

# God's Self-Revelation

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 2/2/2019

Let's begin today by establishing from Scripture – who it was that Delivered the Children of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

The Bible is the inspired word of God. The only things we know about God are those things we find in the Holy Scriptures. The world has many notions about God – but we can only trust what is specifically in the Bible.

The Church of God has long taught and believed that Jesus Christ – the Word – the Anointed One – the Messiah – was the God of the Old Testament.

Jesus alone is identified as “the LORD God of our fathers” in the Scriptures:

Joshua 24:17 For the LORD [**YHVH**] our God, He it is that brought us up and our fathers **out of the land of Egypt**, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

We see here in Joshua 24:17 that **one** of the many, many Names and Titles of God that are used is **YHVH**.

The question is: Is this God the Father or Jesus Christ.

Who is this personage that Delivered the children of Israel?

Paul removed every doubt that Jesus is our Deliverer when he wrote of Israel coming out of Egypt being led by Jesus Christ:

1Corinthians 10:1-4 Brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that **spiritual Rock** that followed them: and that **Rock was Christ**.

That statement has lost a lot of its meaning over the centuries.

We speak of “Jesus Christ” as if Christ was His last name - - it is not.

The word, ‘Christ’ means He who has been **anointed** with oil to be the prophesied Deliverer and Savior of the nation of Israel.

Messiah is the hope of Israel.

The **Messiah** is prophesied, not only to Deliverer and Save Israel but to come again and set up the Father's Kingdom on earth for a thousand years.

Let me say up-front that there is NEVER any quarrel between Jesus and His Father... Not in the Old Testament, New Testament or ever!

There is never any contest to see who gets the credit.

God the Father is ALWAYS in charge.

Jesus is always submissive and obedient to Him.

Jesus always defers to the Father.

God the Father and Jesus Christ stand for the same things.

There is only one Plan of God – and God the Father and Jesus Christ work together in concert – in unison – in agreement to bring it about.

Because of the difficulty in separating the two personages of Jesus and His Father some have become perplexed over Christ's words, "He that has seen me has seen the Father," and "I am in the Father, and the Father is in me (John 14:9-10).

Understand this: Sometimes one or the other **steps in** to bring about the Plan when the other is – let's say – indisposed.

There were times when Jesus was spread too thin – and required some help.

Like Jesus said in John 14:

John 14:10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that **dwells in me**, He doeth the works.

Like when Jesus was dead – the entire Plan of God was entirely in the Father's hands.

During the apostasy – the Tkaches did not understand **God's Plan** nor how God works.

They decided that, and I quote them, "Jesus raised Himself."

The Tkaches were promoting the Trinity doctrine – and taught that "Jesus Raised Himself," from the Pastor General's Report to the "Worldwide News."

Here's the Truth of the matter.

If Jesus raised Himself – then He **was not dead** – only play-acting.

And if Jesus was not dead – we are still in our sins.

1Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

God the Father – uncharacteristically – **had** to get involved when Jesus was dead – and raise Him back to life.

God the Father is usually hands-off. He had to get involved because we cannot have a dead Savior.

To me – that seems to go without saying – but to make sure we understand how it works – the Bible says it 24 times or more, that God the Father in exceeding great power **raised** Jesus from the dead! (Ephesians 1:17-20)

God the Father had to step in that case!

The Plan of God takes a **two-pronged** approach – each, the Father and the Son, have their relegated tasks and responsibilities.

All of the Evangelists that we had in Worldwide did not understand that concept.

All those years of training – all the big titles – big cars – big salaries – with the red carpet always laid out for them...

And not a single one of them took a stand for Truth.

No evangelist and no church leader took a stand for the truth.

The people of God had no man on earth willing or able to shepherd them in their time of great confusion.

The evangelists and leading pastors should have pulled together in defense of our faith.

They should have descended on the office of the impostor – Tkach – and barred the door – putting him out on the street.

The evangelists' responsibility before God, and the brethren, was to stand strong in the faith.

Their responsibility was to stomp out the fires of heresy that were sweeping through the church.

The Evangelists and ministerial leaders lacked the **will** and **fortitude** to take a stand.

There were many of them, and the church was becoming watered down, becoming lukewarm.

Not only that, but there were brethren that needed to be rescued, and that is true to this day.

And, so, the true Church brethren were scattered.

All that, because the Church leaders did not understand the roles of the Father and Jesus Christ.

As far as God the Father and Jesus Christ are concerned, there is never any difference in the goal and Plan of God...

But, there **are differences** and distinctions in timing and presentation in bringing their Plan to fruition.

One major difference that Jesus presented to His followers is this: Jesus said:

John 6:46 No man has seen the Father, except He which is of God, He has seen the Father.

The God of the Old Testament **was seen** many times.

But, speaking of God the Father, Jesus tells us that **no one** has ever seen the Father.

It was YHVH – Jesus – who wrestled with Jacob all night long. (Genesis 32:24)

We only know about God the Father because Jesus has **revealed** the Father to us.

Matthew 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knows the Son, but the Father; neither knows any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will **reveal** Him.

It was Jesus, Himself, that instructed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Notice what Jesus says:

John 1:18 **No man has seen God** [the Father] **at any time**; the only begotten **Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has **declared** Him.

That is the only way we know.

David was inspired to write:

Psalm 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

God the Father is called LORD [YHVH] here, and Jesus is Lord [adoni]

But very little of the Father / Son relationship was revealed to David.

However, the one who spoke to Moses and the one that led the Israelites out of Egypt was Jesus Christ.

Jesus – the Word – **the God of Israel** – was **seen** repeatedly by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Samuel, seventy of the elders of Israel – and many others:

Exodus 24:10 **They saw the God of Israel:** and there was under His feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

Another thing that distinguishes between Jesus and the Father is that Jesus is the hands-on **Creator God** – directed and inspired by God the Father.

President Donald Trump can say that he built the Trump Tower – but that does not mean that he welded the steel or laid the brick – but still, he built the Trump Tower.

### **Jesus is Creator God**

Paul was reiterating Isaiah 45 when he wrote in:

Colossians 1:16 For by Him [Jesus Christ] were **all things created**, that are in **heaven**, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were **created** by Him, and for Him:

That “**all things**” - includes the spirit world of angels and spirit messengers.

Isaiah 45:11-12 Thus says the LORD [YHVH], the Holy One of Israel, and [Israel's] Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of **my hands** [Jesus is the hands-on creator God] command ye me. I have **made the earth**, and **created man** upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the **heavens**, and all their host have I commanded.

There is a trend today among some to teach that the God of the Old Testament was the Father.

As we have demonstrated, Jesus and the Father share the name Yahweh (the tetragrammaton YHVH).

If you have not done so, you should prove this for yourselves.

God the Father is always supremely in charge, and Jesus is always totally obedient and submissive to Him – and yet, creation and prophecy were a collaborative effort of God the Father and Jesus Christ:

The name for God in Genesis was Elohim.

Exodus 6:3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH [YHVH] was I not known to them.

That was clearly Jesus Christ who entered into a Covenant Sacrifice – **to die** – in Genesis 15.

**God the Father did not die** in order for the covenant promise to Abraham to be fulfilled.

**Jesus** did that part – and God the Father did His part – and raised Jesus back to life.

Genesis 1:26 God said, Let **us** make man in our image.

Let's look at an **Ah..Hah! Gotcha** – point that those who teach that God the Father is the God of the Old testament.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers **by the prophets**, has in these last days spoken unto us by His **Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also **He made the worlds**.

Clearly, they say, "that is the Father is the God of the Old testament.

Jesus and the Father are one Spirit – right?

That was **not** God the Father speaking to ancient Israel and Judah – they **never** heard His voice at any time – Jesus said so.

Jesus cleared up this matter once and for all:

John 5:37 The Father Himself, who has sent me [Jesus said], has borne witness of me. Ye have **neither heard His voice** at any time, nor **seen his** shape.

When Jesus says that no one has **heard the Father's voice** we can only conclude that it was Jesus voice that was heard from the Ark of the Covenant.

Numbers 7:89 And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with [the LORD [YHVH] 7:4] him, then he **heard the voice** of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the Ark of the Covenant, from between the two cherubims: and He spoke unto him.

It was Jesus who spoke to Moses.

Isn't this interesting: Jesus says that no one has **seen** the Father nor **heard** his voice, And Yet, He has borne witness of me!

How did God do that? The answer is – through His Holy Spirit.

2Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God [the prophets] spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Let's reiterate for a moment WHO actually was the hands-on Creator God.

Ephesians 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in **God**, who **created all things by Jesus Christ**:

This tells us that God the Father is the Creator – right? **God created...**

But how did God the Father go about it.

He delegated the work to His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Father **created all things by Jesus Christ**.

The Hebrew word YHVH, like the word "God," refers to both Jesus and the Father – just like Jesus **was God**, and Jesus **was with God** in John 1:1.

Since "God" is a collective name like "family," it is incumbent on each of us to be able to identify who is meant in each Biblical case.

God the Father is always supreme in absolutely everything.

John 14:28 ... my Father is greater than I.

So Jesus utilizes the subordinate title, "Lord" in order to differentiate between the two of them.

Paul shows that one "God" consists of both God the Father and the Son:

1Corinthians 8:4-6 ... There is none other God but one... To us there is but one God: The Father... and one Lord Jesus Christ...

Those who want to say that God the Father was the God of the Old Testament do not grasp the significance of how majestic, how exalted, how pure, lofty and dignified God the Father is.

His Kingdom is one set apart – called the **Holiest!**

Hallowed, means – the Holiest name.

Indeed, no sin can come into His presence.

God is not going to get down into the muck and mire and soil His Holy name.

And, He is not going to invite sinful man into His throne room in heaven – to track mud on His floors.

You know the Scripture

Isaiah 59:2 Your iniquities have separated between you and your God [**God the Father**], and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Those who say that God the Father was the God of the Old Testament do not believe that Jesus **became sin** in our stead:

God the Father had to turn his back on Jesus and let Him die.

It was the hardest thing the Father ever had to do!

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Jesus took upon Himself the **sins of the entire** world – for all time:

2Corinthians 5:21 For He [God the Father] has made Him [Jesus Christ] **to be sin** for us, who knew no sin; that we might be **made the righteousness of God in Him** [Jesus Christ].

Those who say that God the Father was the God of the Old Testament do not believe that:

They say that sinful Satan goes there: They site Job 1:

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves **before** the LORD [YHVH], and Satan came also among them.

To them it sounds like Satan is hobnobbing with God the Father **in sin** because they do not read closely enough.

First, they start with the premise that YHVH is always God the Father – which we've shown clearly is not true.

Secondly, Jesus is the creator of the spirit world – and it is He to whom they came.

Thirdly, they do not recognize the confrontational aspect of this matter.

Satan came to debate God and accuse Job.

Where this verse says, they came to present themselves **before** the LORD – it should read **against** the LORD – as it does in Numbers 27:

Numbers 27:3 Our father died in the wilderness, and he was not in the company of them that gathered themselves together **against** [same word translated “before” in Job 1:6 ] **the LORD** in the company of Korah;

Why those who say that God the Father was the God of the Old Testament want to diminish the supreme **sovereignty** and dignity of the Father like this – I cannot understand.

Why would anyone diminish the Glory of God?

Jesus deals with the sin and iniquity so that the Father remains refined, free of all contamination, untainted and unadulterated.

They use another example of the sanctified Church brethren – they call them “sinful brethren,” to show that The Father indeed wallows in sin as well.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my **Father** will love him, and **we will come** unto him, and make our abode with him.

Brethren, understand this: The Father is not making His abode **in sin** – He is accepting the **righteousness** of Jesus Christ that is imputed unto repentant and sanctified sons of God:

Again, why do these men wish to **diminish** God’s eternal Plan of redemptive work through Jesus Christ.

There are times when a job needs to be done – and Jesus is not available to do it.

While in the womb, and while in the flesh, Jesus was like other men – He could not be everywhere and run the universe.

God the Father had to step in – and as He often did – the Father sent an angel – a messenger to speak for Him.

John the Baptist said:

John 1:33 ... He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is He which baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

God the Father sent John the Baptist – “the **word of God** came unto John” (Luke 3:2).

Sometimes God had a terrible task to perform – like sending the “Death Angel” at Passover or the indestructible spirit against those who were not sealed in Ezekiel’s day:

Ezekiel 9:4-5 The LORD said unto [indestructible spirit], Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the other [spirit beings] He said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

If we can infer anything at all from Ezekiel 9:4-5, it is that God will not be sparing the rebellious, Godless enemies of His way of life and truth.

The apostle Paul knew and understood well that Jesus was the **God of the Old Testament**.

Man has a sinful **human nature** – and it is a nasty job dealing with sinful mankind.

That is Jesus' part in the **Plan of God**.

Remember how we saw in Matthew 11:27 that Jesus said "All things are delivered unto me of my Father."

Everything in the universe was relegated to Jesus.

We come to the time when Jesus returns all control and command to His Father.

1Corinthians 15:27 For he [God the Father] has put all things under His [Jesus Christ's] feet. But when he says all things are put under him, it is manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under Him.

Paul clarifies that God the Father is not under Christ's feet – but everything else is - until this evil world is entirely conquered, subdued and subjugated to Gods way.

1Corinthians 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him [God the Father] that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

This is not saying that Jesus is not now subject to the Father – it is saying that after the Last Great Day and the Great White Throne Judgment is finished – then all will be **purified** of sin, iniquity and death – and then God the Father will be all in all.

The Plan of God - in purity and Spirit - will have come to fruition:

Revelation 22:1 He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of **God** and of the **Lamb**.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

End: God's Self-Revelation