intentionally put in incorrect vowels. Rather than condemning their actions, it would be better to see their hearts in attempting to help the people not sin against the “LORD.”

One of the early translators of the Bible, working from Hebrew to English, read a “mistranslation” of the name “yod-hey-vav-hey” that had the incorrect vowels added. He came up with a name for God, “Jehovah.” Said another way, an “extra” vowel appears in Jehovah compared to Yahweh, three syllables versus two.

Dr. Metzger’s discussion earlier is the most accepted academic response. Mine is a shorter discussion, but wrong vowels equal wrong vowels.

The efforts of those translators should be applauded. How they to know the wrong vowels were included in the text from which they were working?

Therefore, when the translators of the American Standard Version of the Bible read the name in Hebrew, they simply followed the earlier mistake and translated “yod-hey-vav-hey” as “Jehovah.”

“See” their brilliance. Every place they found the name, יהוה “yod-hey-vav-hey,” they used the name “Jehovah.” Therefore, it is easy to count in English how many times the name or one of its “derivatives” shows up. “Jah” would be a derivative of “Jehovah.”

Most “modern” Jewish and Christian scholarship would agree that the name is better understood as “Yahweh.” The “vav” in Hebrew can come into English as a “w.” Most Jews, if they would pronounce the name of God, would use “Yahveh.” I could have used Yahveh.

Here is the point of these many, many words: **God has a name and it is not “LORD;” neither is His name “Lord.”** Early Bible translators adopted the custom, from the Hebrew, as translating the name of God, “Yahweh,” or “Jehovah” as “LORD.” The earliest custom was to use all capitals. Later the custom became to use, “Lord,” with only a capital “L.” The “traditions of men,” while being good intentioned, have left many without an understanding of the name of God. He has a name. I choose to use “Yahweh.” An Orthodox Rabbi told me recently that he was “a salesman and not an enforcer.” He tells people what he believes and lets them make up their own mind. If you are accustomed to the name as “Jehovah,” and want to continue using it, it is between you and God.

Again, here is the point. How can you have a Name that is above all names if you don't know what the other choices are on the list? Said another way, is there more than one choice? Does it matter?

As an example, let's return to the Ten Commandments: *You shall not take the name of the **LORD** your God in vain, for the **LORD** will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*" (Exodus 20:7 NASB)

Now, let's read it again: *"You shall not take the name of [Yahweh] in vain, for [Yahweh] will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."*

Now, if we were to take the name of "the LORD" or "the Lord" in our Old Testaments and change it to a literal name we would not help but notice something. The name of God, Yahweh, appears a lot. It is in the Old Testament 6,888* times, according to the ASV.

A fair question would be, "Who is the main character of the Old Testament?" What is His name? His name is Yahweh.

I don't want to overwhelm you with foreign languages. We need to remember, though, Paul did not speak English, and neither did Isaiah. We don't need to be fluent in these dead languages, but Holy Spirit would like to sow into us some pearls hidden for a time such as this.

By "dead languages," I mean that these ancient languages are not spoken today. Modern Hebrew and Greek are different from these dead languages. Latin is also a dead language.

You would be surprised what the Spirit of the LORD, what the Spirit of Yahweh can resurrect from a dead language.

Here is Exodus 20:3 in English, followed by a Greek translation. The words for the name of God are highlighted in bold in the scripture references.

*“I am the **LORD** [יהוה], your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”*

(Exodus 20:2 NKJV)

*“I am **Jehovah** thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”*

(Exodus 20:2 ASV)

20:2 ἐγὼ εἰμι **κύριος** ὁ θεός σου ὅστις ἐξήγαγόν σε ἐκ γῆς Αἰγύπτου ἐξ οἴκου δουλείας

(after Sir Lancelot C.L. Brenton, 1851 translation)

What Holy Spirit wants us to see is that the Hebrew name of God, יהוה, is translated in the Greek as κύριος. This Greek word could be transliterated as “kyrios,” spoken as “kurios.” This is the source of the English word “Lord” or “LORD” in Bible translations.

In English, the name of God from Exodus 3 is Yahweh, but it isn't LORD or Lord. The word κύριος is a title but not a name. **LORD or Lord is a title, not a name. Yahweh is Lord of lords.**

So, if you were to actually read the Old Testament from an American Standard Version (ASV), you could not help but notice that the book is about [Yahweh or] Jehovah. If you actually studied it, you would end up here: *"I, even I, am **Jehovah**; and besides Me there is no saviour. I have declared, and I have saved, and I have showed; and there was no strange [god] among you: therefore ye are **My witnesses**, saith **Jehovah, and I am God.**"* (Isaiah 43:11-12 ASV)

How could you not end up being a witness to Jehovah? His name shows up 6888* times. Filters matter. Translations matter. The name of God matters. While this book is not a scholarly work, it does ask serious questions. I am asking serious questions that demand careful answers, from all of us. Jesus asked a very important question:

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

*He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**"* (Matthew 16:13-15 NASB)

It is my hope that by the time you have finished the book you will be able to tell Jesus what you have “searched out” as a “king and priest.”

I want to make some comments directed toward the Jehovah’s Witnesses. I do not mean these comments to be judgmental in any way. Historically, the Jehovah’s Witnesses read the ASV translation of the Bible. It was called the “Standard” because it was “standard” in most American Christian seminaries. Most Christian seminaries apparently abandoned the ASV in favor of “newer” translations that choose to follow the pattern of translating the name of God as “LORD” or “Lord.” The Jehovah Witnesses continued with the use of the ASV but eventually abandoned it for a different translation.

When you read from an ASV as they did, and focus on the texts in Isaiah as we just did, it is easy to see how one can become a “Jehovah’s Witness.” Remember, the name of God as “Jehovah” is translated 6888* times in the ASV. This needs to take our breath away.

I am not suggesting their theology is superior, but the ASV Bible they used painted, and continues to paint, a theologically superior picture of the God of the Old Testament. What they fail to see is that the God of the Old Testament is the Son of God and He became human to save. Jesus means, “Jehovah is Salvation.” Yahweh is salvation.

Allow me some liberty with Isaiah 43:11-12 (after the ASV):

“I even, I, am [Yahweh]; and besides Me there is no saviour. I have declared, and I have saved, and I have showed; and there was no strange [god] among you: therefore ye are My witnesses, saith [Yahweh], and I am God.”

All I did is substitute the name “Yahweh” for “Jehovah.” We could now call ourselves “Yahweh’s witnesses.”

Remember what “the LORD” told Moses? *“Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the 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-name to all generations.”* (Exodus 3:15 NASB)

The Hebrew does not say “LORD.” The Hebrew could and probably should be translated as Yahweh or Yahveh. The ASV says “Jehovah.” **God says He has a memorial “Name” and not a memorial “Title.”** Recall, I am a medical doctor. Someone can call me by the title “doctor” and never know my name is “Tom.”

“Not everyone who says to Me [Jesus], ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare

to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

(Matthew 7:21-23 NASB)

The Jews in the story were indeed expecting a messiah. They were expecting a human messiah. Jewish messiahs were *always* humans. The LORD [**Yahweh**] is never portrayed as Messiah.

Jesus tells them that they are practicing lawlessness. The Jews in the story were under the “Law of Moses.” Who gave the law? Yahweh gave the law. Yahweh is Lawgiver.

*“For the LORD [**Yahweh**] is our judge, The LORD [**Yahweh**] is our lawgiver, The LORD [**Yahweh**] is our king; He will save us—” (Isaiah 33:22 NASB)*

They were addressing Jesus without understanding He was Yahweh who had become human to save them. Jesus means Yahweh is salvation in Hebrew. (See Dr. Strong’s Concordance at <http://www.blueletterbible.org>. #H3091)

There is much that we will “search out” in this book. I believe this issue involving the name of God is the most significant issue to face “Christianity” in our day, maybe in the last 2000 years.

For the remainder of this book, I will use the name “Yahweh” when referring to the name of God as given to Moses.

Again, if you are more comfortable with Jehovah or Yahveh, be at liberty use it.

What we have learned so far is that the God of the Old Testament had a name and it was not “LORD” or “Lord” and I believe it was not Jehovah. There is no “J” in Hebrew so I feel comfortable that Paul would agree with the decision to use Yahweh or Yahveh.

So, did Paul consider the name of “Yahweh” as being above the name of “Jesus?” Paul would have probably referred to Jesus as Yeshua or Yehoshua. (These two names are equivalent forms of Jesus based on Strong’s #H3091 and #G2424) Why didn’t Paul say that the name of Yahweh was above the name of Yeshua or Yehoshua? Or, did he?

These first few chapters have been designed to ask that question. See Author’s Note below¹

Author’s Note

There is no readily available English translation *in print* of the Bible that will consistently translate the name of God as Yahweh or Yah. The New Living Translation (NLT) translates God’s name as Yahweh only ten (10) times. When we extrapolate from the ASV, we can see that it should appear 6888* or 6826 times in the Old Testament. Every time an Old Testament verse that contains the name of Yahweh is quoted in the New Testament, it should also appear as Yahweh. God had a name. God has a name. God will always have a name.

When I began this book, my primary source for scripture was <http://www.blueletterbible.org>. Using their programs, I began searching out the name of God using the American Standard Version of the Bible. This version chose to translate the name of God in the Old Testament as “Jehovah.” Originally, it appeared that the ASV was indexed to the King James Version of the Bible. From this source, it appears as though the name Jehovah or Jah appeared 6888 times. As this book is prepared for press, it appears as though the ASV is now indexed to the NASB and the name appears 6826 times. I have attempted to identify this discrepancy with this note and you will find 6888* throughout the body of this book to refer you back to this explanation.

Here is some additional information regarding the number of times the name of God, Yahweh, appears in various scholarly texts. The goal of this book is not to provide an exact number but to point the obvious and overlooked fact that the God of the Bible actually has a name.

“In the Hebrew Bible, the tetragrammaton occurs **6,828** times,[1] as can be seen in the *Biblia Hebraica*_(Kittel) and the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensis*. [7] According to the Brown-driver-Briggs Lexicon, יְהוָה (Qr יְהוָה) occurs **6,518** times, and יְהוֹה (Qr יְהוֹה) occurs 305 times in the http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masoretic_Text. It first appears in Hebrew in the *Book of Genesis* 2:4.[7][8] The only books

it does not appear in are Ecclesiastes, /Book_of_Esther, and Song_of_Songs.[1]”¹ The Septuagint typically translates YHWH as “kyrios” or Lord. [Wikipedia article “Tetragrammaton” as found 9/2013]¹

Hard copy Strong’s are apparently of two types. There is another concordance named G/K after the authors Goodrick and Kohlenberger. They have a separate numbering system for words. What I have seen in the Strong’s NIV Concordance is that Greek or Hebrew numbers have changed and do not necessarily agree with the Blue Letter Bible or other printed texts I have used.

The Strong’s numbers I refer to are from the digital or electronic Strong’s found at <http://www.bueletterbible.org>. If you were to “check” my numbers from a hard copy, they might be different. If you find a discrepancy, then it would be best to look up both the word and the number in whichever source you use.

Hopefully, you are still reading at this time. I have been intentionally repetitive in these first few chapters. I have attempted to say the same thing several different ways. One of my editors went to great lengths to teach me that if a point is worth saying once, it is worth saying more than once. I did so in the hope of not confusing anyone. If my many words have left you confused, please forgive me. Simply, the God of the “Old Testament” had a name and it isn’t LORD or

Lord. Understanding this point becomes crucial as we search out this matter.

Paul knew the name of his God when he wrote his epistle to the Philippians.

THE LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

The Apostle Paul of the Tribe of Benjamin is responsible for the fuel for this fire. Paul, circumcised on the eighth day of the stock of Israel, a Hebrew of Hebrews as touching the law, a Pharisee, as zeal, persecuting the church, as touching the righteousness, which is in the law, found blameless. (Philippians 3:4-8, Deuteronomy 6:25) This is quite a curriculum vitae.

Paul declares,

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons...” (Acts 22:3-4 NASB)

When I was in the Marine Corps forty years ago, I was taught, “There are no bad Marines only bad Marine leaders.” They took leadership very seriously. I am certain they still do. Does this mean, “There are no bad students only bad teachers?” Was Paul’s Rabbi, Gamaliel, a good teacher? It sure seems like Paul was a good student. Remember, Paul wrote about half of the New Testament.

Good students of the Torah (Moses) and the Tanakh (Moses, the Prophets and the ‘Writings’), as Paul and Gamaliel surely were, could not have failed to understand the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 45 is an extremely important text for the Church to understand. Let me suggest to you that you begin reading in Isaiah 44:28 and continue through all of chapter 45. Let me quote part of 45 but say to you that it is unmistakable that the speaker in Isaiah 44-45 is “the LORD,” Yahweh. Read these verses in context. Again, who is the speaker?

“Tell and bring forth [your case]; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? [Who] has told it from that time? [Have] not I, the LORD [Yahweh]? And [there is] no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; [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. I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth [in] righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. He shall say, ‘Surely in the LORD [Yahweh] I have righteousness and strength. To the LORD [Yahweh] [men] shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.” (Isaiah 45:21-24 NKJV)

Remember, there is currently no available translation of the Bible [in print] that will read “Yahweh.” The closest is the American Standard Version (ASV) and it will read “Jehovah” instead of “LORD.” Please understand that I am not changing the copyrighted text of the New King James Version of the Bible. What I am doing is following accepted editing practices by adding “[Yahweh]” to “LORD” to help us better understand the name.

*“For this reason also, **God highly exalted [Jesus], and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord [Yahweh], to the glory of God the Father.***
(Philippians 2:9-11 NASB)

Now, enter into the discussion with an open mind and open heart. Paul says in Philippians 2:9 that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow. Isaiah says in Isaiah 45:23 that every knee will bow at the name of Yahweh. Paul says in Philippians 2:11 that every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. Isaiah says in 45:23, every tongue shall take an oath to Yahweh.

Is your mind open?

How about your heart?

Yahweh Himself declares, *“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the Earth; For I am God, and there is no other.”* (Isaiah 45:22, NASB)

Jesus of Nazareth said, *“And I, if I am lifted up from the Earth, will draw all men [peoples] to Myself.”* (John 12:32, NASB)

Is Paul correct? Should everyone bow at the name of Jesus and confess Him? Is Isaiah correct? At the name of Yahweh, should everyone bow and confess Him? To whom are you drawn? Are you drawn to Jesus or to Yahweh? Does it matter? How about both?

Do you remember the discussion about the name of God? We learned that the name of God as יהוה (Yahweh) could also be found translated in the Greek as κύριος. This word spoken as “kurios or kyrios” can also mean in the Greek, “lord” or “Lord.”

So, when Paul says from Phil 2:11, *“and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,”* the Greek word for “Lord” is the word, “kurios.”

2:11 καὶ πᾶσα γλῶσσα ἐξομολογήσεται ὅτι κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ πατρὸς (morph GNT at www.blueletterbible.org)

2 ἐγὼ εἰμι κύριος ὁ θεός σου ὅστις ἐξήγαγόν σε ἐκ γῆς Αἰγύπτου ἐξ οἴκου δουλείας courtesy of <http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/sep/exodus 020.htm>.)

But, we also see from the Greek translation of Exodus 20:2 above, that the name of God as יהוה was translated as “kurios/kyrios,” or Yahweh. Paul is saying, “Jesus Christ is Yahweh.” We read “Lord” in the English but Paul means Yahweh. Paul means Jesus Christ of Nazareth is Yahweh of Nazareth.

How do I know? My Rabbi, Holy Spirit, aka the Spirit of Yahweh, told me. Teachers teach. Jesus said He would send Holy Spirit to teach. That makes Him my Rabbi. He can be your Rabbi as well. In fact, Holy Spirit must be our Rabbi.

Paul continues to put the puzzle together:

*Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is **Lord [Yahweh]**,” except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3 NASB)*

Guess what “Lord” is in Greek? It is “kurios” or “kyrios.” Let’s look at the Greek.

12:3 διὸ γνωρίζω ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς ἐν πνεύματι θεοῦ λαλῶν λέγει ἀνάθεμα Ἰησοῦς καὶ οὐδεὶς δύναται εἰπεῖν **κύριος** Ἰησοῦς εἰ μὴ ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ
(1 Corinthians 12:3 morph GNT at www.blueletterbible.org)

*No one can say that Jesus is Yahweh **except** by the Holy Spirit. Paul is saying that no one, that means you, the reader,*

can connect these verses unless Holy Spirit is your teacher, your Rabbi. I'd like to think it is my skill, but I only took two classes in seminary which is probably one more than I should have taken. I am a medical doctor and a scientist by education. My Greek was limited to calculus and physics. I dropped out of Hebrew in seminary and never made it to Greek. I don't care if you have a Ph.D. in Greek or Hebrew, or both. I don't get the credit for connecting these dots and neither do seminary professors. Only the Spirit of the LORD [**Yahweh**] can convince you.

I'm not trying to make linguistic scholars out of any of us. If you are a scholar: mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa. *Through my fault, through my fault. Through my most [grievous] fault.*

Here is the coup de grâce, the final blow. Let's use 1 Corinthians 12:3. The name of Jesus in Greek is Ἰησοῦς. Phonetically it sounds like "e-a-sus." Jesus in Greek means, "Yahweh is salvation." (Dr. Strong's Concordance, #G2424; <http://www.blueletterbible.org> but it will read Jehovah is salvation

Dr. Strong links Jesus to the name "Joshua" in Hebrew. The name "Jesus," per se, never shows up in the Hebrew Old Testament. Guess what "Joshua" means? It means, "Yahweh is salvation." What is that scripture about truth being determined by 2 or 3 witnesses? You will find "Joshua" defined in Dr. Strong's concordance as #H3091 or at www.blueletterbible.org. but it will read Jehovah is salvation.

The names “Jesus” and “Joshua” are equivalent in the Greek and the Hebrew. The King James Version even translated the name “Joshua” as “Jesus” in Hebrews 4:8, “*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*” The text is clearly speaking about Joshua son of Nun. If Jesus of Nazareth can’t give you rest, there isn’t any rest!

Now, in very simple terms, you have the “Gospel of Paul.” **Paul is preaching that Jesus of Nazareth is actually Yahweh, God of the Hebrews, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of all flesh.** Paul is teaching that Yahweh didn’t send a Savior, Yahweh came Himself. That is exactly what we read in Isaiah 45. This is only one of several reasons why this argument is important for all Bible-believing Christians to engage in.

Again, all of this is to ask our question, “What is the name above all names”? Does it matter? Paul is saying that it is the name of Jesus, but... Jesus means, “Yahweh is salvation.” Subtle, isn’t it?

I think it matters a great deal. My Rabbi thinks so as well. How did Paul say we brought glory to Our Father? Let’s revisit Philippians: *and that every tongue will confess that Jesus [**Yahweh is Salvation**] Christ is Lord [**Yahweh**], to the glory of God the Father.* (2:11 NASB) Remember, “Jesus” is Strong’s #G2424 and #H3091.¹

We glorify our Father when we know the true identity of our Lord and Savior. We glorify our Bridegroom, our Hus-

band, when we know who He is. It's easy to glorify Father Yahweh, isn't it?

Let's summarize again. The God of the Old Testament has a name and it is Yahweh. Paul spent his entire life worshipping Yahweh but Paul just told us there is a name greater than Yahweh. Or, did he? Remember, we as kings and priests are on a search ordained by God Himself.

THE GODS OF EGYPT VERSUS THE GOD OF MOSES

I suspect that most of us have read the story of the Exodus. If you haven't, now would be a good time. Watching Cecile B. DeMille's version doesn't count, although you could do both.

Yahweh, also known as "The LORD," sends Moses to have a chat with Pharaoh. Moses encounters the "gods" of Egypt, one by one. If you have not read *Time To Defeat The Devil*, by Dr. Chuck D. Pierce, you'll want to put it on your "A" list. If it is on your "A" list, you might want to move it to the top of the list. In Chapter 6, "God's Ten Step Program To Freedom For Israel," Dr. Pierce lists, plague by plague, the Egyptian god or gods involved. The following is an excerpt from *Time To Defeat The Devil*.¹

Plague One – The Nile River Turns to Blood

In ancient Egypt, the Nile River was looked at as the source of life. It provided both food and water for the people. Each year it would flood and leave a layer of fertile silt in which their next year's crop would flourish. Two gods were closely associated with the Nile. One was *Hapi* and the other was the god *Khenmu* or *Khnum*. *Hapi* was worshipped as the god of the Nile. He was thought to be respon-

sible for the fish, birds, and fertile soil that the Nile River brought to the people of Egypt. Without the Nile River, the people would have died, so Hapi was sometimes revered more than Ra, the sun god. Along with Hapi, Khnum was also worshipped as a god of the Nile. He was called the *potter god*. He was believed to be the one who formed human bodies from the silt of the Nile on a potter's wheel. These two gods were viewed as the source of life. Khnum formed your body and Hapi provided the food and water necessary for life to be sustained, so these two gods were, to the Egyptians, the source and sustainer of life. While we would never say that we believe we were created by a potter like Khnum or that our lives are sustained by a god like Hapi, we sometimes look at material things or even the forces of nature the way the Egyptians viewed these gods.

But God wants us to know that He is the source and sustainer! First, He turned the Nile to blood, making it a source of death instead of a source of life. In doing this, He demonstrated the powerlessness of the Egyptians gods.

I am going to list the names of these Egyptian gods in a tabular format. Please, read Dr. Pierce's book *Time to Defeat The Devil*, or go to his ministry website (<http://www.gloryofzion.org>) or read his Facebook posts. (This singular

excerpt above has little to do with the value of the book. It is extraordinary.)

Plague one:	Hapi and Khnum or Khenmu
Plague two:	Heket
Plague three:	Geb
Plague four:	Dua
Plague five:	Khepri
Plague six:	Imhotep
Plague seven:	Nut/Horus the elder
Plague eight:	Shu
Plague nine:	Ra and Apep
Plague ten:	Pharaoh/Isis, Osiris, Horus the child

Remember, we are on a specific journey and are seeking to ask the specific question, “What is the name above all names?”

God tells Moses in Exodus 3:

*“[The elders] will pay heed to what you say; and you with the elders of Israel will come to the king of Egypt and you will say to him, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, please, let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we **may sacrifice to the LORD [Yahweh] our God.** ’” (3:18 NASB)*

Yahweh, God of the Hebrews, sends His prophet Moses to Pharaoh. Yahweh challenges Pharaoh and his gods to a “power encounter.” Who wins? The God of the Hebrews wins. Yahweh wins. **Yahweh saved Israel.** History records: *“Thus **the LORD [Yahweh]** saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.”* (Exodus 14:30 NASB)

Here is a challenging question: where is the name of “Jesus” in this encounter? I thought Paul said that Jesus was the name above all names?

How can Jesus be the name above all names if His name isn’t above the gods of Egypt? If Jesus saved Israel in Exodus 14:30, why isn’t His name in the text? Our question isn’t as simple as it sounds.

Please don’t be offended at the question. Remember, Jesus Himself said that He did not come to bring peace: *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the Earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”* (Matthew 10:34 NASB)

Jesus came to the Jews to challenge their thinking and their teaching. They were waiting for the messiah to come but few were prepared to consider that Yahweh their God would become human.

What did the writer of Hebrews say?

*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from **His** sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of **Him** with whom we have to do. (Hebrew 4:12-13 NASB)*

Jesus is challenging us today just as He did the Jews when He had His ministry on Earth.

The word of God that is living and powerful is Yahweh. This is much, much more than a game with words. We must find Yahweh the Son of God in the Old Testament. Yahweh became human to save. Yahweh became Jesus. Jesus was never in the Old Testament. Jesus of Nazareth was flesh and blood [fully God **and** fully human]. Yahweh was never born of a virgin in the Old Testament, but at any time, He could assume a human form but didn't for extended periods of time.

We are learning to read the Scripture in a new way. We are learning to tell the story of how Yahweh, the Son of God or the Son of Yahweh— became human to save. This is very different than looking for “Old Testament scriptures that are fulfilled by Jesus.”

*I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, **to make them jealous**. Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if somehow I might **move to jealousy** my fellow countrymen and save some of them. (Romans 11:11-14 NASB)*

Paul understood that Yahweh, God of Israel had become human to save. The Savior's name in Hebrew could only be Yeshua or Yehoshua: Yahweh is salvation. Paul is preaching this gospel to the Gentiles (some of whom became "Christians"). This is how he is provoking his countrymen to jealousy. This is why we must do the same. We must learn the Gospel as it is written as opposed to how most Christians today have been taught. This is Father God's prescription for provoking the Jews to jealousy. Father's plan is for us (Gentiles) to provoke modern-day Jews to jealousy. We do this when we teach them that their God, Yahweh, became human to save. Holy Spirit will pull back the veil that is over their hearts so they can "see." This is exactly what happened in Acts 2. What Holy Spirit is doing now is pulling back the veil that is over our minds so He can renew our minds.

God is waiting on us.

Time is short.

The days are evil.

Here is what we have “searched out” so far:

- The God of the Old Testament has a name and it is “Yahweh.”
- Yahweh defeated the ten gods of Egypt.
- Yahweh’s name is above all the gods of Egypt.

This is how Moses father-in-law, Jethro, the Priest of Midian “saw” it.

*11 Now I [Jethro] know that the LORD [Yahweh] [is] greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly [he was] **above them**.* [Exodus 18:11 KJV]

The following translations read similarly on **Yahweh above** them: KJV, NKJV, Young’s Literal Translation or YLT, Darby or DBY and Webster’s or WEB at www.blueletterbible.org. Maybe Jethro is a prophet as well as a priest.

Read along to see how Yahweh defeated the gods of Philistia, Babylon, Jezebel, Ammon, Moab, and Edom in the next four Old Testament narratives.

Author’s Note

Read below how the Apostle Paul said “Yahweh became human,” as those are my words. I am comfortable with them but you may not be.

Romans 8:3 NASB - “For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son **in the likeness of sinful flesh** and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,”

Philippians 2:5-8 NASB - “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus [Messiah, Yahweh is salvation], who, although He existed in the form of God [as Yahweh], did not regard equality with God [Yahweh] a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the **form of a bond-servant**, and **being made in the likeness of men**. Being found **in appearance as a man**, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” [brackets are authors]

THE GOD OF THE PHILISTINES VERSUS THE GOD OF ISRAEL

The text we need to “search out” is found in 1 Samuel 4. Samuel is an amazing man of God. Eli is the Chief Priest of Israel and he has two corrupt sons, Hophni and Phineas. They engage the Philistines in battle and lose badly. The people apparently had the idea that they’ll win if they take the Ark of the Covenant into battle. They send to Shiloh where Eli and his sons are, and then Hophni and Phineas take the Ark into the battle.

So the people sent to Shiloh, and from there they carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD [Yahweh] of hosts who sits above the cherubim; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. As the ark of the covenant of the LORD [Yahweh] came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth resounded.

When the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, “What does the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?” Then they understood that the ark of the LORD [Yahweh] had come into the camp.

The Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who shall deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who smote the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness. Take courage and be men, O Philistines, or you will become slaves to the Hebrews, as they have been slaves to you; therefore, be men and fight."

So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent; and the slaughter was very great, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. (1 Samuel 4:4-10 NASB)

Now the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it to the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.

*When the Ashdodites arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD [**Yahweh**]. So they took Dagon and set him in his place again.*

*But when they arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD [**Yahweh**]. And the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off on the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.*

Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor all who enter Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

Now the hand of the LORD [Yahweh] was heavy on the Ashdodites, and He ravaged them and smote them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territories.

When the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is severe on us and on Dagon our god."

So they sent and gathered all the lords of the Philistines to them and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they said, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." And they brought the ark of the God of Israel around.

After they had brought it around, the hand of the LORD [Yahweh] was against the city with very great confusion; and He smote the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them.

*So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And as the ark of God came to Ekron the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel around to us, to kill us and our people."
(1 Samuel 5:1-10 NASB)*

Some observations:

- The ark of Yahweh is lost in battle.
- The ark of Yahweh is taken to the temple of Dagon.
- Yahweh fights for Himself and Dagon loses.
- Yahweh fights for Himself and the people don't do so well. (They are afflicted with what a rabbi friend of mine in Israel tells me are hemorrhoids.)

Allow me to digress for a moment. Years ago, I was an anesthesiologist on call at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, CA. It had been a long day and I had just gone to bed in the on-call room. A surgeon friend of mine paged me and said he had an emergency hemorrhoidectomy he wanted to perform on a patient. Pat knew as well as I did that the operating rooms were for “true” emergencies only, especially at two o'clock in the morning.

“Pat, how can this be a surgical emergency?” I asked.

Pat's reply was, “Tom, if this was your butt, it'd be an emergency.” We did the surgery. Remember, I am a medical doctor so I can use those technical words like “butt.”

Here is my point: Yahweh didn't need any help, neither with Dagon nor the Philistines who killed His people and captured His Ark. Dagon, a demon, could not compete with the Living God. Again, **Jesus is nowhere in the story**. The main character in this narrative is “the LORD,” Yahweh. Are you forming a list of possible names yet that we can choose from for a “name above all names?”

Is Jesus the name above Dagon? Yahweh defeated Dagon, a demon god, and therefore, the name of Yahweh is above the name of Dagon. What we are establishing in these Old Testament stories is that God has a name, Yahweh, and He is a “man of war,” Exodus 15:3.

The God of the Old Testament has a name and it is Yahweh. The “name of Yahweh” is above the ten gods of Egypt and the god of the Philistines, Dagon.

Could Paul have meant that Jesus was the name above all names, but only in the New Testament? Remember, Paul told us that Jesus (Yahweh is salvation) is Lord (kurios/kyrios, Yahweh). What was Paul saying? What did Paul mean?

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8 NASB)

We have established that the God of the Old Testament was Yahweh.

Yahweh, son of God or Yahweh, the Son of Yahweh— was in the form of God because He was God yet emptied Himself of all that it meant to be Yahweh and came in the likeness

of men, in appearance as a man, and humbled Himself on a cross. Paul was telling his audience that Jesus was Yahweh of the Old Testament.

What did Jesus mean when he was talking about His “name”?

*“Whatever you ask in **My name**, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in **My name**, I will do it. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;”* (John 14:13-14 NASB)

*“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in **My name** He may give to you.”* (John 15:16 NASB)

*“The LORD [**Yahweh**] **lives**, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be God, the rock of my **salvation**,”* (2 Samuel 22:47 NASB)

*“The LORD [**Yahweh**] **lives**! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my **Savior**!”* (2 Samuel 22:47 NIV)

*The LORD [**Yahweh**] **lives**! Blessed [be] my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.* (Psalms 18:46 NKJV)

*“I also say to you that you are Peter, **and upon this rock I will build My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matthew 16:18 NASB)*

Matthew 16:18 could read as

*“And I [**Yahweh**] also say to you that you are Peter and upon this rock I [**Yahweh lives**] will build My church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

Remember, “Jesus” means, “Jehovah is salvation” according to Strong’s #G2424 and #H3091.1 I have substituted “Yahweh” where applicable.

Does your church worship Yahweh? Would your church worship the work of the hands of Yahweh on the cross? You do realize, don’t you that it was Yahweh on the cross saving?

Jesus Himself said that He did not come to judge the world but to save it. If Yahweh had come to judge, His name would have been Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat means, “Jehovah judges” or “Jehovah is judge.” It is very acceptable not to believe Dr. Baker, but ask Dr. Strong. You’ll find Jehoshaphat as Strong’s #H3092 at <http://www.blueletterbible.org>. I promise I won’t be offended.

Do you see where we are headed? Yahweh of the Old Testament “became” Jesus of the New Testament, or else Paul is wrong about the name above all names. This would be a mistake of biblical proportions!

Author's Note

One of my favorite scriptures is Isaiah 26:3-4 in the NKJV:

*3 You will keep [him] in perfect peace, [Whose] mind [is] stayed [on You], Because he trusts in You. 4 Trust in the LORD [Yahweh] forever; For in YAH, the LORD [Yahweh], [is] **everlasting strength**.* [Isaiah 26:3-4 NKJV] [Yahweh added by author]

The New King James Version (my personal favorite) has as a footnote to verse 26:4. Or, **Rock of Ages**

Again, this is somewhat subtle. The footnote helps us to understand that Yahweh is the Rock of Ages. It is on this Rock that Jesus said He would build His church. These three verses, or three witnesses are the foundation of the true cornerstone, 2 Samuel 22:47, Psalm 18:46 and Isaiah 26:3-4.

*48 “He is like a man building a house, **who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.** And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for **it was founded on the rock [Yahweh]**.* [Luke 6:48 NKJV]

*24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house **on the rock [Yahweh]**: 25 “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds*

*blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was **founded on the rock [Yahweh]**. 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” [Matthew 7:24-27 NKJV] [**Yahweh** added by author]*

As an interesting footnote, while the name of Yahweh appears nearly 7000 times in the Old Testament, do you know how many times it appears “de novo” in the New Testament? Other than quotations from the Old Testament or Tanakh, it doesn’t appear at all!

15 Truly, You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, Savior! [Isaiah 45:15 NASB]

Well hidden Rabbi, well hidden indeed!

THE GODS OF BABYLON VERSUS THE GOD OF ISRAEL

The Book of Daniel is a fascinating story about a great man of God. Daniel is taken captive as a young man to a foreign land. The captors did some very strategic things to their captives. Some are obvious and some not so obvious. Their names were changed, diets changed, the language they were allowed to speak and so on.

So, why change their names? Daniel, for example, has his name changed to “Belteshazzar.” Daniel, in Hebrew, means, “God is my judge.” What God? Obviously, it meant that Yahweh was Daniel’s judge because the Hebrews were monotheistic. Their God was Yahweh. Daniel’s new name meant “Bel protect his life.” Another name for “Bel” was “Marduk.”

Most of you know the story. Daniel ends up in the lion’s den and survives. Did Bel (or Marduk) deliver Daniel from the lion’s mouth? Remember, Moses warns that any sacrifice not made to Yahweh was a sacrifice made to a demon. (Deuteronomy 32:17) Bel is a demon-god. The King James translators would have called Bel a “devil.” You get the picture.

King Darius praises the God of Daniel:

*“I make a decree that in all the dominion of
my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before*

the God of Daniel; For He [Yahweh] is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, And His dominion will be forever. He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in Heaven and on Earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.” (Daniel 6:26-27 NASB)

Who delivered Daniel? Darius says that it is the “living God.” Who is the living God? Yahweh is the living God. So, it should be clear that Yahweh is the name above Bel and Marduk.

David sings, “*The LORD [Yahweh] lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be God, the rock of my salvation,*” (2 Samuel 22:47 NASB) The NIV says, “*My Rock, My Savior.*”

Before serving King Darius, Daniel had an encounter with Nebuchadnezzar about a dream the king had. The king didn’t take Daniel’s advice, actually Yahweh’s advice, and the king ended up eating grass for a time. Eventually, Nebuchadnezzar had an encounter with the God of Daniel and was restored:

*“But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored **Him who lives forever**; For*

His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.”
(Daniel 4:34 NASB)

Who is the “Most High”? Yahweh is the Most High God.

“I will give thanks to the LORD [Yahweh] according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD [Yahweh] Most High. (Psalm 7:17 NASB)

For the LORD [Yahweh] Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the Earth. (Psalm 47:2 NASB)

Again, the God of Daniel is the “LORD” Most High—Yahweh Most High.

It would appear that Yahweh is the Name above the god(s) of Nebuchadnezzar. I don’t read the name of Jesus in the story or any reference to the “Messiah” unless the “Messiah” is the God of Daniel, which is Yahweh.

Darius says that the God of Daniel is the “Living God,” and Nebuchadnezzar says that the God of Daniel is “Him who lives forever.” Moses says, “*For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of **the living God** speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?’*” (Deuteronomy 5:26 NASB) Who spoke on Sinai? It was Yahweh. Jesus, the Son of Man is nowhere to be found in the narrative. The name above Bel and Marduk is Yahweh.

We need also consider the testimony of three other witnesses, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego. Remember the importance of names in the Hebrew. Review the naming of the children of Jacob in Genesis. These are not a random assignment of names. Each name had a purpose. Destiny is linked with names.

Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abednego. (Daniel 1:6-7 NASB)

Hananiah means, “Yahweh is gracious.” Azariah means, “Yahweh helps.” Mishael means, “Who is like God.” Remember, Yahweh is God of the Hebrews.

Hananiah becomes Shadrach meaning, “Under the command of Aku.” Azariah becomes Abednego, or, The servant of Nego/Nebo/Nabu.” Mishael becomes Mishach, “Who is like Aku.” Each one receives a name that is directed away from Yahweh, the Living God, towards a demon-god of Babylonia.

You know the story. The three young men end up in a fire designed to destroy them beyond recognition because they refused to bow down to the demon-gods of Babylon. They refused to bow down to an image of King Nebuchadnezzar.

The king taunts them by saying, “Who is the God who will deliver you from my hands?” (Daniel 3:15).

The king finds out:

But these three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, fell into the midst of the furnace of blazing fire still tied up. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded and stood up in haste; he said to his high officials, “Was it not three men we cast bound into the midst of the fire?”

They replied to the king, “Certainly, O king.”

He said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!”

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the midst of the fire.

The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king’s high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.

*Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “**Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God.***

*“Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as **there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.**”*
(Daniel 3:23-29 NASB)

Hananiah: Yahweh is gracious.

Azariah: Yahweh is our help.

Mishael: Who is like our God.

Who is like our God? Who is gracious? Who is our help? Who walks in the fire with us? Who won this power encounter? Was it the gods of Babylon—Aku and Nebo? Was it the God of Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael? What is His name? His name is Yahweh, the name above Bel, Marduk, Nebo and Aku.

Now consider, *“Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt,*

and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God... who sent His Angel and delivered...” Christians have been taught, “to find Jesus in the Old Testament.” We fail to see what is right under our noses because of the way we have been taught to read and process. The prophets of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar and Darius, prophesied that Yahweh would come in the flesh. What an amazing way to “prove” You are the Living God: have a pagan king prophesy Your coming!

“Behold, I am the LORD [Yahweh], the God of all flesh [Babylonians?]; is anything too difficult for Me?” (Jeremiah 32:27 NASB)

“Truly, You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, Savior!” (Isaiah 45:15 NASB)

*“For the LORD [Yahweh] your God is **the** God of gods and **the** Lord of lords, **the** great, **the** mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.” (Deuteronomy 10:17 in the NASB is closest to the Hebrew text. Others “factor out” the word “**the**.”)*

Who is the God of Israel? Yahweh is God of Israel. These are extraordinarily important verses for all “New Testament” believers. I thought Jesus is “Lord of lords?” Moses is telling us Yahweh is “**the** Lord of lords.” Can you get a feel for why we are searching out a matter?

Can a horse push a cart? Silly question isn't it. Do you know why a human can "push" and "pull" a cart? It has to do with the anatomy of the forearm and elbow. Horses have different anatomy. They can "pull" but they cannot "push." Why has it taken nearly 2000 years for the gospel to spread? The Church teaches the gospel "backwards." **To look for a messianic verse is to put the cart before the horse.** And the cart is very much before the horse right now. What if we returned the cart to its proper position--behind the horse?

Rather than looking for Jesus in the Old Testament, why don't we look for the prophecies where Yahweh would become a man? This puts the cart behind the horse. This is what was required for the Jews in the first century. The Berean of Acts 17 only had the "Old Testament." They could only search the Scriptures they had. They found that it was prophesied that Yahweh would become a man.

If we, the Church, were able to do this, we might have a contextually accurate gospel that would go to "Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and then the rest of the world." Today, we call that region "the West Bank."

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in **Jerusalem**, and in **all Judaea**, and in **Samaria**, and unto the uttermost part of the Earth."* (Acts 1:8 KJV) What if "the church" were

to drop our nets on the other side, i. e. the West Bank? Maybe we have fished long enough in the uttermost parts of the earth. Could we fish both?

Where did Jesus send His Jewish disciples? He sent them to the children of Israel. Then they were commissioned to go to the ends of the earth. Shouldn't we, the Church, be able to take the Gospel of Yahweh to the children of Israel and to the ends of the earth? Do you see how "easy" Father has made it for the Church? He brought Israel back as a nation in 1947-48. Is "the church" exempt from Jesus' commission to go to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria?

I also do not mean to imply that "the church" is not to have a contextually accurate Gospel to take to the Muslims. What if "we" could show them that the God of "Ibrahim" was actually Yahweh, God of Israel, who became human to save... who became Jesus? That might also provoke the Jews to jealousy fulfilling Romans 11:11-12.

The search we are on has enormous implications. We have also just seen that Yahweh is the name above the names of the gods of Babylon, Bel, Marduk, Nebo/Nego/Nabu, and Aku. Yahweh was already the name above the gods of Egypt (the ten we named) and Dagon. Again, **nowhere in any of the Old Testament text is the name of Jesus**. Are you beginning to see how Yahweh of the Old Testament must be the Son of God? And, the Son of God, Yahweh, came to reveal

the Father, Yahweh. Yahweh, Sr. and Yahweh, Jr. to use our more familiar method of a son and father having the same name.

Here is what Jesus told His Jewish audience in John's Gospel:

*37 "And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. **You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.** [John 5:37 NASB]*

*46 "**Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.** [John 6:46 NASB]*

18 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 NKJV]

Every time the LORD . . . Yahweh speaks or is seen in the Old Testament must be the Son of God or Jesus is wrong. Think about the ramifications of Jesus' words being incorrect.

Yahweh and Yahweh son of Yahweh or Yahweh ben Yahweh or Yahweh bar Yahweh. It is just a thought to help us process.

How in the world did we get into this mess? We got there by substituting the word "LORD or Lord" for the name of Yahweh. To the casual reader, LORD is the same as Lord.

Some translations will render the name of God in the Old Testament as “Lord.” Then Lord in the Old Testament becomes equal to Lord in the New Testament. This can only be true if Yahweh is Jesus and Jesus is Yahweh.

THE GOD OF JEZEBEL VERSUS THE GOD OF ELIJAH

Again, we know “the story,” but, what about the “rest of the story”? This power encounter is between Yahweh and Baal and his “consort,” Asherah. Elijah means, “my God is Yah(weh).”

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, you troubler of Israel?”

He said, “I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD [Yahweh] and you have followed the Baals. Now then send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

So Ahab sent a message among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD [Yahweh] is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him a word.

Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a prophet of the LORD [Yahweh], but Baal’s

prophets are 450 men. Now let them give us two oxen; and let them choose one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD [Yahweh], and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people said, “That is a good idea.”

So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one ox for yourselves and prepare it first for you are many, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it.”

Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon saying, “O Baal, answer us.” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they leaped about the altar which they made.

It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened.”

So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them.

When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but

there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD [Yahweh] which had been torn down.

Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD [Yahweh] had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.”

So with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD [Yahweh], and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. Then he arranged the wood and cut the ox in pieces and laid it on the wood.

And he said, “Fill four pitchers with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time,” and they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time,” and they did it a third time. The water flowed around the altar and he also filled the trench with water.

At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD [Yahweh], the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and I have done all these things at Your word. Answer me, O LORD

[Yahweh], answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD [Yahweh], are God, and that You have turned their heart back again.”

Then the fire of the LORD [Yahweh] fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD [Yahweh], He is God; the LORD [Yahweh], He is God.” (1 Kings 18:17-39 NASB)

So, who is God? Yahweh is God. It would appear that the name of Yahweh is above the name of Baal and his consort, Asherah. What do you think the 450 “prophets” of Baal and 400 “prophets” of Asherah would say? Do you remember the ones Elijah killed with the edge of his sword?

“Know therefore today that it is the LORD [Yahweh] your God who is crossing over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you, so that you may drive them out and destroy them quickly, just as the LORD [Yahweh] has spoken to you.” (Deuteronomy 9:3 NASB)

for our God [Yahweh] is a consuming fire.
(Hebrews 12:29 NASB)

Who is the God of the “Hebrews”? Yahweh is God of the Hebrews. Just ask Pharaoh. What do you think Pharaoh would have done to receive his firstborn son back from the dead? You’d be wrong to think that this is an “academic exercise.” Sheep die in their sins and their blood is on the hands of their shepherds, their Pastors.

Again, nowhere in any of these Old Testament texts is the name of Jesus. Are you beginning to see how Yahweh of the Old Testament must be a manifestation of the Son of God?

“For I, the LORD [Yahweh], do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6 NASB)

Yahweh doesn’t change but He does “become human.” Who could or would do that except the “Living God”? If we turn the page, just a couple of times we find ourselves here: *“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name **Jesus**, for He [Yahweh] will save His people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21 NASB)

Indeed, for **Yahweh is Salvation**. (Strong’s #G2424, #H3091)

THE GODS OF AMMON, MOAB AND EDOM VERSUS THE GOD OF JEHOSEPHAT

This is a familiar story to many of us. We usually shorten the text by saying something like, “The king sent out the praise team and then God defeated the enemies of Israel.” It is an accurate account, but there are details that warrant some time. Let’s look at part of the text.

Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Midianites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi).”

Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD [Yahweh], and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD [Yahweh]; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD [Yahweh].

Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD

[Yahweh] before the new court, and he said, “O LORD [Yahweh], the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You.”

Jehoshaphat means, “Yahweh is Judge.” The king seeks Yahweh himself and proclaims a fast throughout the land. This can seem like a small point. But, who do they cry out to? Yahweh!

“Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, ‘Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.’

“Now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom You did not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), see how they are rewarding us by

*coming to drive us out from Your possession
which You have given us as an inheritance.”*
(2 Chronicles 20:1-11 NASB)

Mount Seir is another name for Esau's descendants; you might see it as Edom as well. The king reminds Yahweh who owns the land. The king puts Yahweh, their God, in remembrance of His promises to Abraham. When Moses and the armies of Israel were moving north (modern day Jordan), they were told by Yahweh not to destroy these people. The Ammonites and Moabites were descendants of Lot. The Edomites of Mount Seir were descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother. These were all blood relatives of the Israelites and they wanted to destroy the descendants of Isaac and take the land that was promised to the descendants of Isaac.

Whose sanctuary is it? It is Yahweh's. Whose name is there? Yahweh's name is there. Remember, “LORD” or “Lord” is not a name. Whose name is in your sanctuary? Does it matter?

Remember the covenant;

“‘Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us’.” (2 Chronicles 20:9 NASB)

When we cry out to Yahweh, Yahweh will hear us, and Yahweh will save.

Remember, Jehoshaphat's name means Yahweh judges or Yahweh is judge. ***“O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”*** (2 Chronicles 20:12 NASB)

The Hebrew's were under great oppression in the past. They were afflicted and they cried out. Yahweh heard them and Yahweh delivered them. Yahweh commissioned Moses, saying,

“Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, ‘I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt. So I said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey’.” (Exodus 3:16-17 NASB)

The Hebrew's were afflicted in Egypt and they cried out to their God. Yahweh heard their cry and Yahweh responded. Jehoshaphat put Yahweh, his namesake, in remembrance of

His track record, not the record of the Israelite's, nor his personal accomplishments. Yahweh brought them to this land and told them specifically not to destroy these people who were gathered against them. This must be Yahweh's problem. They are in the land that Yahweh said was a land flowing with milk and honey.

All Judah was standing before the LORD [Yahweh], with their infants, their wives and their children.

Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD [Yahweh] came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph;
(2 Chronicles 20:13-14 NASB)

Judah means, "Praise." Jahaziel means, "Who God watches over," and Zechariah means, "Yahweh remembers." Benaiah means, "Yahweh has built up." Jeiel means, "God sweeps away." Mattaniah means, "Gift of Yahweh."

Yahweh remembers and He watches over what He has given as a gift, what He has built up and now it looks like maybe He needs to sweep away their enemy, who is coming to "take" what is His.

The Spirit of Yahweh, the Holy Spirit, shows up with "marching orders." No one goes to war without "marching orders."

*and he said, “Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD [Yahweh] to you, ‘Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for **the battle is not yours but God’s.**” (2 Chronicles 20:15 NASB)*

Who is the God of Judah? Yahweh is God of Judah. The battle belongs to Yahweh. This sounds like what David declared to Goliath:

*“This day the LORD [Yahweh] will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD [Yahweh] does not deliver by sword or by spear; **for the battle is the LORD’S [Yahweh’s]** and He will give you into our hands.” (1 Samuel 17:46-47 NASB)*

Jehoshaphat was a good king who remembered what Yahweh had done, especially when the odds were against Israel.

Yahweh does nothing unless He tells His secrets to His servants the prophets. Aren't you glad He doesn't change? (Amos 3:7, Malachi 3:6) Jahaziel is the prophet in this narrative.

“Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD [Yahweh] on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD [Yahweh] is with you.”
(2 Chronicles 20:16-17 NASB)

The prophet says go up by a certain path and you won't need to fight. Stand still and “see” the salvation of Yahweh because “Yahweh is with you.”

Isaiah's name means, “Salvation is of Yahweh.” He writes, *“Therefore the Lord [Yahweh] Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”* (Isaiah 7:14 NASB). Since Yahweh is with us and His name shall be “Immanuel” (which means “God with us”) who do you suppose Isaiah is prophesying will become the salvation of Israel? Remember, “Jesus” means “Yahweh is Salvation.” **Isaiah is prophesying that Yahweh would become flesh to save.**

Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD [Yahweh], worshiping the LORD [Yahweh].

The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD [Yahweh] God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD [Yahweh] your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed."

When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD [Yahweh] and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD [Yahweh], for His lovingkindness is everlasting." (2 Chronicles 20:18-21 NASB)

Judah had an "all hands on deck" praise service.

"When they began singing and praising, the LORD [Yahweh] set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed.

For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying

them completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they were corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped.” (2 Chronicles 20:22-24 NASB)

Yahweh would not let the Israelites kill those who were related to them by blood. Yahweh set ambushes against them because “*Yahweh is a **man** of war.*” (Exodus 15:3 NKJV)

The people separated themselves out to Yahweh to praise Him and give thanks to Him. The “Man” of war responded. Yahweh destroyed those who were against His chosen people. The prophet Jahaziel knew from the Spirit of Yahweh, Holy Spirit, that the battle was God’s. David knew from Holy Spirit that the battle against Goliath and the Philistines was Yahweh’s.

It takes the people three days to pick up all the plunder and all the booty. Moreover, on the fourth day, they have another praise service:

When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, including goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much.

Then on the fourth day they assembled in the valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD [Yahweh]. Therefore they have named that place “The Valley of Beracah” until today.

Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD [Yahweh] had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres and trumpets to the house of the LORD [Yahweh].

And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the LORD [Yahweh] had fought against the enemies of Israel.

So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides. (2 Chronicles 20:25-30 NASB)

Yahweh heard the cries of Jehoshaphat and His people. Yahweh answered by a prophet. Yahweh heard the praises of His people. Yahweh defeated His enemies. Yahweh let them keep the plunder and they named a valley in His honor. Yahweh heard the praises of His people as they marched back to Jerusalem. Yahweh continued to hear their praises in the temple. Understand, the people did not “praise the LORD.” The people praised Yahweh. **“Hallelujah” means, “praise Yahweh.”**

*God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the 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-name to all generations.**”* (Exodus 3:15 NASB)

“Behold, I am the LORD [Yahweh], the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?” (Jeremiah 32:27 NASB)

*“For the LORD [Yahweh] is our judge, The LORD [Yahweh] is our lawgiver, The LORD [Yahweh] is our king; **He will save us—**”* (Isaiah 33:22 NASB)

King Yahweh will save us. The meaning of Yahweh saving us reads in Hebrew as either the name Jehoshua (or Yehoshua). Yehoshua can be shortened to Yeshua. Yeshua is the most common form of the name of Jesus taken from the Hebrew.

So, is calling on “the name of the Lord” equivalent to calling on “the name of Yahweh”? It’s just a question. I can assure you that the Hebrews in this narrative didn’t cry out to “the LORD” or “the Lord.”

A verse we all are familiar with: *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

(John 3:16 NASB) God's only begotten son is Jesus (Yahweh is Salvation). God gives His only begotten son much earlier:

“Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The LORD [Yahweh], the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, ‘I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt’.” (Exodus 3:16 NASB)

The Apostle John continues:

*“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God [Yahweh].**” (John 3:17-18 NKJV)* A gasp might be appropriate here.

In the first century, if you were a Jew and didn't believe in Yahweh it would have been difficult to see how Yahweh had become human to save. Yahweh said he was the only God and Savior. So, if you didn't believe in Him, how could you receive Him as a Savior? John is surely implying that the **Jews who received Jesus as Savior believed in Yah-**

weh. They had meditated on the name of Yahweh. So, when Peter says:

*“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him **both Lord [Yahweh] and Christ**—this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:36-37 NASB)

Peter is saying that God (the Father) has made this Jesus both Lord and Christ; he is saying Yahweh has become the Christ--Yahweh has become the Messiah.

Perhaps Peter had this Scripture in mind:

*Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel; and Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD [Yahweh] had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people. So **the people believed**; and when they heard that the LORD [Yahweh] was concerned [literally, it says He visited] about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped. (Exodus 4:29-31 NASB)*

Are you cut to the heart by this revelation? Should you be? Should we be? Should the churches of Jesus Christ be cut to the heart? It is a fair question.

Yahweh doesn't change. Malachi (My Messenger) tells us so. Malachi is also so bold (and obedient) as to say:

*Then those who feared the LORD [Yahweh] spoke to one another; And the LORD [Yahweh] listened and heard them; so **a book of remembrance** was written before Him for those who fear the LORD [Yahweh] and who meditate on His name.*
(Malachi 3:16 NKJV)

Do you fear Yahweh?

When you meditate on the name of Yahweh and you come to the name of Jesus, Holy Spirit will help you connect the dots.

Is your name written in the book that Malachi describes? Are you called by the name of Yahweh if you are a Christian? Is there another book for the Church? Does He need two books for those who are called by His name? Is there a book for Israel and a different one for the church? No. Yahweh didn't change. Yahweh is the God of all flesh.

It sounds like there is only one book that counts:

*And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is **the book of life**; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (Revelation 20:12 NASB)*

and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Revelation 21:27 NASB)

There are “books” based on good works and there is a “Book,” which is based on the Lamb’s work.

Abraham told Isaac:

*“My son, God will provide **Himself** a lamb for a burnt offering’: so they went both of them together.” (Genesis. 22:8 KJV)*

Yahweh told Moses, “*And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by [the name of] God Almighty, but by my name the LORD [Yahweh] was I not known to them.*” (Exodus 6:3 KJV)

Abraham knew God as “God Almighty” or “El Shaddai.” God Almighty will provide Himself a lamb. “El Shaddai”

will provide Himself a lamb. The Lamb's Book of Life is *God Almighty's Book of Life*. Yahweh's point was that Yahweh is His name from generation to generation. (Exodus 3:15) **The Lamb's Book of Life is Yahweh's Book of Life.**

Yahweh became human to save. He became Jesus. Yahweh was known as "God Almighty" or "El Shaddai" for a season. Yahweh was known as "Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel" for a season. Yahweh became human, became Jesus, to save:

"For this reason also, God highly exalted [Jesus], and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord [Yahweh], to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11 NASB)

What happens then? The prophet Zechariah will have his final say: *"And the LORD [Yahweh] shall be King over all the Earth. In that day it shall be—'the LORD [Yahweh] is one,' And His name one."* (Zechariah 14:9 NKJV) **Every Christian knee, every Gentile knee, every Hebrew knee, will bend and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Yahweh who became human to save.**

Paul clarifies the situation of the Jews,

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. (Romans 11:11 NASB)

Can you imagine setting down with a Jew and being able to provoke him to jealousy because you now know that Yahweh became human to save? Can you imagine setting down with a Jew and being able to provoke him to become zealous for the gospel of Yahweh?

Paul says, “All Israel will be saved.” (Romans 11:26)

It might be time for “the Church” to cry out to Yahweh as Jehoshaphat and all Judah did. Paul warns us saying:

*“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, **lest you [the Church] should be wise in your own opinion**, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” (Romans 11:25 NKJV)*

Why the warning? *“Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.” (Romans 11:22 NASB)*

Yahweh never stopped being Yahweh when He was known as God Almighty (El Shaddai). He was just known

by another name. Yahweh never stopped being Yahweh when He became human to save, when He became Jesus, He just chose to be known by another name.

*“For **I, the LORD [Yahweh], do not change;** therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”*
(Malachi 3:6 NASB)

*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of **kings** is to search out a matter.* (Proverbs 25:2 NKJV)

*And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men **from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God;** and they will reign upon the Earth.”* (Revelation 5:9-10 NASB)

We, as kings, have been searching out a matter. Our “King” has disguised Himself. When you love “the LORD” your God with all you heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, then Father and Holy Spirit will “see to it” that you find Yahweh of Nazareth.

““Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek

Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD [Yahweh], ‘and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ declares the LORD [Yahweh], ‘and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.’” (Jeremiah 29:12-14 NASB)

If you replace every personal pronoun above with the name of Yahweh, His name appears 13 times in three verses!

Moses’ successor Joshua son of Nun put the line in the sand for the Children of Israel, declaring,

*“Now, therefore, fear the LORD [Yahweh] and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD [Yahweh]. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD [Yahweh], choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River; or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD [Yahweh].**” (Joshua 24:14-15 NASB)*

Isn't it interesting how God has a sense of humor? Here is a man we call "Joshua." "Joshua" means "Yahweh is salvation." Joshua and Jesus are equivalent names, in both Greek and Hebrew.

A man whose name means, "Yahweh is salvation" is choosing to serve Yahweh. Sounds like something Jesus might have said about His Father. Yahweh Is Salvation is choosing to serve Yahweh.

Now the Lord [Yahweh] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord [Yahweh] is, there is liberty.
(2 Corinthians 3:17 NASB)

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord [Yahweh]," except by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3 NASB)

*"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?**" (Luke. 11:13 NASB)*

Only Holy Spirit can grant you the liberty Yahweh purchased for you on the cross when He became human to save. Ask. Seek. Knock. Receive the Holy Spirit of Yahweh. He will teach you.

Sometimes we read an Old Testament story where God or “Yahweh” sends a prophet but the prophet’s name is never mentioned. Only the “words of Yahweh” are important. Yahweh is the name above all demon gods, and sometimes their names aren’t even important enough to list.

The name of Yahweh is above every name of every demon god that Yahweh, “man of war”, ever encounters in the Old Testament. I’ve not attempted to give you an exhaustive list of the battles that Yahweh won. You are welcome to “search out the matter.” It is your new birthright as a “king and priest to our God.”

As we move into the New Testament, here is what we have been taught by Holy Spirit:

- Yahweh is the God of the Old Testament.
- Yahweh’s name is above every demon god in the Old Testament.
- Yahweh doesn’t change.

Another Author’s Note

Let’s consider, very, very briefly, Luke 2:11.

*“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord. [Luke 2:11 NKJV]*

We have already discussed how the Greek word for Lord is “kurios” and how it was used to translate the name of God, Yahweh in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint. The Greek word for Christ is “christos,”

Strong's #G5527. This Greek word translates the Hebrew word, "mashiyach," or Strong's #H4899. With a little substitution, Hebrew for Greek, the English transliteration of Luke 2:11 reads as follows:

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Yahweh [the] Messiah."

The definite article "the" is added by the translators to make the syntax more user friendly for the English reader. The Greek simply says, "christos kurios or Messiah Yahweh." Thought you might want to know.

*15 Truly, You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, **Savior!** [Isaiah 45:15 NASB]*

THE GOD OF THE PHARISEES

*And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, **by whom do your sons cast them out?** For this reason they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”*

(Matthew 12:25-28 NASB)

Isn't this an interesting statement? By whose authority did the sons of the Pharisees cast out Satan? “Your sons” would have been an expression, a euphemism for “your disciples.” Every rabbi had his own disciples. The two major schools at the time were Rabbi Hillel and Rabbi Shammai. John the Baptist had his disciples. Jesus had His disciples.

Deliverance ministries were apparently part of everyone's ministry. Jesus acknowledges their activity in that ministry. He just asks them in whose authority they were operating.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees clearly *believed* they were serving Yahweh. There is nothing in any New Testament text to suggest otherwise. They added to His words and they had taken away from His words. They worshipped their traditions alongside the Torah. However, Yahweh was still

the God of Israel in Jesus' day. He had just become human to save them.

Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.' But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God," he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

"You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'" (Matthew 15:1-9 NASB)

Jesus is quoting from the prophet Isaiah:

“Be delayed and wait, Blind yourselves and be blind; They become drunk, but not with wine, They stagger, but not with strong drink. For the LORD [Yahweh] has poured over you a spirit of deep sleep, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, the seers. The entire vision will be to you like the words of a sealed book, which when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, ‘Please read this,’ he will say, ‘I cannot, for it is sealed.’ Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, ‘Please read this.’ And he will say, ‘I cannot read’.”

Then the Lord [Yahweh] said, “Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote...” (Isaiah 29:9-13 NASB)

The discussion between “LORD” and “Lord” in this text is a fruitful one but beyond what we are focusing on at this time. The fruit that remains from this tree will be found on the tree called “Septuagint, LXX.” (The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures presumably accomplished by 70 Rabbis. Seventy in Latin is “LXX.”) What

the Rosetta Stone is to the hieroglyphs of Egypt, so too, is the LXX to the Bible, the New Testament.

Yahweh is the name above Beelzebub. Suffice it to say, the God of the Pharisees was Yahweh. They were casting out Satan (Beelzebub) by the name of their God, Yahweh. They just didn't recognize Him as He stood in front of them. The demons knew who Jesus was, but the Pharisees did not.

By way of remembrance, let's look at everyone's favorite devotional book, Job:

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD [Yahweh], and Satan also came among them.

The LORD [Yahweh] said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD [Yahweh] and said, "From roaming about on the Earth and walking around on it."

The LORD [Yahweh] said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the Earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

Then Satan answered the LORD [Yahweh], "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in

the land. But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face.”

Then the LORD [Yahweh] said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD [Yahweh]. (Job 1:6-12 NASB)

It is clear Satan knew what Yahweh looked like... but let's continue.

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD [Yahweh], and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD [Yahweh].

The LORD [Yahweh] said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Then Satan answered the LORD [Yahweh] and said, “From roaming about on the Earth and walking around on it.”

The LORD [Yahweh] said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the Earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.”

Satan answered the LORD [Yahweh] and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face.”

So the LORD [Yahweh] said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power; only spare his life.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD [Yahweh] and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. (Job 2:1-7 NASB)

You’ve heard the story. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan for forty days and forty nights. But remember, Jesus knew His own identity:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’” (See Deuteronomy 8:3 at end)

Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; and ‘ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”

Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD [YAHWEH] YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”

Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD [YAHWEH] YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”

Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him. (Matthew 4:1-11 NASB)

My Greek scholar friends tell me that the word “if” in Matthew 4:3 could be translated as “since.” So, let’s read it again: *And the tempter came and said to Him, “Since You are*

the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”
(Matthew 4:3 NASB)

Satan believes that he has Yahweh trapped in human skin. “Since you are the Son of God... why don’t you just create some bread?” Only God can create by the way. Can you imagine the look on Satan’s face when he thought he had Yahweh trapped in a human body?

The same comments could be made in verses 4:6, “Since you are the Son of God...” Understand, Jesus doesn’t just respond by quoting scripture to Satan, He tells Satan that he should not tempt Yahweh **his** God. Jesus then tells Satan that Satan should worship Yahweh, **Satan’s** God. Satan calls Jesus the Son of God and Jesus tells Satan that He, Jesus, is Yahweh and should not be tempted but rather worshipped.

You may remember this: “*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;*”
(Luke. 22:31 NASB)

From whom do you think Satan asked permission? Who did Satan ask if he could sift Job as wheat? Who did Satan ask if he could sift Peter as wheat? Satan had to ask permission from Yahweh who had become human to save, Jesus. Do you see why Jesus “could cast out Satan” with a word? “Yahweh Is Salvation” is the name above Satan, above Beelzebub, the prince of demons because Yahweh is or because I AM.

In closing, let's read Deuteronomy 8:3 but from the Hebrew and not the Greek Septuagint (LXX) as in Matthew 4:1-11.

*“So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by **every [word] that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD [Yahweh]**. [Deuteronomy 8:3 NKJV]*

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. 2 He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, [Matthew 5:1-2 NASB]

Why did He do that? Because man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of **Yahweh** . . .

MY TWO WITNESSES

Most of us have read the crucifixion narratives, probably many times. The Pharisees were steeped in tradition and legalism. It would not have been to their benefit to accuse Jesus of Nazareth apart from the Torah of Moses. They sought to accuse Jesus based on the Torah:

*“But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die.**’ You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the LORD [**Yahweh**] has not spoken?’ When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD [**Yahweh**], if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD [**Yahweh**] has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.” (Deuteronomy 18:20-22 NASB)*

We understand that Jesus was prophesying the destruction of the Herodian temple **and** the destruction of His own body that was the temple of the Spirit of Yahweh when He said,

“Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” (Matthew 24:2 NASB)

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19 NASB)

The chief priests, the elders, and all the council searched high and low for the perfect false witnesses who could testify and give them grounds for putting Jesus to death.

*Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. **But at last two false witnesses came forward** and said, “This [fellow] said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’”*

And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What [is it] these men testify against You?” (Matthew 26:60-62 NKJV)

Even though the witnesses were false, the principle of witnesses can be seen. To use Jewish Law to condemn someone required a specified number of witnesses. Where does that come from? Consider the following:

*“Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death **on the testimony of two or three witnesses**; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.” (Deuteronomy 17:6 NKJV)*

*“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; **by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**” (Deuteronomy 19:15 NKJV)*

The issue before Moses and the children of Israel was truth. How were they to establish truth? Yahweh required witnesses to establish truth, and truth is established by two or three witnesses.

Face to Face

*“And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. **You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.**” (John 5:37 NASB)*

46 *“Not that **anyone** has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.*
[John 6:46 NKJV]

*18 **No one** has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. [John 1:18 NASB]*

*Then He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, [I], [**Yahweh**], make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He [is] faithful in all My house. **I speak with him face to face**, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of [**Yahweh**]. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?” (Numbers 12:6-8 NKJV)*

This is important and somewhat subtle. Jesus says that no one has ever seen the Father’s form or heard the Father’s voice. Who did Moses see? Who did Moses speak with? The question is very simple but extraordinarily profound. Moses spoke with Yahweh. Period.

If there is another answer then Jesus of Nazareth is wrong. He would not be “mistaken,” He would be wrong.

Who is this Yahweh? It must be the Son. Yahweh, God of the Hebrews is the Son of God. Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the Son of God.

Remember, the God-ordained purpose of witnesses is to establish truth. Jesus said that no one had ever heard the

Father's voice, so whom did Elijah hear?

Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD [Yahweh] came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD [Yahweh], the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

So He said, "Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD [Yahweh]." And behold, the LORD [Yahweh] was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD [Yahweh]; but the LORD [Yahweh] was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD [Yahweh] was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake a fire, but the LORD [Yahweh] was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance

of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:9-13 NASB)

The wind, earthquake, and fire did not cause Elijah to hide his face in his mantle. A small still voice caused Elijah to hide his face. Elijah heard the voice of the Son of God, Yahweh. This is not a time for “political correctness.” Yahweh demands the truth. He is not a man that He should lie, is He? Or the Son of a man that He should change his mind (capriciously) would He? (Numbers 23:17-19)

Now take another deep breath and relax as we go up the Mount of Transfiguration. Who is there? James, John, and Peter are there. Why? Truth demands 2 or 3 witnesses. Who else is there? Moses and Elijah are there. Do you realize that this might have been Moses’ first trip into the Promised Land?

*“Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on Earth can whiten them. **Elijah appeared to them along with Moses;** and they were talking with Jesus.*

Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tabernacles, one for

You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified.

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them, and a voice came out of the cloud, ‘This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!’ (Mark 9:2-7 NASB)

Why is Moses there? *Moses saw* the form of Yahweh and Moses spoke with Yahweh face to face. The Hebrew says, “mouth to mouth.” Moses knows what his friend, Yahweh, looks like.

Why is Elijah there? *Elijah heard* the small, still voice of Yahweh. The Hebrew name Elijah means “Yahweh is my God,” Strong’s #H452.¹

Moses and Elijah are there because they are called to be witnesses. They are witnesses of Yahweh. They know His voice. My sheep know My voice, even Old Testament sheep. The LORD is my shepherd. Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Moses is witness number one, Elijah is witness number two, and Father is witness number three. The Father knows the Son. Jesus said the world had never known the Father. (John 17:25)

Why does Father say, “Hear Him?” Jesus is Yahweh. Yahweh is “Lawgiver.” (Isaiah 33:22) Why “listen” to Moses when you can listen to the Lawgiver, Yahweh Himself?

Why would you listen to the Prophets if you could listen to the small, still voice that spoke to Israel's greatest prophet, Elijah? Since Yahweh spoke to Elijah and Jesus is Yahweh, why not listen to Yahweh Himself?

By two or three witnesses, truth is determined. Didn't Jesus say He was the "Truth"? Why are Peter, James, and John present? These three witnesses are there to bear witness to Truth after He goes to prepare a place for them.

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me'." (John 14:6 NASB)

God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'; and He said, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'."

God, furthermore, said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD [Yahweh], the 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-name to all generations'." (Exodus 3:14-15 NASB)

Every "I AM" statement that Jesus makes in the Gospels is to identify Him as Yahweh. "I AM" is not a name. When you conjugate the verb, "to be," it starts with, "I am." God

is telling Moses that He, God is. Said another way, God answers Moses by saying that His name is a “verb”. **Moses’ name is a noun but God’s name is a verb.** I wonder what the look on Moses’ face was like? Got a mirror handy? God graciously provides Moses with a Name that is a noun, Yahweh. *“Truly, You are a God who hides Himself, O God of Israel, Savior!”* (Isaiah 45:15 NASB)

Remember, “Isaiah” in Hebrew means, “Salvation is of Yahweh.” Who is the God of Israel? Yahweh is God of Israel. Who is the only Savior? Yahweh is the only God and Savior.

“Declare and set forth your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD [Yahweh]? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me.” (Isaiah 45:21 NASB)

Yahweh becomes human to save. His name must be “Yahweh is salvation.” His name in English must be Jesus.

Did Yahweh stop being Yahweh to become Jesus? No, but Yahweh “just” became a man who could save and a man that would not tell a lie. Truly, truly I say unto you . . .

“For I, the LORD [Yahweh], do not change; therefore you, sons of Jacob, are not consumed.” (Malachi 3:6 NASB)

So what does all this mean? Does it matter? Ever had a prayer that was not answered? Did you ever wonder why? Jesus said a number of times that what was asked of Father in His name, Jesus' name, Father would do. Could it be that Father is looking at our hearts to see if we know who Jesus of Nazareth is? This is a hard question but one that we all might want to prayerfully consider. I can tell you from personal experience, demons know the name of Yahweh. I've seen them flee. *"But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you."* (Luke 11:20 NASB)

Now you know why the prophets were less than popular. They were prophesying the coming of the Son. The Spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. (Revelation 19:10)

Are you still not sure? Consider, again, the words of Jesus of Nazareth:

*"And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have **neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.**"* (John 5:37 NASB)

46 *"**Not that anyone** has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. [John 6:46 NASB]*

18 ***No one** has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. [John 1:18 NASB]*

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

They heard the sound of the LORD [Yahweh] God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD [Yahweh] God among the trees of the garden.

Then the LORD [Yahweh] God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” (Genesis 3:7-10 NASB)

From whom did Adam and Eve hide? Sounds like it must have been from Yahweh, the Son of God, doesn't it?

46 “Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. [John 6:46 NASB]

18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. [John 1:18 NASB]

We don't have the luxury of being “politically correct.” Jesus can't be “mistaken.” He can't be wrong.

For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, both in the Heavens and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him [Jesus] and for Him [Jesus]. (Colossians 1:16 NASB) [Jesus added by author]

*Then the LORD [**Yahweh**] God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Genesis 2:7 NASB) [**Yahweh** added by author]*

How can “all things be created by Jesus, yet Yahweh formed man from the dust of the ground?” Pretty amazing, isn’t it? The cart has been before the horse for a long, long, time.

YAHWEH, KING OF KINGS

My family and I made the decision about thirteen years ago in 2001 to begin celebrating the feasts of Yahweh. Moses wrote extensively about the feasts that were required by Yahweh. Leviticus 23 and Exodus 23 would be good for you to read. We celebrate the feasts. We don't "keep" them. We usually join another group of like-minded Believers. We've been in groups of thousands, of hundreds or at a small table. I've celebrated them in Israel, Colorado, and Texas. Since 2011, we celebrated Passover (Pesach) in a very different way. We've been guests at a Chasidic Synagogue.

Their liturgy for Passover can be found in a book called a "Siddur." There are many different versions of this book. I was particularly blessed because mine was in English. I don't read Hebrew at all.

What I noticed is that many times in their prayers, the text referred to Yahweh as King of Kings. I find this fascinating.

Nowhere in the Hebrew Bible is Yahweh ever referred to as King of kings. Don't get me wrong I absolutely believe He is "King of kings," even if the text doesn't say so exactly in those words. However, the only place I can find the title "King of kings" in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is in reference to two Gentile kings. Nebuchadnezzar and Artaxerxes receive that title.

*“Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the **God of Heaven**, perfect peace. And now” (Ezra 7:12 NASB)*

*For thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will bring upon Tyre from the north **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings**, with horses, chariots, cavalry and a great army.” (Ezekiel 26:7 NASB)*

*“You, O [Nebuchadnezzar], are **the king of kings**, to whom the **God of Heaven** has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory;” (Daniel 2:37 NASB)*

Notice in the text from Daniel, that the prophet Daniel is telling Nebuchadnezzar that the God of Heaven is the giver. Who is this God of Heaven? Yahweh is God of Heaven.

It would be good for you to read, carefully, the story of Nebuchadnezzar in the Book of Daniel, chapters 1-4. Read it again as for the first time. The king has a dream that only Daniel can interpret. Daniel makes it clear to the king that the interpretation has come from his God, Yahweh. Daniel also makes it clear that the king’s behavior needs to change. The king doesn’t agree... yet. His kingdom ends up being removed from him and he is driven out of the palace and becomes as a beast in the field.

“Immediately the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.

“But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the Earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of Heaven And among the inhabitants of Earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of Heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.” (Daniel 4:33-37 NASB)

Daniel tells the king that the God of Heaven is the giver (Daniel 2:37) and Nebuchadnezzar, the first witness to take the stand, ends up praising the King of Heaven.

We have two witnesses on the stand that suggest that they are “king of kings.” However, there is “circumstantial evidence” to consider.

For the LORD [Yahweh] Most High is to be feared, A great King over all the Earth. (Psalm 47:2 NASB)

That they may know that You alone, whose name is the LORD [Yahweh], Are the Most High over all the Earth. (Psalm 83:18 NASB)

For You are the LORD [Yahweh] Most High over all the Earth; You are exalted far above all gods. (Psalm 97:9 NASB)

Let them praise the name of the LORD [Yahweh], For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above Earth and Heaven. (Psalm 148:13 NASB)

“For the LORD [Yahweh] your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.” (Deuteronomy 10:17 NASB)

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence Earth and Heaven

fled away, and no place was found for them. (Revelation 20:11 NASB)

I happen to believe everyone will be at the “great white throne” judgment. Some are there as witnesses and some are being judged. I plan to be there as one of “Yahweh’s witnesses.” I also know it will be a pretty quiet place. There won’t be any arguing with God, just agreement.

Jesus, Yahweh Is Salvation, earns the title “King of Kings.” And every knee will bow and tongue will confess that Jesus is Yahweh.¹ Paul and Isaiah, two witnesses, will be satisfied.

Then we will clearly understand the Prophet Zechariah: *“And [Yahweh] shall be King over all the Earth. In that day it shall be [Yahweh] [is] one, ’ And His name one.”* (Zechariah 14:9 NKJV)

Yahweh is King of kings because He became human to save, Jesus, and in the process, earned the title King of kings for Himself. Again, every head will bow, every knee will bend, and every tongue will confess Jesus of Nazareth is Yahweh!

The witnesses have been heard: Moses, Elijah, James, John, Peter, Paul, Isaiah, and of course, the Father.

Yahweh of Nazareth will testify for Himself:

*“Why do you call Me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46 NASB)*

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘**Lord, Lord,** did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**’” (Matthew 7:21-23 NASB)*

Only the Lawgiver can truly determine who is being “lawless.” (Isaiah 33:22)

*“You call Me Teacher and **Lord**; and you are right, for so I am.” (John 13:13 NASB)*

13:13 ὑμεῖς φωνεῖτέ με ὁ διδάσκαλος καὶ ὁ κύριος καὶ καλῶς λέγετε εἰμὶ γάρ (John 13:13 GNT morph from www.blueletterbible.org)

*All your children [shall be] **taught** by **the LORD [Yahweh]**, And great [shall be] the peace of your children. (Isaiah 54:13 NKJV)*

Recall, the Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures, the Tanakh, translates the name of God, Yahweh as “kurios or as κύριος,

Now you know why Jesus taught with great authority and why He didn't want the children kept from coming to Him.

John reminds us of our King's triumphant return:

*“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is **Lord of lords** and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”*
(Revelation 17:14 NASB)

*And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**”* (Revelation 19:16 NASB)

Remember Moses' words:

*“For the LORD [Yahweh] your God is **the** God of gods and **the** Lord of lords, **the** great, **the** mighty, and **the** awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.”* (Deuteronomy 10:17 NASB)

Yahweh becomes a human to save, and in the process adds the title “King of kings” to His already perfect resume. King of kings is title that Yahweh creates for men. He becomes a man and earns the title so there will be no doubt among men who is rightfully King.

Consider, how can Jesus be LORD OF LORDS if Yahweh is **the** Lord of lords? Jesus must be Yahweh and Yahweh must be Jesus.

You could also ask Artaxerxes and Nebuchadnezzar. You'll find out at the throne of Yahweh. Remember, God is not the God of the dead...

THE GOD OF EZEKIEL

Just ask Ezekiel and remember, that God is not the God of the dead. Here is the problem. Ezekiel has some words for us, the Church. These words should cause “fear and trembling” and probably a healthy dose of travail.

“Then the word of the LORD [Yahweh] came to me saying, ‘Son of man, when the house of Israel was living in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds; their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her impurity. Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land, because they had defiled it with their idols. Also I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them.

When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name, because it was said of them, ‘These are the people of the LORD [Yahweh]; yet they have come out of His land.’ But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.

Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says

the Lord GOD, 'It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD [Yahweh], 'declares the Lord GOD, 'when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight'." (Ezekiel 36:16-23 NASB)

These men, witnesses all, Moses, David, Amos, and Ezra weigh in on this topic if you want to search out their opinions. They will be at that Great White Throne as well. They will be there as "witnesses of Yahweh."

God's name is holy. Holy means separated out. Holy means it is not common. Holy means it is not vulgar. Holy means it should be treated with respect and not desecrated.

Judah was not in exile in Babylon because they "mispronounced" or desecrated the name of Yahweh. They were there because they defiled it with their sin. God made sure they would remember. He wrote a book about it. He wanted them to remember. Do not take what is holy and give it to the dogs.

Yahweh caused it to be written for the Jews. Yahweh did it for us, the Church. Remember, **Jesus said He had sheep that were not of the fold of Israel but that there would be**

one Shepherd and one sheepfold (John 10). Paul gave that sheepfold a name in Galatians 6:16, “the Israel of God.”

Church, that sheepfold will not be “the church” but will be the Israel of God that is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, slave nor free. Its Shepherd’s name will be Yahweh who became human to save, and did not change in the process: “*Yahweh is my shepherd, I shall not want.*” (Psalm 23) Yahweh will present a bride, spotless and blameless, whose gown is without a single wrinkle to His Father, Yahweh.

If you are not convinced at this point in this text that Jesus is LORD, that Jesus is Yahweh, I’ve done all I can do. Ask the Spirit of Yahweh, the Holy Spirit, to come and be your Teacher, your Rabbi.

Every time we sin, we defile and profane the name of Yahweh. How? Because it is “hidden” in the name Jesus-Yahweh is Salvation. It has been right “under our noses” since 1611 when the King James Version of the Bible was published. If you want to be a stickler about it, you can even go back to the Geneva Bible. There will be no excuses at the Great White Throne Judgment. “*Truly You [are] God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior.*” (Isaiah 45:15 NKJV)

Jesus of Nazareth is Yahweh of Nazareth.

Several years ago, my Rabbi, Holy Spirit, convicted me of defiling the name of Jesus and with every confession of sin I make a choice to repent for defiling the name of Yahweh, as Yahweh is salvation, Yahweh as Jesus.

Do you feel like you live in Babylon? Are you in exile because you have defiled the name of “Yahweh is salvation”? Do you remember the prophet Haggai who wrote about people building their paneled houses while the temple of Yahweh was in ruins?

How’s your temple?

- *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit [the Spirit of the LORD . . . **Yahweh**] who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”* [1Corinthians 6:19 NASB]

Is it time to separate the “holy from the profane” in your temple?

SO WHAT?

Jesus says, “*For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.*” (John 5:22 NKJV)

Isaiah says, “*For [Yahweh] [is] our Judge...*” (Isaiah 33:22 NASB)

Jesus says, “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*” (John 13:34 NASB)

Isaiah says, “*...[Yahweh] [is] our Lawgiver...*” (Isaiah 33:22 NASB)

Jesus says, “*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*” (John 14:15 NASB)

Moses says, “*You shall love [Yahweh] your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*” (Deuteronomy 6:5 NASB)

Isaiah says, “*...[Yahweh] [is] our King; He will save us.*” (Isaiah 33:22 NASB)

Pilate recognized Jesus as King with all the authority of Rome: Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “*JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.*” (John 19:19 NASB)

Isaiah says, “*He [Yahweh] will save us.*” (Isaiah 33:22 NASB)

Dr. Strong says that the name Jesus means, “Yahweh is Salvation”; Strong’s # G2424, Strong’s # H3091.¹

I lost count of the number of witnesses.

By what authority did Jesus give a commandment? He is “Lawgiver.” Why isn’t this taught from every pulpit in the land? James, half brother of Yahweh, warns, ***“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.”*** (James 3:1 NASB) ***How much stricter punishment shall some receive for not preaching the truth?***

By the way, “James” is really “Jacob.” Let’s read Paul in Galatians 1:19, but from the Greek:

Galatians 1:19 NASB - “But I did not see any other of the apostles except **James**, the Lord’s brother.”

1:19 ἕτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον εἰ μὴ **Ἰάκωβον** τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου (Gal 1:19 GNT morph www.blueletterbible.org)

I have highlighted “**James**” but transliterated it is “**Jakobos**.” Dr. Strong’s Concordance will help you. Jacob, son of Joseph and Mary, also wrestled with “the man.” Ultimately, everyone will wrestle with “the man.” All of us are “Jacob,” “heel grabber/usurper” until we overcome “the man” Yahweh who became human to save.

Jacob, son of Isaac, became Israel because he persevered. We can become “Israel” as well. “Israel” can mean, “Prince with God.” Now, that is a destiny! That is our des-

tiny (Romans 11). I am grafted into the cultivated olive tree that is Israel. Where are you grafted? Your theology can have you spliced into Rome, and you do not even know. Ask the Holy Spirit your Rabbi. I know He will show you.

Here is a “prophetic picture” yet to be seen by anyone—Jew, Gentile, or Christian:

*“You shall divide it by lot for an inheritance among yourselves and among the aliens who stay in your midst, who bring forth sons in your midst. And they shall be to you **as the native-born among the sons of Israel**; they shall be allotted an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And in the tribe with which the alien stays, there you shall give him his inheritance,” declares the Lord GOD [Yahweh].”* (Ezekiel 47:22-23 NASB)

*“**Rejoice, O Gentiles, [with] His people**; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land [and] His people.”* (Deuteronomy 32:43 NKJV)

“Behold, I am the LORD [Yahweh], the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?” (Jeremiah 32:27 NASB)

“God of all flesh” means He is the God of the Hebrews and the Gentiles (all non-Hebrews, which means everyone else.) Yahweh became human in order to save us without changing who He was. When we understand, from Jeremiah 32:27 that Yahweh is God of all flesh meaning Jew and Christian alike, we view the cross in a different way. John 10 becomes “prophetic” in that Jesus says that one day there will be One Shepherd and One sheepfold. This was hard to imagine in the years that Israel did not exist, but that changed in the years 1947-48. Yahweh has been rebuilding His sheepfold called Israel for 65 years as of 2013. What will you do when Jesus “whistles” for His sheep? Where will you go? Will you stay?

“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD [Yahweh], choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River; or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD [Yahweh].” (Joshua 24:15 NASB)

We’ve made our choice. We will serve Yahweh who became human to save and who did not change His character in the process.

*I Praise the LORD [**Yahweh**]! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, [**Yahweh**] for [He is] good! For His mercy [endures] forever. [Psalm 106:1 NKJV]*

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Physicians are trained by the “Socratic method.” I suspect many of you have been trained by such a method. The teacher poses a question and you are expected to answer. Wrong answers are not always unwelcome. What the teacher is often looking for is the student’s line of reasoning. It is always better to say, “I don’t know” than to guess. This is an effective means of learning but it can be fear-based. Intimidation is common, as is anxiety. As someone who used to teach, I know that I can always ask a question that a student can’t answer. Believe me, there were many I couldn’t answer as a student. There are questions that I cannot answer today.

There is an old saying, “A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.” Alternatively, as my rabbi friend said, “I’m a salesman not an enforcer.”

I know what the Scripture says. I have the testimony of three witnesses, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. These witnesses say, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews,” in one form or another. Let’s look:

*And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, “THIS IS JESUS **THE KING OF THE JEWS.**” (Matthew 27:37 NASB)*

*The inscription of the charge against Him read, “**THE KING OF THE JEWS.**” (Mark 15:26 NASB)*

*Now there was also an inscription above Him, “THIS IS **THE KING OF THE JEWS.**” (Luke 23:38 NASB)*

*Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, **THE KING OF THE JEWS.**” Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek. (John 19:19-20 NASB)*

These four, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John also testify to Jesus’ identity. Besides, our Rabbi, the Spirit of Yahweh, is the Spirit of Prophecy. In addition, the Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. (Revelation 19:10)

Consider the prophecy of the psalmist:

***God has ascended with a shout, The LORD [Yahweh], with the sound of a trumpet.** (Psalm 47:5 NASB)*

*So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord [**Yahweh**], is it at this time You are restoring the **kingdom to Israel?**”*

He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the

Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

*And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? **This Jesus**, who has been taken up from you into heaven, **will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven.**” (Acts 1:6-11 NASB)*

*For the Lord [Yahweh] Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and **with the trumpet of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (1 Thessalonians 4:16 NASB)*

The Psalms, the Gospels, and the Apostle Paul, agree. Yahweh of Nazareth will return in the same manner in which He left.

I praise God if you understand this book, but I take no credit. If you understand, thank your Rabbi, the Spirit of Yahweh.

By the way, everyone must come to their own decision on this issue, the name above all names. My opinion, either way, would influence you. In either case, the answer lies in entering into a deeper relationship with God guided by Holy Spirit. He can really teach, especially when He has a willing student.

Blessed be Yahweh, God of the Hebrews.

Blessed be Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Blessed be Yahweh, God of all flesh.

Blessed be Yahweh, who is salvation, who is Jesus!

WORK OF MY HANDS

*I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD
[Yahweh]. (Psalm 118:17 NKJV)*

This section deals with a concept. That concept is, “The work of one’s hands.” I had an encounter with the “Living God” a number of years ago when He began to teach me about this principle.

If you were to search out this phrase in the Bible, it would become clear to you that it mainly deals with the work of a man’s hands. That work could be what a man has accomplished by his own efforts. It could refer to accomplishments such as building of wealth, acquisition of property, fields, flocks, herds, or people.

Creation is often spoken about as “the work of His hands.” We understand that when God creates in Genesis, it is by the spoken Word. God is seen as a potter and we are the clay that He fashions. He molds us into vessels that will give Him honor and glory.

In 1994, I developed a series of neurological events that over time left me unable to practice medicine as an anesthesiologist. I lost the use and function of my hands, and was forced to retire at a young age. I had no definition of myself apart from my various jobs. I was a Commander in the U.S. Navy. I was a physician. I was an anesthesiologist and

a specialist in pain medicine and pain management. I had been a Battalion Surgeon with the Marine Corps. You get the picture. It was a long list. Our culture makes it easy for men to do this. We are what we do and we are only as good as our last event. This isn't unique to men and certainly has nothing to do with the level of education I had attained. Blue-collar workers and white-collar workers are on equal playing field when it comes to this trap. As more women enter the work place, they are stepping into this same snare much to Satan's delight. He is an equal opportunity offender.

I had a surgery on my neck that did not have the outcome any of us hoped. I handpicked my surgical team. I knew them all and they were top shelf. After the surgery, I was far worse than before the surgery. My arms burned with a fiery pain and my weakness was profound. I would sleep at night in a recliner with my arms resting on pillows. One day, the Spirit of the Lord said to me something like, "Now that I have your attention, let's talk about worshipping the works of your hands."

I knew what He meant. My job had become an idol. The income produced had become an idol. The position I occupied in the corporate structure had become an idol. I was highly sought out as a sub-specialist and consultant.

About six months after I left medicine, I was sitting with a gun trying to decide what would be an appropriate caliber to leave me dead and not just a vegetable. I had seen those

who didn't quite pull off the attempt, and were left far worse than when they began.

Even though I was a non-practicing Roman Catholic at the time, as soon as Holy Spirit spoke to me I knew He was correct. The details of the next ten to twelve years could and probably should be the subject of a book. However, I want to talk about what the Lord said about ten years after the first surgery.

Holy Spirit spoke, "Now that I have your attention, let's talk about worshipping the works of your hands . . . instead of worshipping the works of My hands."

What did He mean by "worshipping the work of His hands"? I had been taught to worship the Creator and not the creation. That is a good teaching!

Holy Spirit took me to Psalm 118 and in particular, to verse 17, *"I shall not die but live and declare the works of the LORD [Yahweh]."* He wanted me to connect "the works of [Yahweh]" with "the works of His hands."

In the Psalms, creation itself is often pictured as a work of God's hands. Much is written, and appropriately so, about the splendor of creation. The psalmists and the prophets paint marvelous pictures of events long ago.

However, we understand that we are new creations created *in* our Messiah. Not much is said about the marvel of our new creation.

It has always been easy for me to picture Jesus on the cross. The Roman Catholic view of the cross is different from the Protestant view. With my background, I could easily picture Jesus still on the cross. **When He said, “Worship the work of My hands,” I knew He meant as they were stretched out, nailed to the cross.** Even God could not fashion the clay into vessels with His hands nailed to a tree.

Yahweh of the Old Testament is the Son of God. The God of the Hebrews is not the Father because Jesus clearly said no man had ever seen the Father and no man had ever heard the Father’s voice; no one had known the Father. God as He was manifested to the Hebrews and Jews was not the Father. Said another way, Yahweh of the Old Testament is not the Father sending His son Jesus into the New Testament. **The entire book is about the exploits of the Son of God interacting with mankind as He comes to reveal Father.**

*46 “Not that **anyone** has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. [John 6:46 NKJV] and 37 “And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You [**Jews**] have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. [John 5:37 NKJV]*

Yahweh tells Moses in Exodus 6 that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob never knew God as Yahweh. The patriarchs knew

God as “God Almighty” or “El Shaddai.” This means this manifestation of God is also the Son of God. Abraham never spoke with the Father but only the Son as El Shaddai. God didn’t wait to send His only begotten Son into the New Testament until John 3:16, but long before in Exodus 3:16. Moses meets God the Son, Yahweh. Or, Jesus is wrong . . .

I understand that you may not be tracking with me. I’ve worked with this for nearly a dozen years and it has been an uphill swim. I complained to God one day about how Satan had confused the picture and He said clearly to me, “I wouldn’t give him that much credit.” I wanted to blame Satan and God said no. So, who is to “blame”?

Most Christians that I know seem to think, “New Testament believers have a better deal” than Old Testament believers. That can’t be true. *We have a better covenant but the “deal” is the same.*

Jeremiah 29 contains principles that few New Testament believers ever see. Judah is in Babylon. Most died in the land but the survivors made it to Babylon. They lost everything but their lives. They walked to Babylon with only what they could carry. Read Ezekiel 9 and “see” a righteous remnant that lost everything but their lives. Jeremiah addresses these in chapter 29.

I have to be honest. I have heard verse 11 quoted so many times and always out of context, that it makes me ill. Verse 11 must be understood in context of verses 1-10 and Ezekiel 9. Study these for yourself and let Holy Spirit be

your Teacher. Verse 11 is also meaningless apart from verses 12 and 13.

Yahweh told the Jews that the good future they would have was predicated upon searching for Him with all their heart. If they did so, all would be well.

Father gave me the opportunity to search for God with all my heart and when I found Him, I found Yahweh of Nazareth. Yahweh became human to save. His name is Yeshua or Yehoshua, which comes into English as Jesus. Yahweh became human to save. Jesus is Yahweh stretched out on the cross saving. He is El Shaddai stretched out on the cross saving.

The church has somehow divorced Jesus from Yahweh, from God Almighty, but Paul declares,

[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the Heavens and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. (Colossians 1:15-18 NASB)

Yahweh brings life; Yahweh is life:

This is the account of the Heavens and the Earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD [Yahweh] God made Earth and Heaven. Now no shrub of the field was yet in the Earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD [Yahweh] God had not sent rain upon the Earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. But a mist used to rise from the Earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

*Then the LORD [Yahweh] God formed man of dust from the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life**; and man became a living being. (Genesis 2:4-7 NASB)*

*“I call Heaven and Earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love [Yahweh] your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for [Yahweh] is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which [Yahweh] swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NKJV)*

*Jesus said to [Martha], “**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.**” (John 11:25 NKJV)*

Yahweh was Lazarus’ life and length of days and Yahweh made it clear that Lazarus’ time was not over. “Lazarus, come forth,” said Yahweh. **Why did Jesus weep? Even His friends didn’t recognize Him as Yahweh.**

Jesus [Yahweh] wept. (John 11:35 NASB)

What is Yahweh’s heart for us? How do we “find” Him?

*“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the LORD [Yahweh], “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon **Me** and come and pray to **Me**, and I will listen to you. **You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.**” (Jeremiah 29:11-13 NASB)*

*“...if you obey the LORD [Yahweh] your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, **if you turn to the LORD [Yahweh] your God with all your heart and soul.** For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. It is not in Heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to Heaven for us to get it for*

*us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ But **the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.**” (Deuteronomy 30:10-14 NASB)*

Now you know why Paul said:

But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”

*But what does it say? “**THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART**”—that is, the word of faith which we are **preaching**, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord [**Yahweh**], and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

*For the Scripture says, “**WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.**” For there is no distinction between Jew and*

*Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “**WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD [YAHWEH] WILL BE SAVED.**” (Romans 10:6-13 NASB)*

Did you catch that? “Whoever calls upon the name of Yahweh shall be saved.” Yahweh saves. Yahweh is salvation. Yahweh is the Savior. Yahweh becomes the name “Jesus” in English, but He is still Yahweh. For, *“I am Yahweh, I do not change...”* (Malachi 3:6)

Yahweh who creates in Genesis 2 is the same Yahweh who creates with His hands nailed to the cross. Yahweh of Genesis 2 is the Son of God. This is why Paul says: *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.* (Ephesians 2:10 NASB)

We could easily read this as, “Created in Messiah Yahweh for good works.” We are no longer created only “in the image of God” but created “in God.” We are created in the Creator, Christ Jesus, Messiah Yahweh.

Yahweh was once known as “God Almighty,” as “El Shaddai.” Yahweh was then known as “Yahweh.” Yahweh then chose to be known as “Jesus.” But He never stops being Yahweh.

*“‘You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD [Yahweh].**’” (Leviticus 19:18 NASB)*

“If you love Me [Jesus], you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15 NASB)

One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?”

*Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! **THE LORD [YAHWEH] OUR GOD IS ONE LORD [YAHWEH]; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD [YAHWEH] YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**’*

“The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

*The scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that **HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM; AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE***

STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE'S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions. (Mark 12:28-34 NASB)

If you love Yahweh, you will keep His commandments. He never stops being Yahweh. If you search for Yahweh with all your heart, you will find Him.

The Old Testament beautifully declares the works of Yahweh from creation onward, and the New Testament beautifully declares the works of Yahweh's hands on the cross, creating a new creation.

"I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD [Yahweh]." (Psalm 118:17 NKJV)

Are you willing to consider why this verse is so important? When was the last time you considered the works of Yahweh on the cross? When was the last time you declared them? Have you ever heard the works of Yahweh's hands declared on the cross?

A simple way to glorify God the Father is acknowledging that it was His son Yahweh on the cross.

I was complaining to Father the other day about Bible

translations. None of them are accurate. All have biases. I said, “We need a new translation that tells the truth about Yahweh... about Jesus.” Father said to me, “Tom, you are my new living translation.” I know our Father well enough to know that He doesn’t mean just me. We, His sons and daughters, are the new living translation. Isn’t it ironic that there is a translation called the “New Living Translation”? The name of Yahweh actually shows up 10 times in the NLT. If we change the name of Jehovah to Yahweh in the American Standard Version we would see Yahweh appear 6888* (6828)* times. We have work to do.

I taught the Bible on live radio for two years, three to four hours per week by word of knowledge. Holy Spirit faithfully taught me day in and day out. He taught me much using the principle of “icebergs.” Specifically, He used the story about the *Titanic*. Most of us are familiar with the story. It is true that they never saw the portion of the iceberg that was visible above the water. The damage was done to the ship not by what they could have seen but by that portion of the iceberg that was unseen below the water line. The larger an iceberg sticks out above water, the deeper it goes below water.

Recently, Holy Spirit spoke to me about the “ship called ‘church’ and an iceberg called ‘deception’.” Most Christians would quote Jesus as having said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, etc,” but now you know that Jesus said, “You shall love Yahweh your God with all your

heart, etc.” You also know that Yahweh does not change.
(Malachi 3:6) Jesus warns,

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘**Lord, Lord,** did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**’”* (Matthew 7:21-23 NASB)

Jesus could care less about being called “Lord.” When you search for Jesus with all you heart, you find Yahweh of Nazareth.

The Shepherd calls,

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lamp-stands, says this:

“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles,

and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.

“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent. Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.”” (Revelation 2:1-7 NASB)

What is the first and greatest commandment? Who are we commanded to love? **You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart.**

Both are pictures of groups focused on “doing” instead of “being.”

Can you picture the iceberg called “deception?” What do you suppose is below the water line?

*“And because **lawlessness** will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew. 24:12 NKJV)*

How cold? Iceberg cold. How can we have “lawless-

ness” unless there is a lawgiver? Yahweh is lawgiver. (Isaiah 33:22.)

Solomon declares:

“That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one might say, ‘See this, it is new’? Already it has existed for ages which were before us. There is no remembrance of earlier things; And also of the later things which will occur, There will be for them no remembrance Among those who will come later still.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9-11 NASB)

“I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him. That which is has been already and that which will be has already been, for God seeks what has passed by.” (Ecclesiastes 3:14-15 NASB)

“The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly. The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are

given by one Shepherd. But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body.

*The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and **keep His commandments**, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:10-14 NASB)*

These are Jesus’ words, paraphrased: “Love Yahweh your God with all you heart, mind, soul, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself because I [Jesus] AM Yahweh. Are you ready to live and not die? Are you ready to declare the works of My hands on the cross? Are you ready to love Yahweh your God who became human to save you?”

Please be very, very clear. **To recognize Jesus as Yahweh does not take you back under the “Law of Moses.” It makes you a sinner saved by grace.** What Holy Spirit has taught me is what I believe Paul taught all of the “Gentiles.” Of this, I am sure; I didn’t learn any of this in medical school, internship, or residency!

A NEW WINE SKIN FOR NEW WINE

*And Jesus said to them, “The attendants of the **bridegroom** cannot mourn as long as the **bridegroom** is with them, can they? But the days will come when the **bridegroom** is taken away from them, and then they will fast. But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results. Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.” (Matthew 9:15-17 NASB)*

*“And it shall be, in that day,” Says the LORD [Yahweh], “[That] you will call Me ‘**My Husband**,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master.’” (Hosea 2:16 NKJV)*

The prophet Hosea prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus of Nazareth spoke these words that Yahweh will become a man, a bridegroom. “You will call Me ‘My Man, My Husband.’”

The Hebrew in this verse is extremely important. The Hebrew for “My Husband” literally means, “My Man.” It is transliterated as “ishi.” Another word for a husband would be “bridegroom.”

And Jesus [Yahweh] said to them, “Can the friends of [Ishi] mourn as long as [Ishi] is with them? But the days will come when [Ishi] will be taken from them, and then they will fast.” (Matthew 9:15 NKJV)

“He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.” (John 3:29 NASB)

Remember, bridegroom, *Ishi*, and husband, are all synonyms. “The joy of the LORD [Yahweh]” kept John strong.

The “New Wine Skin” is that Yahweh became flesh and His name is Jesus. We need to move backwards from “Emmanuel, God with us” to “Yahweh is with you.”

“You will not [need] to fight in this [battle]. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD [Yahweh], who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD [Yahweh] [is] with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:17 NKJV)

The remainder of Hosea is equally important to understand the new wine skin:

*“And it shall be, in that day,” Says the LORD [Yahweh], “[That] you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’ For I will take from her mouth the names of the **Baals**, And they shall be remembered by their name no more.” (Hosea 2:16-17 NKJV)*

Hebrew for “My Master” is transliterated Baali. The concept of “Baal” is an offense to Yahweh. The Northern Kingdom of Israel (Ephraim) traded Yahweh for a pagan god, Baal. Eventually, Judah followed suit.

Long before the apostasy with Baal David prophesied:

*David came to **Baal-perazim** and defeated [the Philistines] there; and he said, “The LORD [Yahweh] has broken through my enemies before me like **the breakthrough of waters**.” Therefore he named that place **Baal-perazim**. (2 Samuel 5:20 NASB)*

David paid Yahweh a great complement as he called Yahweh “The Master of Breakthroughs,” which is what Baal Perazim means.

Here is the problem. Yahweh said He would take away the names of the Baal’s and they would be remembered no more. No longer will you call Me *Baali* but *Ishi*. No longer

will you call Me, “My Master” but “My Man, My Husband.”

Let’s just call the name of the place “Ishi Perazim” because Yahweh has become the “Husband of the breakthroughs.” Yahweh breaking through with a breakthrough of waters is a foreshadowing of the birth of Yahweh as a man as He breaks out of his “container,” or Mary’s uterus. He breaks out with breakthrough of waters, rupture of the bag of waters or the amniotic sac. Yah is born like all men except, of course, as Caesar (caesarian section ;)

“The LORD [Yahweh] [is] a man of war; the LORD [Yahweh] [is] His name.” (Exodus 15:3 NKJV)

“and that all this assembly may know that the LORD [Yahweh] does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD’s [Yahweh’s] and He will give you into our hands.” (1 Samuel 17:47 NASB)

*“I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here am I, here am I,’ To a nation which did not call on My name. **I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,**” (Isaiah 65:1-2 NASB)*

Yahweh is a man--a man of war--who does not save with a sword or a spear but by stretching out His hands all day long on the cross at Calvary. Yahweh created the new creation while nailed to a tree because:

“Behold, I am the LORD [Yahweh], the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?”
(Jeremiah 32:27 NASB)

*How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings **good news**, Who announces peace And brings **good news of happiness**, Who **announces salvation**, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*
(Isaiah 52:7 NASB)

Did you know the Hebrew word for “flesh” could also mean, “Good tidings” or “good news?” Yahweh is the God of good news! In fact, if you read the Septuagint (LXX) for Isaiah 52:7, you will see the Greek word for “gospel” being used to translate the Hebrew word for “good tidings.”

Just wait until the Jews find out that we are married to their (and our) God, Yahweh. Do you think that might make them jealous? (Romans 11:11-14) You do realize, don’t you, that part of the destiny of the church is to provoke the Jews to jealousy? (Romans 9-11)

SECOND HELPINGS OR MILK VERSUS MEAT

*And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, **as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;***"

(1 Corinthians 3:1-2 NKJV)

Jesus said He would send Holy Spirit and He, the Spirit of Yahweh, would teach. Do you believe that He can teach? Everything written so far has been "milk." Those are His words and not mine. Do you want some meat? If you do, keep reading. I want to make it simple but we'll need some Hebrew and some Greek. As you read this, I suggest you log onto <http://www.blueletterbible.org> and go directly to the scripture verses. Whatever English text you choose, it will automatically take you to either Dr. Strong's Concordance in the KJV or the NASB. I suggest you work from the NASB. I quote from it here:

*For though by this time you [Hebrews] ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and **you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of***

milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits.
(Hebrews 5:12-6:3 NASB)

Notice the similarity. These two groups of believers, Gentiles and Jews, are being chastised because they are “babes,” “unskilled,” and “carnal.” So, I guess we are in pretty good company.

Remember, that the ancient Hebrew language had no written vowels. It was a consonant-only language. The reader (or hearer) supplied the vowels.

*“Behold, I am the LORD [Yahweh], the God of all **flesh**; is anything too difficult for Me?”* (Jeremiah 32:27 NASB)

The word “flesh” in Hebrew is the word, **בשר** (Strong’s #H1320; you can hear the word pronounced in the Lexicon using the website noted above.)

*How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him
who brings **good news**, Who announces peace And
brings **good news** of happiness, Who announces*

salvation, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”
(Isaiah 52:7 NASB)

The “good news” or “glad tidings” are the Hebrew word, **בשר** (Strong’s #H1319; you can hear it pronounced through the electronic Lexicon as well.)

If you read Hebrew, I owe you an apology. My browser often insists on reversing the text. I’m not computer savvy enough to figure out this problem and my 17-year-old daughter is probably on Facebook, or I would ask her to help.

What is the difference? If you change the vowels, the words take on a different meaning. This is not uncommon in foreign languages.

With a deep breath one could say, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings [**flesh**], Who proclaims peace, who brings **glad tidings** of good [things], Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!””

Remember, the children of Israel were complaining to Moses that they had enough of “this manna.” In Hebrew, it means, “what is it?” They want some meat. They argue with Moses while “weeping” and “complaining.” Read Numbers chapter 11 carefully.

*“Say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat **meat**; for you have wept in the ears of the LORD [**Yahweh**], saying,*

*‘Oh that someone would give us **meat** to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt.’ Therefore the LORD [Yahweh] will give you **meat** and you shall eat’.*”
(Numbers 11:18 NASB)

Reworded, you could say, “Therefore Yahweh will give you **meat** and you shall eat. Yahweh will give you **good news**.” You could also say, “Therefore Yahweh will give you **good news** and you shall eat **meat**.”

The Gospel of John was written in Greek. The Greek word for “flesh” is **σάρξ**. This word is pronounced “sarx.”

*So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the **flesh** of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My **flesh** and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My **flesh** is true food, and My blood is true drink.”*
(John 6:53-55 NASB)

What if the text of John had been written in Hebrew?

*So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the **בשר** of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. He who eats My **בשר** and drinks My blood has eternal*

*life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My
בשר is true food, and My blood is true drink.”*

Moses prophesied that Yahweh would give us “flesh” and “good news.” Jesus said if we ate His “flesh,” we would have “good news” or “glad tidings.”

Do you see why Yahweh is salvation? Yahweh is the Savior. He became a man to save. (Exodus 15:3) Flesh and blood are required; humans have both.

*“and that all this assembly may know that the
LORD [Yahweh] does not deliver by sword or by
spear; for the battle is the LORD’s [Yahweh’s] and
He will give you into our hands.” (1 Samuel 17:47
NASB)*

*“I permitted Myself to be sought by those who
did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found
by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here am I,
here am I,’ To a nation which did not call on My
name. **I have spread out My hands all day long
to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which
is not good, following their own thoughts,**” (Isaiah
65:1-2 NASB)*

Yahweh is a man of war who did not war with a sword or a spear, but stretched out His hands until three o’clock when

the Lamb was sacrificed. Then he declared, "It is finished."

Do you know why Yahweh Messiah died so quickly? He bled to death. This is why Father sent His son, Tom, to medical school after he returned from Viet Nam. This is why Tom was a Battalion Surgeon in the Marine Corps. This is why Tom served on trauma teams in the operating rooms. Every medical student knows the axiom, "All bleeding stops eventually." All means all. It means either quickly and decisively take steps to address the pertinent issues, or watch the patient die. Yahweh was on the cross bleeding to death that we might have life.

*"‘So you shall not pollute the land in which you are; **for blood pollutes the land and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.** You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD [Yahweh] am dwelling in the midst of the sons of Israel.’"*
(Numbers 35:33-34 NASB)

*"‘For the life of the **flesh** [is] in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it [is] the blood [that] makes atonement for the soul.’ ...**pour out its blood and cover it with dust...**[it is] the life of all **flesh.** Its blood sustains its life.’ Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not eat the blood of*

*any **flesh**, for the life of **all flesh** is its blood.’”*
(Leviticus 17:11 13-14 NKJV)

The Lawgiver’s blood redeemed not only us but also the land. The land became the “altar.” Moses enters into covenant on behalf of Israel with Yahweh. Moses is dead. Who else could rescind or declare the covenant finished? The other party in the covenant, Yahweh, who became a man to save all men, is the only one. Now we can understand more fully, what the writer of Hebrews had in mind:

How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

*For we know Him who said, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.” And again, “**THE LORD [YAHWEH]** WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:29-31 NASB)*

Who is the “Living God? Moses tells us:

“Now then why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the

*LORD [Yahweh] our God any longer, then we will die. For who is there of all flesh who **has heard the voice of the living God** speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?” (Deuteronomy 5:25-26 NASB)*

It is the LORD, Yahweh our God, the God of all flesh, the God of all good news.

On the testimony of two or three witnesses, truth is confirmed. Truth speaks through Strong’s #H3091 and Strong’s #G2424¹. Yahweh became human to save. Yahweh is salvation. His name is Jesus. Just ask our Rabbi, the Spirit of Truth. (John 16:13)

Do you want to know what is coming?

And the LORD [Yahweh] shall be King over all the Earth. In that day it shall be—“The LORD [Yahweh] [is] one,” And His name one. (Zechariah 14:9 NKJV)

“For this reason also, God highly exalted [Jesus], and bestowed on [Jesus] the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ

is Lord [Yahweh], to the glory of God the Father.
(Philippians 2:9-11 NASB)

*“Therefore repent and **return**, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [Yahweh]; and that He may send Jesus [Yahweh is salvation], the Christ appointed for you, whom Heaven must receive **until** the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”* (Acts 3:19-21 NASB)

*“If... My people who are called by **My name** humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”* (2 Chronicles 7:14 NASB)

What name would that be? It would be Yahweh, of course.

*“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, **And all the Gentiles who are called by***

My name,” Says the LORD [Yahweh] who does this thing. (Amos 9:11-12 NKJV)

Remember, in King David’s tabernacle, Yahweh was worshipped “24/7” and there was no curtain to create a holy of holies. No courts. No walls. Do you worship Yahweh? Would your church worship Yahweh? Does it matter?

Historically, it needs pointed out that each year Gentiles (non-Hebrews) and Jews from all over the known world who celebrated the feasts came to Jerusalem. It was during this particular Feast of Tabernacles (Pentecost) that Jerusalem was full of Jews and Gentiles. And it was these Jews and Gentiles who Peter addressed in Acts 3.

Peter’s preaching in Acts is calling his Jewish audience to “repent and **return** to” Yahweh their God who had become human to save them. At the same time, if you have eyes to see and ears to hear, Peter is calling the Gentiles “to repent and **turn**” to their God, Yahweh. He had become human to save them as well.

“Turn” in Acts 3:19 and 2 Chronicles 7:14 is essentially the same word: “turn to” or “return to.” These two Greek words (epistrepho and apostrepho, respectively) translate into the Hebrew word “shub” or תשוב. “T’shuvah” in Hebrew is the act of returning, often coupled with the concept of repenting.

Let us allow Holy Spirit to teach us something about translations. Let’s compare Acts 3:19:

*“Therefore repent and **return**...” (NASB)*

“Repent therefore and be converted...” (NKJV)

*“Repent, then, and **turn** to God...” (NIV)*

Let me ask some “not so obvious” questions. If I am a “Gentile” and not worshipping Yahweh, how can I **return** (NASB) to Him? I can’t, can I?

If I am a Gentile and I sin, I can **repent** and **turn** to God [Yahweh](NIV), can’t I?

If I am a Jew and I sin, I can **repent** and **return** (NASB). I have “backslidden” and I can return.

What does repent therefore and be converted mean? To what am I being converted? Am I being converted to God or am I being converted to Constantine’s religion or a modern variant?

Here is the difference and it is major one, I think. Peter is telling the Jews they need to repent and return to their God, Yahweh, who had become a human to save them. Peter is not in any way telling his Jewish audience that they need to convert to the Christian religion. Peter is also saying to the Gentiles that they need to repent and turn to the one and only God, Yahweh.

Restated, sinful Jews were to return to Yahweh and unsaved Gentiles needed to turn to Yahweh, and then repent. In Hebrew thought, the act of returning is often coupled with the concept of repenting.

Presently, we Christians need to repent and turn to our God, Yahweh.

Have you ever turned to Yahweh? Do you need to repent?

Several years ago, my wife Annette and I were trying to establish ourselves in ministry. Annette has the gift of faith. I ride along on her coat tails.

I had given up in being in ministry when Holy Spirit said to me one day, “And you will call your ministry Beit T’shuvah.” I believe Holy Spirit said it meant “House of Repentance House of Return.”

Holy Spirit went on to say that, “The Church must become as ‘Beit T’shuvah’ before it could be a house of prayer for the nations.” Holy Spirit was saying that the church needed to repent and return to Yahweh so that it could fulfill its destiny as a house of prayer for all the nations.

Here is the context for the House of Prayer:

“And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD [Yahweh] to serve him, to love the name of the LORD [Yahweh], and to worship Him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to My covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house will be

called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:6-7 NIV)

Do you remember the discussion from Ezekiel 36 about profaning, defiling, and desecrating the name of Yahweh? Since Jesus is Yahweh, every time you and I sin, we defile, profane, and desecrate the name of Yahweh. Every time.

While it might seem difficult to believe, **the reason for this entire book is to enable us to see the name of Yahweh “hidden” in the name of Jesus (Yahweh is Salvation).**

Priests and kings have the high honor and privilege of searching out the matter. We’ve boldly gone where few have been. The rewards will be great. To whom much is given, much is required. (Luke 12:48)

I mentioned earlier how several years ago the Holy Spirit convicted me about this issue of defiling the name of Yahweh. When I sin, which fortunately isn’t as often as it used to be, I am usually reminded that in addition to confessing the sin, whatever it might have been, I also need to repent for defiling, profaning or desecrating the “name of Yahweh.”

Ezekiel wrote his book to people who were already in Babylon or headed that way. It might have been too late for them to receive this teaching from the prophet with “joy and gladness of heart.”

I hope it is not too late for us to receive this teaching from Ezekiel and Holy Spirit. Remember, God is not the God of

the dead. Ezekiel lives!

I'm going to transcribe a simple prayer that you are free to use, as is, or feel free to modify it as Holy Spirit leads you:

Father, in the name of Jesus, I repent for defiling, profaning and desecrating the name of Yahweh and the name of Jesus, Yahweh is Salvation. I repent for myself and for my generations past. I ask that you scrub me clean as well as my spiritual DNA clean with the blood of Jesus. I ask also that you scrub the name of Yahweh and the name of Jesus, Yahweh is salvation with the blood of Jesus, removing every spot and stain caused by my sin and the sin of past generations. Father, I ask that as far as I and my generations past are concerned, that you restore to your Son, Jesus, Yahweh, who became human to save, the glory that He had with you from before the beginning of the world... an undefiled name. Thank you, Father.

We've learned what the name is, but let us never forget what the name means:

“[Yahweh] descended in the cloud and stood there with [Moses] as he called upon the name of

[Yahweh]. Then [Yahweh] passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “[Yahweh], [Yahweh] God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

He said, ‘If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession’.” (Exodus 34:5-9 NASB)

BRIEF SUMMARY

This is a brief summary of what the Spirit of Yahweh
asked me to do.

Tell them that I AM the God of Israel

The God of the Old Testament had a name and it wasn't "LORD" or "Lord." The Old Testament is about the exploits of "Yahweh, God of Israel."

Historically, the name has been translated as "Jehovah" but most current academic scholarship—Jewish and Christian—would translate the name as "Yahweh."

The Son of God appeared to Moses as Yahweh but was known to the Patriarchs as God Almighty, or El Shaddai. The Son of God became human with an agenda of salvation. He was known as "Yehoshua" or Yeshua" in Hebrew. Both are translated "Yahweh is salvation." Most of us know Him as the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the LORD, God of Israel, stretched out on the cross redeeming both Jews and Gentiles. The Old Testament is about the Son of God—God Almighty, El Shaddai, and Yahweh. The Son comes to reveal Father.

The New Testament is about that same Son of God, God Almighty, El Shaddai, and Yahweh who became human to save, Jesus.

Tell them about the Works of My hands

When we understand that it was Yahweh saving on the cross, we can “see” the works of His hands in the new creation. Yahweh, the Son of God, was responsible for creation as we see it in Genesis 2 and in Colossians 1.

“In the beginning was the Word [Yahweh] and the Word [Yahweh] was with God and the Word [Yahweh] was God. He [Yahweh] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. And the Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:1-5)

John understands that the Word is Yahweh creating in Genesis 1 & 2 and Paul understands this when he writes Colossians. Paul often equates the Word with the Christ. The Christ was preexistent at creation. This is why Paul says of Yahweh the Christ, “...being made in the likeness of men. Being found in the appearance as a man.” (Philippians 2:7-8 NASB)

Yahweh is my light and Yahweh is my salvation. (Psalm 27:1) This light is spoken into creation in Genesis 1.

Then God said, “Let there be light [Yahweh]”; and there was light [Yahweh]. (Genesis 1:3 NASB)

Father “spoke” His son, Yahweh, into creation. This is what it means to be the “only begotten Son.” This is why John writes, *And the Word **became** flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.* (John 1:14 NASB)

Yahweh had to become flesh to dwell or tabernacle among His people. Again, this is why John writes, *“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* (John 3:18 NASB)

John understood that the only begotten Son of God was Yahweh. This is why Paul also has us “put on the armor of light and put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 13) Paul understood.

In John 9, Jesus reaches into the dirt, scoops up a handful, and makes a paste by spitting in it. The man born blind had no eyes; he was born without eyes. The work of creation was not finished in this man so the creator, Yahweh, creates eyes out of the dirt or, in Hebrew, “adamah.” Jesus didn’t change water into wine. Wine is a carbon-based liquid. Jesus created carbon and placed it in the water, right in front of their eyes. Jesus didn’t “multiply” loaves and fishes. He created more. He is the Creator-God Yahweh of Genesis 1 & 2. This is why Jesus said, *“Believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”* (John 14:11) Jesus’ many works defined Him as Yahweh.

We need to listen to Holy Spirit as He will give us new songs to sing about the New Creation of Yahweh's hands on the cross. Holy Spirit will give us new psalms to give glory to the works of Yahweh's hands on the cross... saving us, Jew and Gentile.

Give glory to My name

And the LORD [Yahweh] shall be King over all the Earth. In that day it shall be—'The LORD [Yahweh] is one,' And His name one." (Zechariah 14:9 NKJV)

We glorify the name of Jesus simply by realizing that He is Yahweh of the Old Testament. Father is glorified when we realize it was His Son, Yahweh, who appeared to Moses. Father is glorified when we realize He loved the world so much that He, Yahweh became man. He said,

*"Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, the LORD [Yahweh], the 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-name to all generations.** Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, the LORD [Yahweh], the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has appeared to me...'"* (Exodus 3:15-16 NASB)

When we see the name of Yahweh hidden in the name of Jesus, “Yahweh is salvation,” then we can choose to repent for defiling, profaning and desecrating the name of Yahweh.

When every head bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus is Yahweh, Father is glorified and we set the stage for Father’s restoration of all things and the return of the kingdom to Israel, the Israel of God. The new creation is neither Jew nor Gentile, male nor female, slave nor free. Maybe we are Hebrews . . .

The Israel of God will not be restored until Israel is restored. This is why it so crucial for “Christians” to see why Israel was brought back into existence in 1947-48. **How can there be an Israel of God without Israel? Where is the King of the Jews going to return to but to Israel?**

*6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are **restoring the kingdom to Israel?**” [Acts 1:6 NASB]*

*3 Then the LORD [**Yahweh**] will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle [Remember, Yahweh is Man of War].
4 In that day **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half*

of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. [Zechariah 14:3-4 NASB]

Where did Jesus ascend from? He ascended from the Mount of Olives. Where are Yahweh's feet going to be as He fights as a Man of War? He will be on the Mount of Olives as Yahweh is salvation, Jesus.

This is why we must understand the Bible as it is written so we can take the true gospel to the Jewish people. Jesus said there would be One Shepherd and One sheepfold, the Israel of God. It took the Apostle Paul to point us to the Israel of God. (Galatians 6:16) The Apostles understood these dynamics at the "First Jerusalem Council." (Acts 15) They saw the beginning of the fulfillment of the restoration of the fallen tabernacle of David prophesied in Amos 9:11-12. They saw the beginning of the ingathering of the Gentiles called by the name of Yahweh. Finally, we have the opportunity to enter into their joy.

With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, *'AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT, SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD [YAHWEH], AND ALL THE **GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,**' SAYS THE LORD*

[YAHWEH], WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO.” (Acts 15:15-18 NASB)

Jesus quoted from the psalms as He said to the crowd,

“Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF the LORD [YAHWEH]!’” (Luke 13:35 NASB)

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD [Yahweh]; We have blessed you from the house of the LORD [Yahweh]. (Psalm 118:26 NASB)

Where was the house of Yahweh? It was in Jerusalem. Read what Zechariah wants us to remember:

“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD [Yahweh] of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

“And it will be that whichever of the families of the Earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD [Yahweh] of hosts, there will

be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD [Yahweh] smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.”
(Zechariah 14:16-19 NASB)

Why? Yahweh was born of a virgin on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Yahweh came to tabernacle (dwell) with His people. **Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles [booths] is celebrating Jesus’ [Yahweh is salvation’s] birthday.** And you just don’t miss the God of gods, the Lord of lords, the King of kings’ birthday unless you are fond of plagues.

Yahweh was circumcised on the eighth day of the feast. Yahweh first shed His blood on the eighth day of the feast. Eight is the number of new beginnings. This is why this day is called “Simchat Torah” or “Joy of the Torah,” but it is the Joy of the Torah Made Flesh.

Now we have learned from our Rabbi, Holy Spirit, to say with understanding, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of Yahweh! Yahweh is Salvation!”

We might also be as bold as to say, “Blessed is He [Yahweh] who came in the name of Yahweh.” Jesus reveals Himself in John 5:33, “I have come in My father’s name...”

38 *“Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 “For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE [Yahweh] WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD [Yahweh]!’”* [Matthew 23:38-39 NASB]

Hasn't the house been desolate long enough?

Destiny awaits those who will war for the Kingdom. The King is waiting for the bride to come home from Babylon. What are you waiting for?

APPENDIX: YAHWEH AS A NAME WITHIN A NAME

The name of Yahweh shows up many times in the text of the Old Testament as a “compound word.” The name of God is added to one of His characteristics, for example. The following is an example taken from Dr. Strong’s concordance and <http://www.blueletterbible.org>. The name “Joshua” has two alternate forms, with somewhat different meanings. Both are included for teaching purposes and to help make the case for the name above all names... but you get to decide. I’ll show the Hebrew font a couple of times. After that, I will only define the names/words per Dr. Strong. “H” refers to “Hebrew” as opposed to “G” for Greek. Remember, there is no “J” in Hebrew, and a more correct letter would be a “Y”.

The name **Joshua** appears in the Hebrew as **יהושוע**. Its longer spelling is [Y]ehoshua, which means, “[Yahweh] saved” or “[Yahweh] is salvation.” (Strong’s #H3091)

An alternate spelling for Joshua is **יהושע**. This is the root name for “Jesus” from the Hebrew. It is often contracted to the shortened form of “Jeshua” or “Yeshua.”

ישוע Dr. Strong notes “Jeshua” means “he is saved” and is listed as #H3442, but he links it directed to #H3091 meaning, “[Yahweh] saved,” or “[Yahweh] is salvation.” By the way, Dr. Strong links #H3091 to #G2424, is the name “Jesus” in English, but again, he defines it as “[Yahweh] is salvation.”

Hebrew for “salvation” could be written, phonetically, as **ישועה** or “yeshuah.” Note: “Yeshua” is not “yeshuah.”

Remember, this exercise is to identify names in Hebrew that have as their root, the name of Yahweh or Jehovah. This “tool” helped the Hebrews remember about the one who saved or delivered them from Pharaoh. See Exodus 14:30 in Hebrew.

They were called “to remember,” and linking names of people to their Savior was meant to help them remember. This exercise is meant to help us remember as well. Yahweh remembers. We are the ones who don’t.

Dr. Strong used the name “Jehovah,” but as stated earlier, I believe the name of God from the Hebrew is best translated as “Yahweh.” I have substituted “Yahweh” for “Jehovah” in the following meanings.

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Strong’s:</u>	<u>Meaning:</u>
Josiah	#H2977	Founded of [Yahweh]/ healed of [Yahweh]
Jedidiah	#H3041	Beloved of [Yahweh]
Jedaiah	#H3042	Praised of [Yahweh]
Jedaiah	#H3048	[Yahweh] has known
Jahdai	#H3056	Whom [Yahweh] directs
Jehu	#H3058	[Yahweh] is He
Jehoahaz	#H3059	[Yahweh] has seized

Jehoash	#H3060	Whom [Yahweh] gave
Jehozabad	#H3075	[Yahweh] has endowed or given
Jehohanan	#H3076	[Yahweh] has graced
Johoiada	#H3077	[Yahweh] knows
Jehoiachin	#H3078	[Yahweh] establishes
Jehoiakim	#H3079	[Yahweh] raises up
Jehoiarib	#H3080	[Yahweh] contends (for) or defends
Jehucal	#H3081	[Yahweh] is able
Jehonadab	# H3082	[Yahweh] is willing
Jehonathan	#H3083	[Yahweh] has given (Jonathan)
Joseph	#H3084	[Yahweh] has added
Jehoadah	#H3085	[Yahweh] has adorned
Jehoaddan	#H3086	[Yahweh] delights
Jehozadak	#H3087	[Yahweh] is righteous
Jehoram	#H3088	[Yahweh] is exalted
Jehosheba	#H3089	[Yahweh] has sworn
Jehoshabeath	#H3090	[Yahweh] is an oath
Jehoshua	#H3091	[Yahweh] is salvation (Joshua, Jesus)
Jehoshaphat	#H3092	[Yahweh] judges or has judged

Joab	#H3097	[Yahweh] is father
Joah	#H3098	[Yahweh] is brother or helper
Jehoahaz	#H3099	[Yahweh] has grasped or holds fast
Joel	#H3100	[Yahweh] is God
Jozabad	#H3107	[Yahweh] has endowed
Jozachar	#H3108	[Yahweh] remembers or has remembered
Joha	#H3109	[Yahweh] gives life
Johanan	#H3110	[Yahweh] has graced or bestowed (John)
Joiada	#H3111	[Yahweh] knows or cares for
Jehoiachin	#H3112	[Yahweh] establishes or established
Joiakim	#H3113	[Yahweh] raises up or sets up
Joiarib	#H3114	[Yahweh] contends
Jochebed	#H3115	[Yahweh] is glory
Jucal	#H3116	[Yahweh] is able
Jonadab	#H3122	[Yahweh] is willing
Jonathan	#H3129	[Yahweh]) is given
Joseph	#H3130	[Yahweh] has added
Josiphiah	#H3131	[Yahweh] adds
Joed	#H3133	[Yahweh] is witness

Joezer	#H3134	[Yahweh] is help
Joash	#H3135	[Yahweh] hastens
Jozadak	#H3136	[Yahweh] is righteous
Jokim	#H3137	[Yahweh] raises up
Jorai	#H3140	[Yahweh] has taught me/ [Yahweh] teaches
Joram	#H3141	[Yahweh] is exalted
Josibiah	#H3143	[Yahweh] causes to dwell
Joshah	#H3144	[Yahweh] makes equal
Joshaviah	#H3145	[Yahweh] makes equal/ [Yahweh] raises up
Joshaphat	#H3146	[Yahweh] judges
Jotham	#H3147	[Yahweh] is perfect or upright
Jeziah	#H3150	[Yahweh] sprinkles or expiates
Jezaniah	#H3153	[Yahweh] has listened
Jezrahiah	#H3156	[Yahweh] will shine
Jehdeiah	#H3165	[Yahweh] is unity or makes glad
Jahaziah	#H3167	[Yahweh] views or looks at
Jehizkiah	#H3169	[Yahweh] has made strong (Hezekiah)
Jehiah	#H3174	[Yahweh] lives
Jahmai	#H3181	Who [Yahweh] guards

If my math is correct, here are 54 compound names designed to help us remember the Living God, Yahweh.

By the way, you could nearly duplicate this exercise focusing on the concept of “God” as part of the name. Daniel, for example means, “God is my judge.” We have just learned that “Jehoshaphat,” means, “[Yahweh] judges or is judge.” Elijah means, “my God is [Yahweh].”

Egypt and Midian had many gods. We may not think it necessary to focus on “One God,” but it was clearly useful to remember the One who spoke from the burning bush.

The list of names where Yahweh is “hidden” in the name is not meant to be exhaustive, by any means, but only to illustrate a principle. How many names do you know where “Jesus” is part of a compound word that exists as a tool to help us remember? None?

Does it matter?

Here is what the Prophet Paul of Tarsus has written to help us remember:

*“For this reason also, God highly exalted [Jesus], and bestowed on [Jesus] **the name which is above every name**, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in Heaven and on Earth and under the Earth, and that every tongue will confess that **Jesus Christ is [Yahweh]**,*

to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11
NASB)

Remember, “Lord” in Greek is “kyrios” or “kurios.” It is the word the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Rabbis used to translate the name of Yahweh into Greek 200 to 300 years before Jesus of Nazareth.

You decide.

I’ve made up my mind. Now you see why “free will” is so important. If I twist your arm, it is legalism, at best, and witchcraft, at worst.

When Jesus told the rich, young man to sell his stuff, give the money to the poor, come, and follow Him. Jesus didn’t run after him. The man went away sad because he had much but Jesus respected his free will to choose. It was that important. It is that important.

Choose this day whom you will serve.

What name is “common” in this list of 54 names? It is the name of Yahweh, isn’t it?

I’ve substituted “Yahweh” for “Jehovah” in this section because if you look in Dr. Strong’s concordance, you won’t find the name “Yahweh.” “Yahweh” and “Jehovah” are equivalent in the sense that they are names, not titles. Remember, “LORD” or “Lord” is a title. I choose to use the name “Yahweh” instead of “Jehovah.” Again, you get to choose as well. Consider the following:

*16 Then those who feared the LORD [Yahweh] spoke to one another, and the LORD [Yahweh] gave attention and heard it, and **a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD [Yahweh] and who esteem His name.***
17 “They will be Mine,” says the LORD [Yahweh] of hosts, “on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” [Malachi 3:16-17 NASB]

Or, as my Jewish friends would say, “Baruch ha shem,” or “Blessed be the name.”

APPENDIX: IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME . . .

I am not a linguistic scholar, not of Hebrew, Greek, Latin or to my personal dismay, English. I listen to Holy Spirit as best as I can and search out the scriptures under His ever-watchful eye. Here is what He has shown me.

Recall from an earlier discussion, that the Rabbi's translated the Hebrew scripture into Greek in Alexandria, Egypt about 300 – 200 years before Jesus . . . Yahweh of Nazareth was born. Their word choices are very illustrative. Holy Spirit has shown me, **“that as the Rosetta stone was to Egyptian hieroglyphics, so too, is the Septuagint or LXX to the ‘New Testament.’”**

When the Rabbi's translated the name of their God, Yahweh into Greek, they used the Greek word, transliterated, “kurios.” It is Dr. Strong's word #G2962. In Hebrew the name of God, Yahweh is #H3068. Remember to look up these references @ www.blueletterbible.org. I am using their on-line concordance.

We need to find the Hebrew word translated as “messiah.” It is related to Strong's #H4899. Translators use what I have learned are “interpretive options.” That means that they choose what the word could mean based on the particular text they are working in. As it relates to the word “messiah,” it has created a myriad of problems.

It is my opinion that because Christian translators “want” us to find Jesus in the Old Testament, they “help” us. Most English translations will show the Hebrew word for messiah only in Daniel 9:25-26 when in fact it occurs many more times in the Hebrew. When one listens to Holy Spirit, He will guide you the desired texts and He will provide the “interpretive options.”

Let’s look at Daniel 9:25 from the NASB:

*25 “So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until **Messiah** the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.
[Daniel 9:25 NASB]*

Here is the Hebrew word for messiah from Daniel 9:25:

מָשִׁיחַ This is Strong’s #H4899

What if we looked at the Greek in the Septuagint?

Χριστός This is Strong’s #G5547 as there is no Strong’s reference for the Septuagint or LXX.

Let’s look at Luke 2:11:

11 for today in the city of David there has been

born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [Luke 2:11 NASB]

We could also write it as:

*Il for today in the city of David there has been
born for you a Savior, who is Christ [#G5547] the
Lord [#G2962].* [Luke 2:11 NASB]

We could re-write this verse substituting the Strong's Hebrew numbers instead of the Strong's Greek number as I did above. It would look like this:

*Il for today in the city of David there has been
born for you a Savior, who is Christ [#H4899] the
Lord [#H3068].* [Luke 2:11 NASB]

It would then read, adding the Hebrew words transliterated into English:

*Il for today in the city of David there has been
born for you a Savior, who is Messiah [the] Yah-
weh.* [Luke 2:11 NASB]

I have placed the definite article “the” in [brackets] be-

cause it is not in the Greek. The translators have added it because English syntax is different from the Koine Greek. So it could be re-written as:

*11 for today in the city of David there has been
born for you a Savior, who is Messiah Yahweh.*
[Luke 2:11 NASB]

Dramatic, isn't it?

Let's look at two other scriptures from the New Testament. We will read them in English and then make similar substitutions using the same Strong's numbers, just as above.

*36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know
for certain that God has made Him both **Lord** and
Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified." [Acts 2:36
NASB]*

*36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know
for certain that God has made Him [Jesus] both
Yahweh and Messiah--this Jesus whom you cruci-
fied." [Acts 2:36 NASB]*

In other words, this Jesus whom you have crucified was Yahweh the Messiah . . .

One more example from the New Testament:

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. [Col 3:24 NASB]

24 knowing that from the Lord [Strong's #G2962 and #H3068] you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord [Strong's #G2962 and #H6068] Christ [Strong's #G5547 and #H4899] whom you serve. [Colossians 3:24 NASB]

24 knowing that from the Lord [Yahweh] you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is Yahweh, Messiah whom you serve. [Colossians 3:24 NASB]

Equally dramatic, no?

Yahweh is Father. Yahweh is son or “ishi” or “my man” or my husband and Yahweh is Spirit. Yahweh is holy therefore Yahweh’s Spirit must be holy . . . i.e., “Holy Spirit”

24 knowing that from [Yahweh as Father] you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord [Yahweh as Son or “ishi” or husband or “my man”] Christ [Messiah] whom you serve. [Colossians 3:24 NASB]

How can we be sure?

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. [1Corinthians 12:3 NASB]

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord [Strong's #G2962 or #H3068], " except by the Holy Spirit. [1Corinthians 12:3 NASB]

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Yahweh," except by the Holy Spirit. [1Corinthians 12:3 NASB]

12 . . . And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. [Ecclesiastes 4:12 NKJV]

Give our Rabbi, the Spirit of the Lord [Yahweh] a standing ovation while He can still be found . . .

In closing, let me make what might be the most challenging statement in this entire book. Christians have generally been taught to "find Jesus in the Old Testament." When we pursue this line of reasoning, the bible's main character becomes "**Jesus of Nazareth.**"

When we let Holy Spirit teach us the bible from Exodus [remember Moses wrote Genesis but did not live during that period], the main or central character of the bible is **Yahweh**. We learn that **Yahweh** wasn't always known by the biblical characters as Yahweh. The patriarchs knew God as "El Shaddai," or God Almighty or Almighty God. The patriarchs lived during Genesis so Moses can use the name of Yahweh as he writes their story. We can choose to understand this concept that comes from Exodus 6:1-3 as prophetic. In doing so, we can "see" prophetically how Yahweh might appear as the central character again under a new or different name. When we do so, Holy Spirit can very easily show us how the "Old Testament" was prophesying that Yahweh would become a man.

The "New Testament" permits us to "see" Yahweh as the man Jesus sent to save. That is why His name is Jesus or Yehoshua contracted to Yeshua. This is why there is no other name by which man can be saved than the name of Jesus . . . Yahweh is salvation or Yahweh saves.

12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." [Acts 4:12 NKJV]

This is why Paul says in his epistle to the Philippians,

*9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 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, 11 and [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] **Lord [Yahweh]**, to the glory of God the Father. [Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV]*

The Bible's main character is Yahweh, Father, Son and Spirit and how Yahweh as the Son of God became Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man.

18 Now all things [are] of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God (Father Yahweh) was in Christ (Son Yahweh as Yehoshua/Yeshua/Jesus) reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. [2 Corinthians 5:18-19 NKJV] (parentheses are author's)

The Bible is the story of Yahweh . . .

One last look from a slightly different perspective . . .

*1 In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word***

*was with God, and the **Word** was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.* [John 1:1-2 NASB]

Most of us have been taught that Jesus is the “Word.” Some teachers or pastors will take it to the next level and introduce the Greek for “word.” The Greek for “word” is transliterated as “logos.” It is Dr. Strong’s #G3056.

1:1 ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος

Let’s compare this to Jeremiah 17:15. We’ll look at the English and then follow the Hebrew word for “word” or “debar” in Hebrew font, then transliterated into the Greek Septuagint.

Indeed they say to me, “Where is the **word** of the LORD [Yahweh]? Let it come now!” – [Jeremiah 17:15 NKJV]

רַב־דְּבָרִים

The Hebrew reads from right to left, transliterated as “debar YHVH.” (Strong’s #H1697 and #H3068, respectively)

Remember, that the name of God as Yahweh appears in the Greek Septuagint as “kurios,” transliterated. As we look carefully at the Greek below, we see, transliterated, “**logos kurios.**”

ἰδοὺ αὐτοὶ λέγουσι πρὸς με ποῦ ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος κυρίου
ἐλθάτω

I thought from John 1, based on most modern teaching, that Jesus was the “**logos**?” Holy Spirit from the Septuagint just revealed to us that Yahweh is the “**logos**.” Confused? You shouldn’t be by now.

*1 In the beginning was the Word [Yahweh],
and the Word [Yahweh] was with God, and the
Word [Yahweh] was God. 2 He [Yahweh] was in
the beginning with God. [John 1:1-2 NASB]*

“In the beginning” is a word play chosen by Holy Spirit for John to begin this Gospel. “In the beginning” is also how Genesis begins in English with both rooted in Greek. This literary tool is meant to direct us to Moses.

*1 In the beginning God created the heavens
and the earth. [Genesis 1:1 NASB]*

*4 This is the account of the heavens and the
earth when they were created, in the day that the
LORD [Yahweh] God made earth and heaven.
[Genesis 2:4 NASB]*

Who is in the beginning (Genesis 1:1) with God? Yahweh is in the beginning (Genesis 2:4) with God. The “Word” that is in the beginning with God is the “Logos . . . Yahweh.”

The Bible is the story of Yahweh and how Yahweh became a human to save

APPENDIX: WHO OR WHAT IS “THE CHURCH”

I was reading again, as if for the first time, a passage by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. This epistle is extremely important for “the church” to understand.

*12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the **commonwealth of Israel**, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ... 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are **fellow citizens with the saints**, and are of God's household, [Ephesians 2:12 19 NASB]*

Let's look at the same text from the NIV translation:

*12 Remember that at the time you were separate from Christ, excluded from **citizenship in Israel** and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ... 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow **citizens with God's people** and also members of his household, [Ephesians 2:12 19 NIV]*

The NASB refers to Gentiles becoming part of the commonwealth of Israel but the NIV refers to Gentiles being made citizens of Israel. Isn't that an interesting statement? Paul is telling the Ephesians that they are now citizens of Israel, part of the commonwealth of Israel. Paul is saying, by extension, that Christians are part of the commonwealth of Israel, citizens of Israel. Paul also tells the Gentile Ephesians that they are citizens **with** the saints or citizens **with** God's people.

From Paul's point of view, the saints and God's people are Jews. One could read the text differently but this is the historical context in which the epistles were written. The story is about Israel and the Jews and how the Gentiles were going to be part of what God was doing.

Paul uses similar words in his epistle to the Romans:

*11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make **Israel** envious.* [Romans 11:11 NIV]

I find it interesting that the NIV, English Standard Version (ESV) and the Revised Standard Version (RSV) all use similar wording. The translators all add the word "Israel" to the Greek text. Paul refers to himself as an Israelite and

he refers to the people of Israel in the text as well. Paul is in essence telling the Romans that they too, as have the Ephesians, become part of the commonwealth of Israel, that they too, are citizens of Israel. Please read very carefully all of Romans 9,10 and 11 but especially chapter 11.

Here is our challenge. Israel ceased to be a nation from 135 C.E. until 1947/48 C.E. It would be easy to see how the church must have been the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies that were directed towards Israel.

But, as of the writing of this appendix, Israel has been back as a nation for 65 years. Jeremiah prophesies that Israel will go into captivity for 70 years. That captivity has been fulfilled. What will happen in 2017/18 when Israel has been a nation for 70 years? Is the church in a type of “Babylonian captivity” now?

Read what Yahweh of Nazareth said:

*14 “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, ... 16 “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become **one flock with one shepherd.** [John 10:14 16 NASB]*

When Jesus says that He is the “good shepherd,” I believe He is referring to Psalm 23:

I A Psalm of David. The LORD [Yahweh] is my shepherd, I shall not want. [Psalm 23:1 NASB]

Here is what I believe and all I am really doing is asking you to think through the events of our days and come up with your own conclusion(s).

I believe that all the Gentile sheep in the commonwealth of Israel are going to be asked to choose if they want to be part of Israel. They are going to be asked to choose if they want to be “Israeli citizens.” This is in agreement with what Paul teaches.

Here is what the Apostle Luke wrote:

*6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to **Israel**?” [Acts 1:6 NASB]*

Read what King David wrote:

*3 Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of **Israel**. [Psalm 22:3 NASB]*

Here is what Isaiah wrote:

*21 “As for Me, this is My **covenant** with them [Israel],” says the LORD [Yahweh]: “My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring’s offspring,” says the LORD [Yahweh], “from **now and forever**.” [Isaiah 59:21 NASB]*

This is what Paul told the Ephesians. They had become part of the covenants of promise that were given to Israel.

The best modern day picture we have is the Commonwealth of England. England ruled over much of the world at one point in time.

The kingdom of England became the commonwealth of England. Those who were once ruled by England became, as it were, citizens of England. They retained many of the rights and privileges as if they were citizens of England but they were “scattered” abroad. They could travel freely to England without a visa because they were part of the “Crown.” Forgive me if you are a historian.

Could this modern day equivalent be a God-given picture of what we might be looking at in another handful of years?

In closing, it would be my opinion that the true church is actually literal Israel. What if Jesus returns in 2017/18 and Father reestablishes the kingdom of Israel? What do you think?

13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. [Matthew 23:13 NASB]

19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” [Matthew 16:19 NASB]

Jesus took the keys to the kingdom of heaven from the Jewish religious elite and gave them to the common Jew. The keys end up in the hands of Rome and the papacy. Martin Luther began the transfer of the keys back into the hands of the common man, but in many ways, the keys are back in the hands of denominational mind-sets and heart-sets many who are openly anti-Semitic.

What will you do when you realize that Holy Spirit has given you the keys to the kingdom? What would we do if He gave them back to the Jews? What if He gave them to the “One New Man” that Paul spoke about? What if He gave them to Ishmael’s descendants?

*15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into **one new man**, thus establishing peace, [Ephesians 2:15 NASB]*

*28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; **for you are all one in Christ Jesus** [Messiah Yahweh]. [Galatians 3:28 NKJV]*

Gentiles are not being asked to be Jews, just Israeli's . .

Maybe we are all Hebrews like Abram the Hebrew . . .

END NOTES

Introduction

1. Blue Letter Bible at <http://www.blueletterbible.org> by permission.

God Is Not The Author Of Confusion, But...

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Earlier, I mentioned that Holy Spirit “challenged” me to close all my books and “test” Him to see if “*He would not open the windows of Heaven pour out on me such a blessing that there would not be room enough to receive it.*” (Malachi 3:10). I understood that He was referring to His ability to teach me.

I closed my books.

On occasion, He lead me to another author’s work where part of what He had taught me could be found, at least in part. These works are sources where I was led *after* He taught me. **A person with a testimony is never at the mercy of someone with an intellectual argument.** The Lord our God is a Rabbi of the Most High rank.

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BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Tom Baker is a retired anesthesiologist sub-specialized in pain medicine and pain management. He was formally a Naval Officer serving in various capacities in the U. S. Navy and the U. S. Marine Corps. His Naval career began as an enlisted Marine in Viet Nam. He retired from clinical medicine after a career ending neurological injury following neck surgery.

Dr. Baker has been married to Annette Monaghan since 1976 and they live in Longmont, Colorado. Both are ordained ministers under Joan Hunter Ministries, Tomball, Texas. They are commissioned under Glory of Zion Ministries in Corinth, Texas as a Ministry of Zion. They serve under the apostolic authority of Drs. Chuck Pierce and Robert Heidler.

Tom and Annette operate Baker Family Ministries focusing on healing and deliverance as well as teaching the Bible from a Hebraic or Jewish perspective.

When not in a church setting, Dr. Tom can be found in an ultra-orthodox synagogue on Shabbat fulfilling his prophetic destiny, Isaiah 40:3-4, 52:7 and 56:7.

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