

The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan

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The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan (Online Edition)

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Original Title *God's Master Plan: From Aleph to Tav* © 1994

The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan © 1997, 2001, 2011-2017 (Online Edition)

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Expanded and Revised January 2017

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Chapter 13

Messiah Yeshua, Eternal God the Son

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:1-4).

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14, NIV).

ONE TRIUNE GOD – FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

The Word of God reveals God's nature and character, His relationship to His Creation, His relationship with humanity and His plan of redemption and salvation. God is eternal, infinite in knowledge, wisdom, and power. God existed before Creation, and transcends the Creation He created. God is the source of all life and sustains all Creation. God is personal, loving, and compassionate and desires a personal relationship with each and every human being. God is a God of truth, mercy, and justice. God created human beings with free will and has made a way

for them to have a personal relationship with Him through His Holy Spirit by the atoning work of Messiah Yeshua, with the promise of eternal life with Him (John 3:16).

The Word of God explicitly informs us that there is one God, and no other God existed before Him or will exist after Him –

“To you it was shown that you might know that **the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him**” (Deuteronomy 4:35, bold emphasis added).

‘See now that **I, I am He,**
And there is no god besides Me;
It is I who put to death and give life.
I have wounded, and it is I who heal;
And there is no one who can deliver from My hand’
(Deuteronomy 32:39, bold emphasis added).

“You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD,
“And My servant whom I have chosen,
In order that you may know and believe Me,
And understand that I am He.
Before Me there was no God formed,
And there will be none after Me.”
(Isaiah 43:10, bold emphasis added).

“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?
And **there is no other God besides Me,**
A righteous God and a Savior;
There is none except Me.
Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth;
For I am God, and there is no other”
(Isaiah 45:21-22, bold emphasis added).

“Remember the former things long past,
For **I am God, and there is no other;**
I am God, and there is no one like Me”
(Isaiah 46:9, bold emphasis added).

The Word of God emphatically states that God is one –

“Hear, O Israel! **The LORD is our God [Elohim], the LORD is one!** And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, bold emphasis added).

Yet God also refers to Himself in the plural form “Us” –

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (Genesis 1:26, bold emphasis added).

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8, bold emphasis added).

The Hebrew word *Elohim* is the plural form of *El*, meaning “God”. Although there is only one God, the Word of God clearly reveals that God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The oneness of God is essential to understanding the relationship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They do not exist as separate and independent beings yet the Word of God clearly shows a distinction among them. At Messiah Yeshua’s immersion into the Jordan River, all three were clearly present at the same time –

And after being baptized, Jesus [Yeshua] went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, *and* coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17).

And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased” (Mark 1:10-11).

Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus [Yeshua] also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased” (Luke 3:21-22).

One of the fundamentals of Biblical Christianity is that God is one being that eternally exists as three persons, called the Trinity. We do not disagree with this way of expressing the relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. However, the problem we see is that most people do not have a theological education and therefore understand the word “person” not in its theological usage but in its common usage. This leads to misunderstanding, such as the concept of God existing as three separate, independent individuals in human-like forms that can exist apart from each other.

Another problem with the trinity concept is that it may be confused with the ancient pagan trinity concept in which the trinity consists of three individual gods in human form in a polytheistic relationship. But the relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit cannot be understood in this way because God is Spirit and is one in essence and being. Only God the Son took on human form. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit should not be thought of as three separate beings in human form. They are not three individual gods. Perhaps a better word than trinity to describe the relationship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is triune, emphasizing the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as one God.

Nowhere in the Word of God is the Holy Spirit shown to exist or even manifest in the form of a human being.

Messiah Yeshua, the Son of God, is God incarnate, God entering His own Creation in a flesh-and-blood human body to pay the price for humanity’s sins through the shedding of His blood. Yeshua’s mortal physical body was transformed and resurrected into an immortal spiritual body — the same kind of body believers will receive in the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:44, 50-54).

Messiah Yeshua tells us that His Father, God the Father, is Spirit –

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **God is spirit** and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24, bold emphasis added).

The prophet Daniel records a vision of God the Father, called the Ancient of Days, and the Son of God, who is called the Son of Man –

“I kept looking
Until thrones were set up,
And **the Ancient of Days** took His seat;
His vesture was like white snow,
And the hair of His head like pure wool.
His throne was ablaze with flames,
Its wheels were a burning fire”
(Daniel 7:9, bold emphasis added).

“I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a **Son of Man** was coming,
And **He came up to the Ancient of Days**
And was presented before Him”
(Daniel 7:13, bold emphasis added).

Daniel’s vision shows God the Father and God the Son. God the Father, the Ancient of Days, is revealed as taking His seat on the Throne, and His Son presented before Him. The Ancient of Days emanates light. The apostle John tells us that God is Light –

And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is light**, and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5, bold emphasis added).

Perhaps God the Father does have some kind of spiritual form but exactly what it is we cannot be certain. God is Spirit. God exists outside of Creation and is everywhere transcending Creation. God cannot be fully contained within any kind of physical dimensions, as King Solomon declared –

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, **heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee**, how much less this house which I have built!” (1 Kings 8:27, bold emphasis added).

The apostle John also tells us that no human being has ever seen God the Father –

No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God [Son of God], who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him* (John 1:18, bold emphasis added).

Messiah Yeshua, the Son of God, also testifies that no human being has seen the Father, only He has seen the father –

“Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father” (John 6:46).

Although God the Father was revealed in a vision to Daniel, this is not the same as a human being in a physical body standing in the real presence and full glory of God the Father.

Messiah Yeshua is God and reveals the nature, character, will, and love of God the Father –

Jesus [Yeshua] said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip **He who has seen Me has seen the Father**; how do you say, ‘Show us the Father’?” (John 14:9, bold emphasis added).

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one God in essence and being. Each is fully God and all three eternally coexist in unity. Each displays the attributes of God, including truth, love, mercy, justice, holiness, power, knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Each is personal in nature, including the Holy Spirit, which is not an impersonal force or power. Never is there a separation of any one of the three from the other two. They are always acting together in their relationship with each other and in their relationship with humanity, including with each and every believer –

AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; for **through Him**

[Messiah Yeshua] we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father (Ephesians 2:17-18, bold emphasis added).

GOD THE SON – THE ETERNAL WORD OF GOD

Before God the Son came into the world in a human body as Messiah Yeshua, He existed as eternal God the Son, the Word of God. The Greek word *Logos* is translated “Word” in John 1:1 –

In the beginning was the Word [*Logos*], and the Word [*Logos*] was with God, and **the Word [*Logos*] was God. He was in the beginning with God** (John 1:1-2, bold emphasis added).

The Logos is fully God, not a created being. The Logos exists as eternal God the Son, with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit from before Creation.

God the Son entered His own Creation in a real physical human body, combining full humanity with full deity –

The Word [*Logos*] became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, **who came from the Father**, full of grace and truth (John 1:14, NIV, bold emphasis added).

God the Son came forth from God the Father –

“I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again, and going to the Father” (John 16:28, bold emphasis added).

As the apostle John calls Messiah Yeshua “The Word” in John 1:1, he also calls Messiah Yeshua “The Word of God” in Revelation 19:13 –

And *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and **His name is called The Word [*Logos*] of God** (Revelation 19:13, bold emphasis added).

In John 1:1, 14 and Revelation 19:13, the Greek word *logos* (Strong’s #3056) is translated “word” as applied to Messiah Yeshua. The corresponding Hebrew word is *dabar* (Strong’s #1696

– verb “to speak”; #1697 – noun “word”).¹

The word *logos*, as applied to Messiah Yeshua as the Word, also appears in 1 John 1:1, referring to Messiah Yeshua as the “Word of Life” –

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning **the Word [*Logos*] of Life** (1 John 1:1, bold emphasis added).

God makes Himself known through the Word of God (the Bible), and the Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God). God reveals His plan of salvation through the Word of God (the Bible), and the Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God). God reveals His personal nature and the nature of His relationships with human beings and the rest of Creation through the Word of God (the Bible), and the Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God).

In the OT [Old Testament] the word is the supreme means by which God the Creator makes known both Himself and His will to His creatures. ... The divine word, in distinction from many human words, is co-extensive with that which it says or represents. Its most important attribute, then, is truth (2 Sam 7:28; cf John 17:11). Truth in this sense is not abstract. It carries with it the sense of faithfulness, reliability. What God says is true. If the reference is future, then it will surely come to pass. This, in turn, implies **the force or power of the word**. It accomplishes what it signifies. ... The word, as such, is powerful. This is esp. true of the word of God. By the word **God intervenes actively in the affairs of men**. The word is historical, not merely in the sense that it records history, but in the dynamic sense that it makes history. This is revealed already in the fact that **creation is by the word of God** (Ps 33:4ff; Isa 40:26; the “God said” of Gen 1) (bold emphasis added).²

The Word of God (the Bible) is Truth. The Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God) is Truth –

The sum of **Thy word is truth**,
And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting
(Psalms 119:160, bold emphasis added).

¹ Spiros Zodhiates (Editor), *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible*, Old Testament Dictionary, p. 1838.

² Merrill C. Tenney (Editor), *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 5, p. 957.

“Sanctify them in the truth; **Thy word is truth**” (John 17:17, bold emphasis added).

Jesus [Yeshua] 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, bold emphasis added).

The Word of God (the Bible) gives Life. The Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God) gives Life. The Word of God (the Bible) shows the one and only way of salvation. The Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God) is the one and only way of salvation.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life” (John 5:24).

“You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me” (John 5:39).

Jesus [Yeshua] said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies (John 11:25).

God spoke the Word to bring Creation into existence (Genesis 1). Creation was brought into existence through Yeshua, the Word of God –

Then **God said**, “Let there be light”; and there was light” (Genesis 1:3, bold emphasis added).

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 by Him and for Him**. And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together** (Colossians 1:16-17, bold emphasis added).

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world** (Hebrews 1:1-2, bold emphasis added).

Trust (faith) in God comes from hearing the Word of God (the Bible). Trust (faith) in God comes from hearing the Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God) –

So faith (trust in God) comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of **the message that came from the lips**] of **Christ, the Messiah [Himself]** (Romans 10:17, Amplified Bible, words in parentheses added, bold emphasis added).

And with many such parables He [**Yeshua**] **was speaking the word** to them as they were able to hear it (Mark 4:33, bold emphasis added).

But He said, “On the contrary, **blessed are those who hear the word of God**, and observe it” (Luke 11:28, bold emphasis added).

“**My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27, bold emphasis added).

And it came about that when Jesus [Yeshua] had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, **He departed from there to teach and preach** in their cities (Matthew 11:1, bold emphasis added).

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 11:15).

The Word of God (the Bible) has power. The Word of God (Yeshua, the Son of God) has power

–

And the LORD said to Moses, “Is the LORD’S **power** limited? Now you shall see whether **My word will come true** for you or not” (Numbers 11:23, bold emphasis added).

So shall **My word** be which goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me empty,
Without **accomplishing what I desire**,
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it
(Isaiah 55:11, bold emphasis added).

For **the word** of the cross [Yeshua's death and resurrection] is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it **is the power of God** (1 Corinthians 1:18, bold emphasis added).

And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God** (Ephesians 6:17, bold emphasis added).

And immediately Jesus [Yeshua], perceiving in Himself that **the power proceeding from Him had gone forth**, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" (Mark 5:30, bold emphasis added).

And Jesus [Yeshua] **returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit**; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district (Luke 4:14, bold emphasis added).

And amazement came upon them all, and they *began* discussing with one another saying, "What is this message? For **with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out**" (Luke 4:36, bold emphasis added).

And it came about one day that **He was teaching**; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and **the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing** (Luke 5:17, bold emphasis added).

And all the multitude were trying to touch Him, for **power was coming from Him and healing them all** (Luke 6:19; bold emphasis added).

YHVH – THE ETERNAL “I AM”

God the Son is the Mediator between humanity and God the Father. This was true prior to His incarnation, as well as after His incarnation –

For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua] (1 Timothy 2:5).

Through God the Son, the will of God the Father was made known to humanity. God’s plan of salvation and the Messiah were brought forth through His chosen people, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. At times, God the Son directly communicated to the patriarchs and the leaders of Israel to reveal God the Father’s plan and will.

One such time is Moses’ encounter with pre-incarnate God the Son, who appeared in a supernatural fire that did not consume a bush (Exodus 3:1-3) –

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall 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?” And 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.’” And God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The LORD, 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 3:13-15, bold emphasis added).

God the Son revealed His eternal existence by the name He gave to Moses – I AM. Messiah Yeshua identified Himself as the I AM, the Eternal God the Son –

Jesus [Yeshua] said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was born, I am**” (John 8:58, bold emphasis added).

The forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist, bore witness of Yeshua’s eternal existence before His incarnation –

John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for **He existed before me**’” (John 1:15, bold emphasis added).

In Hebrew, the name “I AM” is “Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh” –

This phrase has variously been translated, “**I Am That I Am,**” “**I Am Who I Am,**” and “**I Will Be What I Will Be.**” It clearly evokes YHVH [the Hebrew letters: Yud-Hay-Vav-Hay], the specific proper name of Israel’s God, known in English as the Tetragrammaton, that is, “the four consonants.” The phrase also indicates that the earliest recorded understanding of the divine name was as a verb derived from the stem *h-v-h* [Hay-Vav-Hay], taken as an earlier form of *h-y-h* [Hay-Yud-Hay], “to be.” Either it expresses **the quality of absolute Being, the eternal, unchanging, dynamic presence**, or it means, “**He causes to be**” (bold emphasis added).³

The Hebrew words of God’s name reveal God’s eternal nature and His role as Creator, the One who brought into existence and sustains all that is created.

In Jewish thought, a name is not merely an arbitrary designation, a random combination of sounds. **The name conveys the nature and essence of the thing named. ...**

An example of this usage occurs in Ex. 3:13-22: Moses asks God what His "name" is. Moses is not asking "what should I call you;" rather, he is asking "who are you; what are you like; what have you done." That is clear from God's response. **God replies that He is eternal**, that He is the God of our ancestors, that He has seen our affliction and will redeem us from bondage (bold emphasis added).⁴

The Tetragrammaton is the Hebrew name of God consisting of four Hebrew letters יהוה (Yud Hay Vav Hay), transliterated into English as YHVH.⁵ The letters are consonants as there are no

³ Nahum M. Sarna (Editor), *The JPS Torah Commentary: Exodus*, p.17.

⁴ Jewish Virtual Library, article: The Name of God, section: The Significance of Names – <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-name-of-god> - accessed December 18, 2016.

⁵ See Wikipedia article: Tetragrammaton – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetragrammaton> – accessed December 4,

vowels in the original Hebrew of the Tanach (Old Testament). According to Jewish tradition, the name YHVH is translated *Adonai*. In English, the Hebrew word *Adonai* is translated “LORD”, maintaining the capital letters that represent the four Hebrew letters.

The most important of God's Names is the four-letter Name represented by the [Hebrew letters](#) *Yod-Heh-Vav-Heh* (YHVH). It is often referred to as the Ineffable Name, the Unutterable Name or the Distinctive Name. **Linguistically, it is related to the Hebrew root *Heh-Yod-Heh* (to be), and reflects the fact that God's existence is eternal. In scripture, this Name is used when discussing God's relation with human beings, and when emphasizing his qualities of lovingkindness and mercy.** It is frequently shortened to *Yah* (*Yod-Heh*), *Yahu* or *Yeho* (*Yod-Heh-Vav*), especially when used in combination with names or phrases, as in Yehoshua (Joshua, meaning "the Lord is my Salvation"), Eliyahu (Elijah, meaning "my God is the Lord"), and Halleluyah ("praise the Lord").⁶

Where the name YHVH appears in the Word of God, it conveys God’s love, mercy, and compassion in the person of God the Son. God the Son entered His own Creation in the person of Messiah Yeshua – fully God and fully human – to pay the price for our sins so that we could have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God. There is no greater demonstration of God’s love –

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

Messiah Yeshua’s name contains the shortened form of YHVH, *Yeho*, in *Yehoshua*, from which the shortened form *Yeshua* comes. Yehoshua (Joshua), translates “YHVH Salvation”, “YHVH is Salvation”, or “YHVH is my Salvation”. Messiah Yeshua’s name reveals that He is YHVH God the Son and the only way of salvation –

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⁶ Jewish Virtual Library, article: The Name of God, section: The Names of God – <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-name-of-god> - accessed December 18, 2016.

“And she will bear a Son; and **you shall call His name Jesus [Yeshua/Yehoshua], for it is He who will save His people from their sins**” (Matthew 1:21, bold emphasis added).

Over time, the pronunciation of the name YHVH was lost –

The Mishnah confirms that there was no prohibition against pronouncing The Name in ancient times. In fact, the Mishnah recommends using God's Name as a routine greeting to a fellow Jew. *Berakhot* 9:5. However, by the time of the Talmud, it was the custom to use substitute Names for God. ... Instead of pronouncing the four-letter Name, we usually substitute the Name "*Adonai*," or simply say "*Ha-Shem*" (lit. The Name).

With the Temple destroyed and the prohibition on pronouncing The Name outside of the Temple, pronunciation of the Name fell into disuse. Scholars passed down knowledge of the correct pronunciation of YHVH for many generations, **but eventually the correct pronunciation was lost, and we no longer know it with any certainty** (bold emphasis added).⁷

The name YHVH is variously translated as *Yehovah*, *Jehovah*, *Yaveh*, or *Yaweh*. However, there are no “J” or “W” sounds in Hebrew and no way to know for certain the correct pronunciation –

We do not know what vowels were used, or even whether the Vav in the Name was a vowel or a consonant. See [Hebrew Alphabet](#) for more information about the difficulties in pronouncing Hebrew. Some religious scholars suggest that the Name was pronounced "*Yahweh*," but others do not find this pronunciation particularly persuasive.

Some Christian scholars render the four-letter Name as "Jehovah," but this pronunciation is particularly unlikely. The word "Jehovah" comes from the fact that ancient Jewish texts used to put the vowels of the Name "*Adonai*" (the usual substitute for YHVH) under the consonants of YHVH to remind people not to pronounce YHVH as written. A sixteenth century German Christian scribe, while

⁷ Jewish Virtual Library, article: The Name of God, section: Pronouncing the Name of God – <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-name-of-god> - accessed December 18, 2016.

transliterating the Bible into Latin for the Pope, wrote the Name out as it appeared in his texts, with the consonants of YHVH and the vowels of *Adonai*, and came up with the word JeHoVaH, and the name stuck.⁸

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD – THE PRE-INCARNATE LOGOS

The Old Testament records appearances of YHVH God the Son, the pre-incarnate Logos (Word), in human form. In some cases, He is called the Angel of the LORD (YHVH) or the Angel of God. It is important to distinguish between “the” Angel of the LORD, who is YHVH God the Son, in contrast to references to “an” angel of the Lord, referring to angelic beings but not the LORD (YHVH) – for example, “an angel of the Lord” in Matthew 28:2; Luke 1:11; 2:9; John 5:4; Acts 5:19, 8:26; 12:7, 23; “an angel of God” in Acts 10:3.

The Angel of the LORD (YHVH) is unique and distinct from other angels. The Angel of the LORD (YHVH) acts as the Mediator between God the Father and humanity, just as Messiah Yeshua is the one and only mediator between God and humanity –

For there is one God, *and one mediator also between God and men, **the man Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]*** (1 Timothy 2:5, bold emphasis added).

Prior to His incarnation, YHVH God the Son sometimes communicated directly with the patriarchs, Israelite leaders, and others, sometimes appearing in human form. These communications and appearances occurred at critical times in the history of ancient Israel and involved God’s plan of salvation. At one such time, YHVH God the Son appeared as a man to Abraham and Sarah, promising a son would be born to them –

Now **the LORD [YHVH] appeared to him** by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. And when he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, **three men** were standing opposite him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth ... And he [YHVH] said, “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age;

⁸ Jewish Virtual Library, article: The Name of God, section: Pronouncing the Name of God – <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-name-of-god> - accessed December 18, 2016.

Sarah was past childbearing. ... And **the LORD [YHVH] said to Abraham**, “Why did Sarah laugh, saying, ‘Shall I indeed bear *a child*, when I am *so old*?’ Is anything too difficult for the LORD [YHVH]? At the appointed time I will return to you, **at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son**” (Genesis 18:1-2, 10-11, 13-14, bold emphasis added).

The covenant that God made with Abraham was to be fulfilled through Abraham’s son, Isaac, the line that would lead to Messiah Yeshua.

During the same visitation, YHVH God the Son also warned Abraham that He was about to bring judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah –

And the LORD [YHVH] said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD [YHVH] by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD [YHVH] may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.” And **the LORD [YHHV] said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave”** (Genesis 18:17-20, bold emphasis added).

Later, YHVH God the Son appeared to Abraham as the Angel of the LORD (YHVH), revealing God’s plan of salvation –

Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there, and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. **But the angel of the LORD [YHVH] called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”** And he said, “Here I am.” And he said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son (Genesis 22:9-13, bold emphasis added).

YHVH God the Son stopped Abraham from offering his only son and provided a sacrifice in Isaac's place. This foreshadowed the sacrifice that YHVH God the Son would make in the person of Messiah Yeshua for the sins of humanity. God the Father offered His one and only Son as the perfect and complete sacrifice for the sins of humanity –

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV).

At the time Abraham obediently offered his son, he said that God would provide the lamb for the sacrifice. Indeed, God the Father provided His Son as “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). At the time Abraham offered Isaac, God provided a ram (not a lamb) for the sacrifice. This shows the future prophetic nature of Abraham's answer to Isaac's question, “Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” –

And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but **where is the lamb for the burnt offering?**” And Abraham said, “**God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**” So the two of them walked on together (Genesis 22:7-8, bold emphasis added).

Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* **a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.** And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD [YHVH] Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD [YHVH] it will be provided” (Genesis 22:13-14, bold emphasis added).

The Angel of God, another name for the Angel of the LORD (YHVH), appeared to Jacob (Isaac's son) in a dream and told him to return to the land of Canaan –

“Then **the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’** and I said, ‘Here I am.’ ... [And the angel of God said,] **‘I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me;** now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth” (Genesis 31:11, 13, bold emphasis added).

At that time, the Angel of God told Jacob that He is the God of Abraham and Isaac, the same God who appeared to him in a dream at Bethel –

And he [Jacob] had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD [YHVH] stood above it and said, “**I am the LORD [YHVH], the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac**; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, **I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land**; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you” (Genesis 28:12-15, bold emphasis added).

Later, YHVH God the Son appeared to Jacob as a man and physically interacted with him in such a way that Jacob knew it was no dream but unmistakable reality –

Then Jacob was left alone, and **a man wrestled with him until daybreak**. And when he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of **Jacob’s thigh was dislocated** while he wrestled with him. Then he said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking.” But he said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” And he said, “**Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.**” Then Jacob asked him and said, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And he blessed him there. So Jacob named the place Peniel, for *he said*, “**I have seen God face to face**, yet my life has been preserved” (Genesis 32:24-30, bold emphasis added).

YHVH God the Son tells Jacob he has “striven with God”. Jacob understands that he has “seen God face to face” and names the place Peniel, meaning “face of God”. YHVH God the Son gives Jacob a new name, Israel, and he becomes the father of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

The LORD [YHVH] God the Son manifested in the Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of YHVH's Presence ("pillar of cloud by day", "pillar of fire by night"), guiding and guarding the Israelites in their exodus from Egypt –

And **the LORD [YHVH] was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light**, that they might travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people (Exodus 13:21-22, bold emphasis added).

The LORD (YHVH) God the Son, called the Angel of God, prevented the Egyptians from attacking the Israelites while the waters were being parted in a great supernatural miracle to deliver the Israelites. Moses said they were not to fear and that they would "see the salvation of the LORD [YHVH]". The one who saved them was YHVH God the Son, the same one who came in human flesh to pay the price for sin to save all those who trust in Him –

But Moses said to the people, "**Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD [YHVH]** which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The LORD [YHVH] will fight for you while you keep silent." ... And **the angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them**; and the pillar of cloud [Shekinah – Glory Cloud of YHVH's Presence] moved from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night (Exodus 14:13-14, 19-20, bold emphasis added).

The LORD (YHVH) God the Son frequently talked to Moses during the wilderness journey of the Israelites, and gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19-20).

At the beginning of the conquest of the Promised Land, the Angel of the LORD (YHVH), in human form, identified Himself to Joshua as commander of the army of the LORD (YHVH) –

Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand**, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or

for our adversaries?” And he said, “No, rather **I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD [YHVH].**” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” And **the captain of the LORD’S [YHVH’s] host** said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for **the place where you are standing is holy.**” And Joshua did so (Joshua 5:13-15, bold emphasis added).

Joshua would have understood that the ground was holy because he was in the presence of YHVH, who gave the Israelites victory over the pagan people inhabiting the Promised Land –

And **the LORD [YHVH] said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand,** with its king *and* the valiant warriors (Joshua 6:2, bold emphasis added).

The Angel of the LORD (YHVH) appeared to Gideon, appointing him and empowering him to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of the Midianites –

Then **the angel of the LORD [YHVH] came and sat under the oak** that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save *it* from the Midianites. **And the angel of the LORD [YHVH] appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD [YHVH] is with you, O valiant warrior.”** Then Gideon said to him, “O my lord, if the LORD [YHVH] is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD [YHVH] bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD [YHVH] has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” And the LORD [YHVH] looked at him and said, “Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?” And he said to Him, “O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.” **But the LORD [YHVH] said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man”** (Judges 6:11-16, bold emphasis added).

Gideon was astonished to see the Angel of the LORD (YHVH) supernaturally create a fire to consume his offering and then instantaneously vanish –

Then Gideon went in and prepared a kid and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour; he put the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, and brought *them* out to him under the oak, and presented *them*. And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.” And he did so. Then **the angel of the LORD [YHVH] put out the end of the staff** that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and **fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the angel of the LORD [YHVH] vanished from his sight.** When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD [YHVH], he said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD [YHVH] face to face.” And the LORD [YHVH] said to him, “Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die” (Judges 6:19-23, bold emphasis added).

The Angel of the LORD (YHVH) appeared to Manoah’s wife, telling her that she would give birth to a son who would help deliver the Israelites from Philistine oppression –

Then **the angel of the LORD [YHVH] appeared to the woman**, and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no *children*, but **you shall conceive and give birth to a son**. Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing. For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and **he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines**” (Judges 13:3-5, bold emphasis added).

The supernatural nature of the Angel of the LORD (YHVH) was revealed to Manoah and his wife when the Angel ascended in the flames of their sacrificial offering –

Then Manoah said to the angel of the LORD [YHVH], “Please let us detain you so that we may prepare a kid for you.” And the angel of the LORD [YHVH] said to Manoah, “Though you detain me, I will not eat your food, but if you prepare a burnt offering, *then* offer it to the LORD [YHVH]” For **Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD [YHVH]**. And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD [YHVH], “What is your name, so that when your words come *to pass*, we may honor you?” But the angel of the LORD [YHVH] said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” So Manoah took the kid with the grain offering and offered it on the rock to the LORD [YHVH], and He

performed wonders while Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came about **when the flame went up from the altar toward heaven, that the angel of the LORD [YHVH] ascended in the flame of the altar.** When Manoah and his wife saw *this*, they fell on their faces to the ground (Judges 13:15-20, bold emphasis added).

During the time of King David, the Angel of the LORD (YHVH) appeared on Mount Moriah and stopped the angel sent to destroy Jerusalem –

And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he was about to destroy *it*, the LORD [YHVH] saw and was sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, “It is enough; now relax your hand.” And **the angel of the LORD [YHVH] was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.** Then **David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD [YHVH] standing between earth and heaven,** with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, covered with sackcloth, fell on their faces (1 Chronicles 21:15-16, bold emphasis added).

The Angel of the LORD (YHVH) commanded the prophet Gad to instruct David to build an altar to the LORD [YHVH] on the threshing floor of Ornan* –

Then **the angel of the LORD [YHVH] commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the LORD [YHVH] on the threshing floor of Ornan** the Jebusite. So David went up at the word of Gad, which he spoke in the name of the LORD [YHVH]. Now Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons *who were* with him hid themselves. And Ornan was threshing wheat. And as David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David, and went out from the threshing floor, and prostrated himself before David with his face to the ground. Then David said to Ornan,

* Araunah (2 Samuel 24) and Ornan (1 Chronicles 21) are names for the same person – Araunah, the original Hurrian name; Ornan, the derived name expressed in Hebrew – *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 1, pp. 257-258. The two different purchase prices are best explained by understanding that David purchased the immediate area of the threshing floor and oxen for 50 shekels of silver (2 Samuel 24:24) and larger area surrounding the threshing floor for 600 shekels of gold (1 Chronicles 21:25) – *ArtScroll Tanach Series: 1 Chronicles*, pp. 282-283. *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 1, pp. 257-258.

“Give me the site of *this* threshing floor, that I may build on it an altar to the LORD [YHVH]; for the full price you shall give it to me, that the plague may be restrained from the people” (1 Chronicles 21:18-22, bold emphasis added).

The place the Angel of the LORD (YHVH) designated for the altar became the site of the Altar of the Temple, first built by David’s son, Solomon (2 Chronicles 3:1). Leen Ritmeyer, in his book *The Quest: Revealing the Temple Mount in Jerusalem*, has pinpointed the exact place where the Angel of the LORD (YHVH) stood – the highest point on Mount Moriah, the exact location destined to become the Holy of Holies in the Temple, the place where YHVH dwelled above the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.^o This is the same place YHVH God the Son, Messiah Yeshua, establishes the seat of His Throne during the future Millennial Kingdom. In this we see that the Angel of the LORD (YHVH), pre-incarnate YHVH God the Son, who came in the flesh as Messiah Yeshua, established His dwelling place on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.

The LORD (YHVH) revealed His plans to the prophet Zechariah for the regathering of His people, the restoration of Israel, and the rebuilding of the Temple when the Jews returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile (Zechariah 1:16-17). This same prophetic pattern is now in the process of being repeated after almost 2,000 years of the Jews being dispersed throughout the nations of the world (Zechariah 2). The Angel of the LORD (YHVH) revealed His coming in the person of Messiah Yeshua, called Branch –

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before **the angel of the LORD [YHVH]**, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ... And the angel of the LORD admonished Joshua saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘If you will walk in My ways, and if you will perform My service, then you will also govern My house [Temple] and also have charge of My courts, and I will grant you free access among these who are standing *here*. Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you — indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, **I am going to bring in My servant the Branch**” (Zechariah 3:1, 6-8, bold emphasis added).

Surely of prophetic significance is that the name of the high priest at that time was the same as the future Messiah’s name – Joshua. In Hebrew, the name is Yehoshua, meaning “YHVH Salvation”, or “YHVH is Salvation”, or “YHVH is my Salvation”. Yeshua, meaning “Salvation”

^o pp. 314-315.

is the shortened form of Yehoshua. Indeed, Messiah Yeshua is our Salvation, the Salvation of YHVH, and He is YHVH God the Son.

The LORD (YHVH) revealed to Zechariah that the Messiah (Branch) would rebuild the future Temple, the seat of His Throne during the Millennial Kingdom –

“Then say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD [YHVH] of hosts, “Behold, **a man whose name is Branch**, for He will branch out from where He is; and **He will build the temple of the LORD [YHVH]**. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD [YHVH], and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices [of priest and king]”’ (Zechariah 6:12-13, bold emphasis added).

When YHVH God the Son, Messiah Yeshua, returns to earth, He will build the Temple (Third Temple, Ezekiel’s Temple) of the Millennial Kingdom and rule as Priest and King.

THE FIRST AND THE LAST, THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

In the Old Testament, YHVH God the Son calls Himself “the first and the last” –

“This is what the LORD [YHVH] says –
Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:
I am the first and I am the last;
Apart from me there is no God”
(Isaiah 44:6, NIV, bold emphasis added).

“Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called;
I am He, I am the first, I am also the last”
(Isaiah 48:12).

In the New Testament, YHVH God the Son also calls Himself “the first and the last”, as well as “the Alpha and the Omega” and “the beginning and the end” –

And when I [John] saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, “Do not be afraid; **I am the first and the last,**

and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades [Hell]” (Revelation 1:17-18, bold emphasis added).

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8, bold emphasis added).

And He said to me, “It is done. **I am the Alpha and the Omega,** the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost” (Revelation 21:6, bold emphasis added).

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 22:13, bold emphasis added).

“I am the first and the last” is equivalent to “I am the Alpha and the Omega” – Alpha being the first letter and Omega being the last letter of the Greek alphabet. In Hebrew, the statement would be “I am the Aleph and the Tav”. These statements are also equivalent to “I am the beginning and the end”. The profound nature and meaning of these statements must be beyond human knowledge, understanding, and comprehension. As YHVH says –

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts”
(Isaiah 55:9).

How can we as created beings begin to know, understand, and comprehend all that God is? We cannot begin to know, understand, and comprehend all Creation, how much less the Creator. However, in these statements surely the eternal nature of God the Son is revealed, as well as His role as Creator, Savior, and Redeemer. All that has been created has been created by Him and for Him, and in Him all things hold together –

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 by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:16-17).

There must be countless truths contained within Messiah Yeshua's statements. In the Jewish commentary on Isaiah 44:6 expounding on the meaning of "I am the first and I am the last", one of these amazing truths is that the first, middle, and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet spell the word *emet*, meaning truth,¹¹ linking to Messiah Yeshua's statement "**I am** the way, and **the truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6).

The Jewish commentary on Isaiah 48:12 expounding on the meaning of "I am the first and I am the last" relates to the eternal existence of YHVH God the Son, who "created time so" is "not bound by the restrictions of past, present, or future (*Ibn Ezra*); the present (*I am He*), the past (*I am the first*), and the future (*also I am the last*) (*Radak*)".¹² This is why YHVH God the Son tells the prophet Jeremiah that He knew him before He formed him in his mother's womb –

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you;
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations"
(Jeremiah 1:5, bold emphasis added).

YHVH God the Son, Messiah Yeshua, exists outside of Creation, outside of the three dimensions of space and the fourth dimension of time (called space-time). Therefore, He knows all that has happened, is happening, and will happen –

"Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,
Declaring the end from the beginning
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, 'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'"
(Isaiah 46:9-10, bold emphasis added).

"Then the King [Messiah Yeshua] will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**'" (Matthew 25:34, bold emphasis added).

¹¹ Nossou Scherman, The ArtScroll Series (Milstein Edition), *The Later Prophets: Isaiah*, p. 341.

¹² Nossou Scherman, The ArtScroll Series (Milstein Edition), *The Later Prophets: Isaiah*, p. 371.

just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. ... (Ephesians 1:4, bold emphasis added).

Kamal Saleem is a former Muslim who had an encounter with the One who calls Himself the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the same One the apostle John saw, as recorded in the Book of Revelation – God the Son, Messiah Yeshua. When Kamal asked “Who are you?”, He replied: “I AM that I AM. I am the Alpha. I am the Omega. I am the beginning. I am the end. I am everything that is in between.”

See Kamal’s testimony – <http://www1.cbn.com/content/kamal-saleem-muslim-cries-out-jesus>
Segment from 4:20 to 8:10 minutes shows Kamal sees the One the apostle John saw in the Book of Revelation, The Alpha and The Omega, the Beginning and the End — Messiah Yeshua, God the Son!

THE CREATOR AND SUSTAINER OF CREATION

The Word of God tells us that God (*Elohim*) created the heavens and the earth –

In the beginning God [*Elohim*] created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

Elohim is the plural form of *El*, meaning “God”, referring to the unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Creation was brought into existence through the Word of God, YHVH God the Son, according to the will of YHVH God the Father, with the working of YHVH God the Holy Spirit –

And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the **Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters (Genesis 1:2, bold emphasis added).

This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the **LORD [YHVH] God [Elohim] made earth and heaven** (Genesis 2:4, bold emphasis added).

Elohim spoke Creation into existence –

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let there be light”; and there was light” (Genesis 1:3).

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters” (Genesis 1:6).

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so (Genesis 1:9).

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth”; and it was so (Genesis 1:11).

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years” (Genesis 1:14).

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens” (Genesis 1:20).

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so (Genesis 1:24).

Then God [Elohim] said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

The Word of God clearly reveals that the Word of God, God the Son (Messiah Yeshua), is the Creator and Sustainer of all creation –

All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being (John 1:3, bold emphasis added).

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 by Him and for Him**. And He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together** (Colossians 1:16-17, bold emphasis added).

The will of God the Father was brought forth through God the Son, by the power of God the Holy Spirit. At no time are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existing or operating as individual, separated beings outside the oneness of Elohim (God). Without this Oneness of Elohim, there could be no Creation, and Creation would cease to exist. This is not a case of an impersonal God or force creating a universe that is subsequently left to “run” on its own, as a wound-up clock. The Creator is intimately connected to His Creation and in total control of it at all times.

THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD AND FIRSTBORN OF CREATION

God the Son, Messiah Yeshua, is the image of the invisible God, fully God in every way, who makes God the Father known to humanity –

And He is **the image of the invisible God**, the first-born of all creation (Colossians 1:15, bold emphasis added).

For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all **the fulness to dwell in Him** (Colossians 1:19, bold emphasis added).

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only [**God the Son**], **who is at the Father's side, has made him known** (John 1:18, NIV, bold emphasis added).

In Colossians 1:15, the Greek word *prototokos* (Strong's #4416) is translated “first-born” –

And He is the image of the invisible God, **the first-born [*prototokos*] of all creation** (Colossians 1:15, bold emphasis added).

God the Son is called the “first-born of all creation”, indicating “His relationship to the Father, expressing His priority to, and preeminence over, creation, not in the sense of being the ‘first’ to

be born” or that He is a created being.¹³

MESSIAH YESHUA, ETERNAL SON OF GOD

Messiah Yeshua, the Eternal Son of God, tells us that He came forth from God the Father –

“for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father. **I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world**; I am leaving the world again, and going to the Father” (John 16:27-28, bold emphasis added).

“Now they have come to know that everything Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for the words which Thou gavest Me I have given to *them*; and they received them, and truly understood that **I came forth from Thee**, and they believed that Thou didst send Me” (John 17:7-8, bold emphasis added).

In the Old Testament, Psalms Chapter 2 reveals the prophetic picture of the Son of God as King Messiah, God the Father’s Anointed, who will rule the nations from Jerusalem –

“But as for Me, **I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain.**”

“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD:

He said to Me, ‘**Thou art My Son,**

Today I have begotten Thee.

‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance,

And the *very* ends of the earth as Thy possession.

‘**Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron,**

Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware’”

(Psalms 2:6-9, bold emphasis added).

This is the same prophetic picture revealed in the Book of Revelation –

¹³ W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White, Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, p. 240.

And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and **He will rule them with a rod of iron**; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**” (Revelation 19:15-16, bold emphasis added).

God the Father warns the rulers of the world to submit and give homage to His Son, Messiah Yeshua, to avoid His wrath –

Why are the nations in an uproar,
And the peoples devising a vain thing?
The kings of the earth take their stand,
And the rulers take counsel together
Against the LORD and against His Anointed [Messiah] ...

Now therefore, O kings, show discernment;
Take warning, O judges of the earth.
Worship the LORD with reverence,
And rejoice with trembling.
Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish *in* the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!
(Psalms 2:1-2, 10-12, bold emphasis added).

Messiah Yeshua reveals Himself to be the Son of God who came down from Heaven to do the will of the Father –

“**For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me**. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is **the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life**; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:38-40, bold emphasis added).

The apostle John and Yeshua Himself make it clear that no person has seen God the Father, and that only the Son has seen the Father –

[John said:] No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known (John 1:18, NIV).

[Yeshua said:] "Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father" (John 6:46).

The angel Gabriel sent to Mary testified that Messiah Yeshua is the Son of God, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit –

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus [Yeshua]. He will be great, and will be called **the Son of the Most High**; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and **His kingdom will have no end.**" And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered and said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God**" (Luke 1:30-35, bold emphasis added).

Throughout the New Testament, Messiah Yeshua is proclaimed to be the Son of God by many witnesses of His divine nature and supernatural miracles –

And Simon Peter answered and said, "**Thou art the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God**" (Matthew 16:16, bold emphasis added).

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah], the **Son of God** (Mark 1:1, bold emphasis added).

"And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the **Son of God**" (John 1:34, bold emphasis added).

Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, **You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel**" (John 1:49, bold emphasis added).

And we know that the **Son of God** has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in **His Son Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah]. This is the true God and eternal life** (1 John 5:20, bold emphasis added).

She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I have believed that **You are the Christ [Messiah], the Son of God**, *even* He who comes into the world” (John 11:27, bold emphasis added).

Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus [Yeshua], when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, “**Truly this was the Son of God!**” (Matthew 27:54, bold emphasis added).

And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he [Paul] regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized; and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, and immediately **he began to proclaim Jesus [Yeshua] in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God”** (Acts 9:18-20, bold emphasis added).

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua], called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, **who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead**, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah] our Lord (Romans 1:1-4, bold emphasis added).

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus **[Yeshua] the Son of God**, let us hold fast our confession (Hebrews 4:14, bold emphasis added).

Even the demons (fallen angels) recognize Messiah Yeshua as the Son of God and fear Him –

And when He had come to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs; *they were* so exceedingly violent that no one could pass by that road. And behold, they cried out, saying, “**What do we have to do with You, Son of God?** Have You come here to torment us before the time?” (Matthew 8:28-29, bold emphasis added).

And whenever the unclean spirits beheld Him, they would fall down before Him and cry out, saying, “**You are the Son of God!**” (Mark 3:11, bold emphasis added).

And demons also were coming out of many, crying out and saying, “**You are the Son of God!**” And rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ [Messiah] (Luke 4:41, bold emphasis added).

THE INCARNATION OF MESSIAH YESHUA

The greatest and most profound event in human history is the revelation of God in the person of Messiah Yeshua –

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6, emphasis added).

The apostle John revealed that “the Word became flesh” –

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten [*monogenes*] from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

In John 1:14, the word *monogenes* (Strong’s #3439) – derived from *monos* (#3441) meaning “only”, and *genos* (1085) meaning “kind” – means “unique, only one of a kind”, and is more

accurately translated “one and only” rather than “only-begotten” (John 1:14, 18; 3:16, 18; 1 John 4:9).¹⁴

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of **the One and Only**, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14, NIV, bold emphasis added).

No one has ever seen God, but God **the One and Only**, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known (John 1:18, NIV, bold emphasis added).

“For God so loved the world that he gave his **one and only** Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV, bold emphasis added).

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s **one and only** Son (John 3:18, NIV, bold emphasis added).

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his **one and only** Son into the world that we might live through him (1 John 4:9, NIV, bold emphasis added).

The apostle Matthew also testifies to the incarnation of God in Yeshua –

BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US” (Matthew 1:23).

Indeed, the Son of God, Messiah Yeshua is fully God, thus fitting the name “Immanuel”, meaning “God is with us”.

Matthew refers to the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy –

“Therefore the Lord 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).

¹⁴ Spiros Zodhiates (Editor), *The Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible*, p. 1397 (marginal note on John 1:14), p. 1401 (marginal note on John 3:16), p. 2225 (New Testament Dictionary, #3439).

Yeshua was not conceived as are other human beings, but by the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit). Both deity and humanity exist in the person of Yeshua. In an analogous way, as God the Son dwelled among His people in the Tabernacle, God in the person of Messiah Yeshua dwelled in a flesh-body “tabernacle” among men.

MESSIAH YESHUA, SAVIOR AND REDEEMER

It was God the Father’s will that His Son not only create the cosmos, but in fact enter His Creation for the purpose of revealing and fulfilling God’s plan of salvation and redemption for humanity. The depth of God’s love and mercy is revealed in His Son Yeshua, who embodies the infinite mercies of YHVH, the LORD God.

In the Book of Genesis, God revealed His ultimate plan for the salvation of humankind –

And Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”... (Genesis 22:8).

In Abraham’s response to Isaac, God was revealing the prophetic picture of the sacrifice of His Son, Yeshua, for the sins of humanity –

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him” (John 3:16-17).

YHVH God the Son manifested in the flesh as Messiah Yeshua. What the sacrifice of animals could not accomplish was accomplished in Yeshua’s sacrifice, once and for all time, according to the will of God the Father. There is no salvation by any other means other than what God Himself provided in the sacrifice of His Son. As God incarnate, Messiah Yeshua came to redeem all humankind, and there is no other way to God the Father except through the Son –

Jesus [Yeshua] 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).

Jesus [Yeshua] said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am” (John 8:58).

Throughout the Old Testament, Messiah Yeshua, God the Son, is shown to be the one and only Savior of Israel and the world –

My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge;
My savior, Thou dost save me from violence (2 Samuel 22:3, bold emphasis added).

Wondrously show Thy lovingkindness,
O Savior of those who take refuge at Thy right hand
From those who rise up *against them*
(Psalms 17:7, bold emphasis added).

“For **I am the LORD your God,**
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior ...”
(Isaiah 43:3, bold emphasis added).

“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?
And **there is no other God besides Me,**
A righteous God and a Savior;
There is none except Me”
(Isaiah 45:21, bold emphasis added).

Yet I *have been* the LORD your God
Since the land of Egypt;
And you were not to know any god except Me,
For there is no savior besides Me
(Hosea 13:4, bold emphasis added).

Throughout the New Testament, Messiah Yeshua, God the Son, is shown to be the one and only Savior of Israel and the world –

for today in the city of David there has been born for you a **Savior, who is Christ [Messiah] the Lord** (Luke 2:11, bold emphasis added).

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a **Savior, the Lord Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah]**; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself (Philippians 3:20-21, bold emphasis added).

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah], to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of **our God and Savior, Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah]** (2 Peter 1:1, bold emphasis added).

And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent **the Son to be the Savior of the world** (1 John 4:14, bold emphasis added).

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to **the only God our Savior, through Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah] our Lord**, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen (Jude 24-25, bold emphasis added).

In the Old Testament, Messiah Yeshua, God the Son, is also shown to be the one and only Redeemer of Israel and the world –

“And as for me, **I know that my Redeemer lives**,
And at the last He will take His stand on the earth”
(Job 19:25, bold emphasis added).

Thus says **the LORD, your Redeemer**, and the one who formed you from the womb,

“I, the LORD, am the maker of all things,

Stretching out the heavens by Myself,
And spreading out the earth all alone”
(Isaiah 44:24, bold emphasis added).

Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name,
The Holy One of Israel
(Isaiah 47:4, bold emphasis added).

“For your husband is your Maker,
Whose name is the LORD of hosts;
And **your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel,**
Who is called the God of all the earth”
(Isaiah 54:5, bold emphasis added).

In the New Testament, Messiah Yeshua, God the Son, is shown to be the one and only Redeemer of Israel and the world –

So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order **that He might redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons (Galatians 4:3-5, bold emphasis added).

looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]; who gave Himself for us, **that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession**, zealous for good deeds (Titus 2:13-14, bold emphasis added).

knowing that **you were not redeemed with perishable things** like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **but with precious blood**, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ* [Messiah] (1 Peter 1:18-19, bold emphasis added).

MESSIAH YESHUA, GOD THE SON, IS THE ROCK

Messiah Yeshua, God the Son, is also called The Rock in both the Old and New Testaments –

“**The Rock!** His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He”
(Deuteronomy 32:4, bold emphasis added).

“There is no one holy like the LORD,
Indeed, there is no one besides Thee,
Nor is there any rock like our God”
(1 Samuel 2:2, bold emphasis added).

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold
(Psalms 18:2, bold emphasis added).

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Thy sight,
O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer
(Psalms 19:14, bold emphasis added).

And they remembered that **God was their rock**,
And **the Most High God their Redeemer**
(Psalms 78:35, bold emphasis added).

“Trust in the LORD forever,
For **in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.**”
(Isaiah 26:4, bold emphasis added).

‘Do not tremble and do not be afraid;
Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it?
And you are My witnesses.

**Is there any God besides Me,
Or is there any *other* Rock?**
I know of none.”
(Isaiah 44:8, bold emphasis added).

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud [Shekinah Glory Cloud], and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized [immersed] into Moses in the cloud [Shekinah Glory Cloud] and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for **they were drinking from a spiritual rock** which followed them; and **the rock was Christ [Messiah]** (1 Corinthians 10:1-4, bold emphasis added).

“And I also say to you that you are Peter [*Petros* - Peter], and **upon this rock [Petra, The Rock, Yeshua] I will build My church;** and the gates of Hades [Hell] shall not overpower it” (Matthew 16:18, bold emphasis added).

In His words to His disciple Peter, Messiah Yeshua is distinguishing between the Greek word *Petros* (Peter’s name), meaning “a detached stone or boulder” or “a stone that might be thrown or easily moved” and *Petra* (Strong’s #4073), meaning an immovable “mass of rock”.¹⁵ Messiah Yeshua is the The Rock, the same Rock referred to in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), meaning that He is the solid and sure foundation of our faith –

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
“Behold, I am laying in Zion **a stone, a tested stone,**
A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed.
He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed”
(Isaiah 28:16, bold emphasis added).

Jesus [Yeshua] said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures,
‘THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,
THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone;*
THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD,
AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES’?”
(Matthew 21:42, bold emphasis added).

¹⁵ Vine, *Vine’s Complete Expository of Old & New Testament Words*, p. 537.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints [believers], and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua] Himself being the corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22, bold emphasis added).

And coming to **Him as to a living stone**, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah]. For *this* is contained in Scripture: **"BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED"** (1 Peter 2:4-6, bold emphasis added).

The Word of God clearly shows that the One who was with the Israelites, called The Rock, is the same one who came into the world as Savior and Redeemer – God the Son, Messiah Yeshua. And upon The Rock, Messiah Yeshua, is the one true Church built, consisting of all who are indwelt by God's Holy Spirit because they trust solely in the atoning sacrifice of Messiah Yeshua, who is God, perfect and sinless, the only way of salvation.

Messiah Yeshua said that the Hebrew Scriptures were all about Him –

And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, **He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures** (Luke 24:27, bold emphasis added).

And they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while **He was explaining the Scriptures** to us?" (Luke 24:32, bold emphasis added).

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**" Then **He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures**, and He said to them,

“Thus it is written, that the Christ [Messiah] should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:44-48, bold emphasis added).

“You search **the Scriptures**, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and **it is these that bear witness of Me**” (John 5:39, bold emphasis added).

How true this is not only in regard to the many detailed Messianic prophecies, as well as the entire prophetic framework of the Appointed Times of the Lord (Leviticus 23) revealing God’s plan of salvation and redemption, but also in revealing God the Son, the pre-incarnate Word, in all His appearances throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.

MESSIAH YESHUA, ONE WITH GOD THE FATHER

The works of Yeshua consistently reveal His Oneness with God the Father, for they are always in accordance with the will of the Father (John 14:7-11) –

Jesus [Yeshua] answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these bear witness of Me” (John 10:25).

“I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

“... the Father is in Me, and I in the Father” (John 10:38).

At no time was Messiah Yeshua ever separated from God the Father.

Messiah Yeshua Not Separated from God the Father at the Crucifixion

At the Crucifixion, Yeshua’s last words are sometimes misunderstood to mean that He was separated from God the Father –

And about the ninth hour Jesus [Yeshua] cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?” (Matthew 27:46).

And at the ninth hour Jesus [Yeshua] cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” which is translated, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?” (Mark 15:34).

But Yeshua did not mean that He was separated from God the Father. What He said was to point to the prophetic picture of the Crucifixion in Psalms 22, which begins with the words “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”

After these words, Yeshua declared: “It is finished!” –

When Jesus [Yeshua] therefore had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit (John 19:30).

Yeshua meant that He completed or performed the act of redemption. His words reflect the last words in Psalms 22: “He has performed it” –

They will come and will declare His righteousness
To a people who will be born, that **He has performed it**
(Psalms 22:31, bold emphasis added).

In His final words before giving up the life of His physical body, Yeshua was directing all those who heard Him to David’s prophetic vision of the Crucifixion in Psalms 22 –

But I am a worm, and not a man,
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.
All who see me sneer at me;
They separate with the lip, they wag the head, *saying*,
“Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him;
Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.” ...
Be not far from me, for trouble is near;
For there is none to help.
Many bulls have surrounded me;

Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled me.
They open wide their mouth at me,
As a ravening and a roaring lion.
I am poured out like water,
And all my bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It is melted within me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And my tongue cleaves to my jaws;
And Thou dost lay me in the dust of death.
For dogs have surrounded me;
A band of evildoers has encompassed me;
They pierced my hands and my feet.
I can count all my bones.
They look, they stare at me;
They divide my garments among them,
And for my clothing they cast lots.
(Psalms 22:6-8, 11-18).

At the end, Yeshua commits Himself to His Father, also showing that He was never separated from God the Father –

And Jesus [Yeshua], crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” And having said this, He breathed His last (Luke 23:46).

Messiah Yeshua Not Separated From God the Father While in Sheol Paradise

Neither was Yeshua separated from the Father when He descended into Sheol Paradise for three days and three nights. He told the repentant criminal that he would be with Him in Paradise, referring to Sheol Paradise, the underworld place where the souls of the righteous went after death until Yeshua paid the price for sins and they ascended into Heaven with Him –

And he was saying, “Jesus [Yeshua], remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, **today you shall be with Me in Paradise**” (Luke 23:42-43, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua revealed that Sheol was divided into Sheol Paradise and Sheol Torment (Hell or Hades), which were separated by an impassable chasm (Luke 16:19-31). See Chapter 11: Messiah Yeshua, Eternal High Priest, section: Yeshua's Descent into Sheol Paradise, Not Sheol Torment (Hell), *The Rod an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, free at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.

God the Father never abandoned His Son in Sheol (the underworld place of the dead) –

For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol;
Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay
(Psalms 16:10, bold emphasis added).

There is no place throughout Creation where God is not present, including Sheol –

If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there;
If I make my bed **in Sheol, behold, Thou art there**
(Psalms 139:8, bold emphasis added).

Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD,
How much more the hearts of men!
(Proverbs 15:11, bold emphasis added).

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit exist as one God, one spiritual unity and being, and are never spiritually separated from each other.

ONE GOD, ONE WAY TO GOD

There is one God, one Mediator, and one way of salvation –

For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua], who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *borne* at the proper time (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

There is a way *which seems* right to a man, but its end is the way of death
(Proverbs 14:12).

“Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Messiah Yeshua is the only way of salvation –

Jesus [Yeshua] 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).

Every detail of God’s plan of salvation and redemption points to Messiah Yeshua, the one true Messiah and only Mediator between God and humanity. To those who seek God with a sincere and humble heart, God reveals Himself in a real and personal way –

“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers” (John 4:23).

Again therefore Jesus [Yeshua] spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

It our prayer that this book provides the reader with a solid foundation in spiritual truth that leads to the only true Messiah and eternal life with God –

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:16-17, NIV).

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

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