

Jesus Christ, God of the Old Testament.

Over the years, many who believe themselves to be Christians have come to almost ignore the Old Testament because they look to Jesus Christ as their Saviour and believe the God of the Old Testament to be quite another person, with a more severe approach to His Law. Jesus, they have been told, replaced the Law with just one word, LOVE, and so for them there is less relevance in the Ten Commandments, much less the other statutes and laws of the Old Testament.

This belief we will show to be a total fallacy. The God of the Old Testament, specifically the one who dealt with the ancient Israelites, was, in fact Jesus Christ, and the lessons the Old Testament contains were provided for Christians today. -

Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

Matt 5:18. "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

We will see that without the instructions and examples the Old Testament contains, it is impossible to please God, for a true Christian will always be a diligent follower of the *whole* of God's word in order to understand and obey his creator. -

1 Corinthians 10:11-12. "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

So, let's start with Genesis, to notice that God the Father was not alone before man was created. Gen 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness."

Later, after Adam's transgression, the Lord God said in Genesis 3:22, "Behold the man is become as one of us."

Putting the scriptures concerning creation together, we quickly learn that the one who became Jesus Christ acted as the executive through whom the will of the Father was put into effect. He was the "Hands on" Creator, Hebrews 1:1-2. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds.**"

Paul is even more explicit in his letter to the Colossians, where he says this of Jesus, in Colossians 1:16-17. "**For by him 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: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

This is confirmed by the testimony of the apostle John in John 1:1-3,14. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Verse 14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

When Moses received his commission to return to Egypt at the burning bush, **God told him His name**. Exodus 3:13-14 (**I am who I am**, or, I shall be who I shall be). Later, Jesus answered the Jews who questioned His authority in John 8:53, 58. "Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?"

Verse 58 "**Jesus said unto them**, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am.**"

Here Jesus confirmed that He is “I am,” the self-existent one, the Eternal, even as He is described in Revelation 22:12-13.

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”

This answer so offended the Jews that they picked up stones to kill Him. They thought it was such a blasphemous claim to be God.

However the Apostle John positively identified Jesus Christ with Adonai or the Lord – the one who spoke through the prophet Isaiah.

John 12:40-41, “He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.”

Isaiah 6:8-10. “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.”

Again, he identifies Jesus with YHVH in John 19:37 “And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.”

This is quoted from Zechariah 12:7 & 10 “The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.”

10. “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

The Apostle Paul joins him in this identification of YAHWEY or JEHOVAH with Jesus, in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, “Moreover, 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.**”

Jesus Himself joins in with this admission in Matthew 23:37. “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would **I have gathered** thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”

When you know where to look the evidence is clear.

So, there can be no doubt that Jesus Christ was the same Being

- who called Abraham from his native country,
- who led Israel from Egypt with mighty miracles,
- who gave them His law at Sinai,
- who inspired the prophets,
- and whose glory filled Solomon’s Temple at Jerusalem.

That precious knowledge makes Jesus Christ’s sacrifice at Golgotha the more significant and valuable. Here was the very creator of Mankind giving up His life for His creation, the only life with a comparative value, an act planned with His Father long before they created the world.

Ephesians 3:8-9. “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from **the beginning of the world** hath been hid in God, who **created all things by Jesus Christ:**”

This would be followed in their plan by –

- **the building of God’s church** - Zechariah 6:12. “And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:”
- **the expansion of God’s family** - Romans 8:29 “ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”
- **and the establishment of God’s Kingdom here on the earth-** Zechariah 6:13. “Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

What a magnificent and generous plan, which displays the divine unity between Jesus Christ and His Father. This unity is very hard for our limited finite minds to grasp because here we are dealing with Eternal Spirit beings which are beyond our physical experience.

That makes it hard to comprehend, John 10:30. “I and my Father are one.”

We remember the use of the plural “us” in Genesis 1, but we can understand that the Jews struggle with the idea of the divinity of Jesus because they place such emphasis on Deuteronomy 6:4. “Hear O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.”

But “one” here is the same word we find in Genesis 2:24. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

It is the Hebrew word EHAD, expressing a compound unity, not YAHID, meaning a single one. It is like when we say “we are of one mind” on an issue. It is simply that these two infinite individuals are so alike, because Jesus Christ totally embodied His Father’s character.

John 14:8-10. “Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not 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 dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”

So, what of those who say that Jesus Christ could not be God ? They say that because they have not been able to see that God has always been more than one individual, though we have seen today that there are two in God’s family, who are as one.

Now, let’s see if the Bible really does say that Jesus is God.

Notice what Paul tells us in Philippians 2:6-7. “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, **and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.**”

That seems clear, but let’s notice that Christ makes Himself as of less authority than God the Father, 1 Corinthians 11:3, “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.”

And 15:28. “And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.”

Of these two great eternal beings, Jesus voluntarily took on a junior role. He became a physical man, and often needed to pray to His Father in heaven, proving that there is not just one in the God Family, even though they are AS one.

That Jesus is God indeed is made plain in Titus 2:10-11 and 13.

“ Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

11. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

13. Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of **the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**”

I will read verse 13 out of the Emphatic Diaglott, the Greek interlinear translation. “Waiting for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of **the great God and Saviour of us, Jesus Anointed.**”

The NIV has it :”while we wait for the blessed hope, the glorious **appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.**”

Reference to Jesus as God the Creator is seen in Hebrews 3:3-4. “For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but **he that built all things is God.**”

That Christ will rule with His saints in the millennium we know well. The book of Isaiah refers to Him as the Lord God, the Creator, in a prophecy about the millennium, in Isaiah 40:10-12. “Behold, **the Lord GOD will come with strong hand,** and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?”

That is why, in a prophecy about Christ’s birth, He is given a special name. Matthew 1:23. “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.**”

Isaiah gave a similar prophesy in Isaiah 9:6. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God,** The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

He is called the Everlasting Father here because He is the Father of Eternity in the Hebrew, in the sense that He possesses eternity, he is called the father of it in the Semitic idiom.

Well, in conclusion let’s note that Christ’s apostles knew that he was God in the flesh.

John 20:28.. “And Thomas answered and said unto him, My **LORD and my God.**”

Colossians 2:9 ” For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

God the Father too, plainly states that Jesus is God in Hebrews 1:8. “**But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God,** is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”

Now we know without a doubt that Jesus Christ was the God whose creation and relationship with Israel we read of throughout the Old Testament.

Finally, to conclude, lets read of Him in His own red letter words, in Revelation 1:8.

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

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